

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 JULY 2011 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE COMMUNITY HUT, MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS

PRESENT: Peter Whewell, Krys Gaffney, Sue Brophy, Sue Johnson, Sue Pownall, John Reid and Tony Whittle. Amir Ahmadi from the Comfrey Project also attended the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Nicola Loose.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 7 June 2011 had been distributed to Committee members. Information on how to deal with bee swarms was now on the noticeboards. Six groups of schoolchildren, in parties of ten, from Westfield School had conducted a bee survey on the site; each one had counted at least 12 honey bees and 8 other types of bees had been spotted. Xavier Vaz from Newcastle University had visited Moorside and had discussed diet and wellbeing with several members for their *LiveWell* research. A Willow Workshop organized by the Comfrey Project was due to be held on 16 July and it would be useful if the canopy between the Trading and Community huts could be erected for this event; it was proposed that this should be done on Sunday 10 July at 10.00 a.m. with the help of volunteers.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was one more application for an allotment. **KG** and Mike Armstrong (Chairman of NAWG) had nominated the plots for the City Allotments competition.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NL had sent her apologies to the meeting.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

SP was expecting deliveries of additional stock and compost; soil conditioner had been ordered and would be delivered to the manure area. Wood chippings had also been ordered. A Sherpa truck had been delivered but one of the tyres was faulty.

BEE GROUP

The bee group had not exceeded its budget yet. **SJ** was expecting her bees shortly and David Rochester's had arrived; there were now four hives on the site and it was agreed that no more should be established for the next year. Individual beekeepers needed to complete their registration forms

NAWG MATTERS

PW had been re-elected as the representative for Area 6 (West of Newcastle). A list of the postcodes of people on waiting lists would identify areas of the city where allotments were in demand. Some members of the Comfrey Project wanted plots of their own; they would be able to join the waiting list at Moorside or at any other allotment site.

MOORSIDE 2011 SHOW

The final draft of the show booklet was almost complete. There would be approximately ten stalls at the show on 3 September. More tables were needed; some could be borrowed from the Council or from local churches.

PLOTS

Plot 30a - the tenant has agreed that Derek Allan, who is currently eighth on the waiting list and in need of exercise, can work on the plot.

Plot 59 – this was now vacant and had been strimmed. It could be re-let or used to situate photovoltaic cells; the green energy project would take time to establish with sourcing estimates and obtaining grants and would result in the plot lying fallow for a long time. **SJ** was interested in setting up a communal polytunnel on a portion of the plot.

Plots 91 and 92 – the tenants had decided to give up both plots.

Plot 81 – the tenants on plot 81a had left and replaced with new members

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Plot 93 – the tenants have another plot at the Fenham Model site but they would also like to continue their tenancy at Moorside and this is not allowed. The Chairman of NAWG had written to them asking them to choose one site over the other.

MOORSIDE TREE STRATEGY

PW's draft of the consultation document for the Tree Strategy at Moorside had been agreed and will be circulated with the Show programme.

GREEN ENERGY UPDATE

Green energy could become a reliable source of energy for lighting, heating and charging tools on the site. **PW** would be meeting with a consultant in the near future and producing a discussion document in due course.

FLOODING

PW had met with Mr. Walton (drainage contractor) , Kevin Batey (Freemen) and Derek Armstrong (council) on 23 June concerning flooding off the Town Moor onto Moorside. No map of drains on the east boundary of the site was available and it was not clear how they linked up with sewage drains. Both the council and the Freemen seem prepared to investigate and find a solution

DAVE CUMMINGS AND MENCAP

This tenant was on the waiting list to upgrade to a full plot to allow him to bring Mencap members to work with him on the plot. **PW** had written to him requesting details of what this would entail (how many would be on site, their disabilities, arrangements for supervision etc.) but had as yet received no reply. The issue would need full clarification before a decision could be reached.

TASK GROUP FEEDBACK

1. Drive maintenance – **SB, PW** and Andrew Moat had cleared hedging along the drives.
2. Plot clearance – plot 59 had been cleared although 59a still needed some more attention.
3. East hedge maintenance – the hedging plants needed checking.
4. Disabled beds – the estimate for paving and labour was £2,500. **PW** had asked for estimates to set up PVC beds.
5. Floral displays/bee garden – approximately £100 was available to buy more plants. **KG** was preparing a planting plan for the areas fronting Moorside.
6. Wildlife – Frank Lightfoot had resigned from the group.

WEBSITE LINK

It was agreed that the website link on planting and growing was useful but there were concerns about PC security. **PW** would post a proviso on the website warning members about security if using the link.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ The canopy between the Trading and Community Huts would need to be put up.
- ◆ The Comfrey Project currently holds 7 keys but would like another 7 for members who came regularly to the site. Despite Amir's assurances that there would be greater control over keys, it was felt that granting the project an additional 7 keys was excessive; it was agreed that in the first instance 4 extra keys would be provided.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 2 August 2011 at 5.30 p.m. in the Community Hut.

The meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.