

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 31 JULY 2010 AT 10.00 A.M. IN THE COMMUNITY HUT, MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS, FENHAM HALL DRIVE

PRESENT: Peter Whewell, Krysa Gaffney, Nicola Loose, Sue Pownall and Niels Souter.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Sue Brophy and Tony Whittle.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 19 June 2010 had been distributed to Committee members. **PW** had not yet checked the origin of the topsoil from Dinnington. The welding work on the Trading Hut had been postponed although the welding for the canopy had been done. The seed potatoes that the Committee had planted out were doing well. The breach in the railings on plot 89b had been secured. Tim Townshend had finalised his report on the Allotment survey; **PW** would obtain an e-copy and post on the website. The community plotholder 81 had replied to **PW's** letter asking for details of child protection procedures and attendance at the plot, clarifying child protection and supervision procedures but declining to give precise attendance details. **PW** had replied to explain why such information about attendance would be helpful to the Committee. The protective tubes could be removed from around the plants in the perimeter hedge.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had received one application for an allotment.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NL reported that much of the £13,000 in the Association's bank account was money received from grants; she would open a separate account in which to deposit grants.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

July had been a quiet trading month but members were donating surplus produce for sale. **SP** had some drafts for the Trading Hut sign boards; they would cost £45 each plus £20 to erect them. She had obtained 45 metres of land drains for use by the Association and had sourced a supplier for compost.

GRANTS AND FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The Bee Conservation and Canopy grants had been obtained in full. An application for a £250 grant from *B&Q* would be lodged. Rob Germany would be vacating his plot shortly and had some paving slabs to donate to the Association.

NAWG MATTERS

PW had organised the first meeting of the Newcastle Allotment Bee group and 19 people had attended. The City Show would be held on 5 September and volunteers were needed to act as stewards. The Allotments Strategy was now in the consultation stage and would be put to the executive committee in September before being adopted. The *Hairy Bikers* were searching for families on allotment sites to participate in a national cookery competition.

NORTHUMBERLAND IN BLOOM

The judges' visit to the site had been brief. There would be no feedback from them until September.

THE 2010 MOORSIDE SHOW

Preparations for the show were going well. Plants for sale were needed. Ben Rudden was nominated for the long service award. **SB's** plot had been judged as the most bee-friendly. **SP** would obtain raffle tickets and **NS** would be checking the site for health and safety with David Vincent.

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GARDEN CLUB 2010

The next meeting would be on 14 August on compost and Ian Carter had agreed to give a brief talk on 'How to show produce'.

SITE INSPECTION TEAM

A site inspection had taken place on 31 July. Two plots will be vacated at the end of the year: plot 103 and plot 79. Plot 101 will have to be halved since the member was finding upkeep of the whole plot difficult, and there had been complaints about marestail creeping from the plot into gardens behind. Plot 6 had not been properly cultivated this year and the plotholder would be contacted about this.

MOORSIDE SIGN BOARD

Already discussed under 'Trading Hut Manager's Report'.

PROJECTS FOR PLOTS 1 & 2

Planting on the plot would begin in the autumn. The pile of sand would have to be moved to allow access to the plot.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ Marestail was becoming a problem on the site.
- ◆ There had been incidents of vandalism on plots and items had been stolen from sheds; there had also been thefts of produce from members' plots.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

1. This would be on Saturday 18th September 2010 at 10.00 a.m. in the Community Hut.
2. Site inspection meeting 9.00am Saturday the 11th September
3. Garden club 10.00 am Saturday the 11th September: Improving your soil
4. Possible visit of Committee of Clouston Road Allotments, Forest Hall Saturday the 11th September 11.30 am

The meeting closed at 11.00 a.m.