

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 19 JUNE 2010 AT 10.00 A.M. IN THE COMMUNITY HUT, MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS, FENHAM HALL DRIVE

PRESENT: Peter Whewell, Krys Gaffney, Sue Johnson, Sue Pownall, John Reid, Niels Souter and Tony Whittle.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Sue Brophy and Nicola Loose.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 3 June 2010 had been distributed to Committee members. **PW** would check the origin of the topsoil from the farmer in Dinnington. **SP** would check when the welding would be done. **PW** and **SB** had planted the leftover seed potatoes on plot 109. The Inspection Team had taken a close look at the breach in the railings on plot 89b and the householder at 100 Moorside North would install a lock to block off access. The Comfrey Project had been given an additional 5 keys at a charge of £60. **TW's** bee photos had been posted on the website.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG would liaise with **NS** and **FL** to nominate plots for the City Allotment competition. **KG** would liaise with **NL** to complete the Public Liability Insurance form that she had received from the Allotments Officer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Association had received grants totalling £1,925 for the canopy, and a bee grant of £3,500. **PW** had completed an interim report on the progress of the bee project and as a result *Sustainable Communities* would be releasing the remainder of the grant to the Association.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

SP was experiencing problems with the compost delivery and would be investigating other suppliers of compost.

PROGRESS ON GRANTS

Bee Conservation Grant: the Association would shortly receive the remainder of the £7,078 grant. **TW** and Hamid Haykal had received the grants to start up their hives. **PW** would be ordering suits for the bee apprentices. **PW** had used some of the grant money (£200) to pay for two new trophies; one would be for the most bee-friendly garden and the other for the most wildlife-friendly garden. Both would be judged by the Ecology Officer.

Canopy grant: the contractor erecting the canopy would not be charging VAT thus saving the Association £500; some welding work would be necessary.

Further grant applications: **SB** had sketched a design for the woodland garden; photos of the plot would be submitted to *B&Q* as part of an application for a grant. Gates and access to the garden needed consideration. The Council would shortly be lopping the lower branches of the trees around the perimeter fence to raise their crowns and this would let more light into the site.

BEE GROUP

TW's bees had settled in and were doing well. Four bees had managed to get into his friend's veil through a very small opening; this highlighted health and safety issues connected with beekeeping. An introductory course on bees would be held on 24 July which would be advertised on the noticeboard.

NAWG MATTERS

SP had been elected as representative for Area 5. She would need to familiarise herself with the other three sites in the group, namely Littlemoor, Triangle and Highbury South. It was suggested that representatives from these sites should be invited to a meeting of the Garden Club. **PW** had obtained

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copies of the Allotments Strategy, featuring photos of George Taylor's garden and **TW's** hives, for consultation by interested members.

NORTHUMBERLAND IN BLOOM

PW and **KG** had obtained more plants from Jesmond Nursery. Volunteers would be needed for planting them on Saturday 19 June and on Wednesday 23 June, both at 2 p.m.

THE 2010 MOORSIDE SHOW

The Show Committee was making good progress, and the show agenda was now available. It was agreed that the prizegiving ceremony would be held at the earlier time of 2 p.m. on the day. It was not clear whether **FL** had contacted the judges for the show. A date for the next Show Committee meeting would have to be arranged.

GARDEN CLUB 2010

The next meeting would be on 10 July at 10.00 a.m. on the subject of 'Companion Planting'. **KG** would ask **FL** whether he would be willing to present a feature on preparing produce for showing.

SITE INSPECTION TEAM

A site inspection had been held on 12 June and **PW** had emailed 21 members about paths.

CITY SHOW JUDGING FOR MOORSIDE PLOTS

The inspection team would meet on Saturday 26 June at 9 a.m. in advance of the judges' visit.

PROJECTS FOR PLOTS 1 & 2

Already discussed under 'Progress on grants'.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The sample for Montse Ferres' research on site management had been small but her findings could form the basis for a future larger survey. **SP** thought that the idea of collective buying was not really feasible. There was discussion about using pigeonholes as an internal post system on the site but no conclusions were reached.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ There was little objection to young offenders working on the site provided that they were supervised. **PW** would write to Carol Preston to find out how many young offenders could be expected on the site at any time.
- ◆ **SP** had a brochure on solar panels which could be used to supply electricity to individual plots which members might be interested in.
- ◆ An elephant hawk moth larva had been found on a plot which may be of interest to the moth survey.
- ◆ It was agreed that the Trading Hut sign should have the name of the association as a heading and the Trading Hut opening times. There would be whiteboard space beneath to add announcements etc.
- ◆ Blackthorn in the perimeter hedge was not doing well but the hawthorn plants were thriving. There were signs of mildew on some of the plants; it was time to remove the protective tubes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be on Saturday 31 July 2010 at 10.00 a.m. in the Community Hut.

The meeting closed at 11.10 a.m.