

# MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2010 AT 5.30 P.M. AT THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE, FENHAM

**PRESENT:** Peter Whewell, Kryss Gaffney, Nicola Loose, Sue Brophy, Sue Johnson and Tony Whittle.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Sue Pownall.

Michael Duckett, the tenant on Plot 6, had been given notice to quit and attended the meeting to appeal against his eviction. He admitted that his plot was neglected as he had been away from Newcastle for some time; he was now back in the city, working part-time and would have more time to devote to his garden. The Committee felt that his appeal was sincere and agreed to allow him to continue working his plot provided that he made noticeable progress; if it was necessary to write to him again, he would be given notice to quit.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** held on 18 September 2010 had been distributed to Committee members. **SP** would arrange the repair of the mower. There was £5,800 of bee grant money in the Association's bank account and not £9,800 as reported in the minutes.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**KG** had arranged for a skip to arrive on 29 October and would prepare a notice advising members to leave scrap metal by the Community Hut for collection by the scrap merchant.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NL** reported that there was £2,800 in the bank and had obtained the necessary forms to set up new accounts for depositing grants. **PW** and **KG** would need to renew their identification as signatories. Some monies were still owed to **SB** and **SJ**.

### **TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT**

The contractor was unsure that re-welding on the Trading Hut would repair the damage; a vertical bar would be more effective to secure the hut.

**Thomson & Morgan offer:** this was equivalent to King's seeds and therefore not worth pursuing.

**Topsoil:** the Allotments Officer has a supply of free topsoil.

**Trading Hut stocktake:** **NL** would liaise with **SP** over when this would take place.

**Drainage:** **PW** had received a reply from the Director of Neighbourhood Services, Nigel Hails; the Freeman and Newcastle City Council need to liaise over the action necessary to address the wider problem of flooding on the Town Moor.

**Water off:** **PW** would turn the water off on the site on 6 November.

**Autumn Skip:** **KG** had ordered a skip for 29 October.

**Scaffolding planks:** more would be ordered in the near future.

**Council compost:** the Association would have access to more of the compost that was used for the *Northumberland in Bloom* project.

**Moorside sign:** the Committee approved a sample draft of the Moorside signboard but agreed that the contrast in the colours used needed to be sharper.

### **GRANTS AND FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

A funding sub-committee meeting would need to be arranged.

### **BEE GROUP**

Some members had complained about being stung by bees and some felt hemmed in by Hameed Haykal's second hive; he was awaiting cooler weather, when the bees are quiescent, before moving it.

**PW** reported that the Newcastle Allotment Bee Group (NABG) is developing substantial rules and guidelines on allotment hives. Each site is unique and individual sites should decide on the optimal number of hives that a site can accommodate. A meeting of the bee group will be arranged to resolve

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the issue of the siting of Hameed's second hive and to determine the number of hives that Moorside can sustain.

### **NAWG MATTERS**

The Allotment Strategy document would be considered by the Executive Committee of the Council on 27 October. The strategy sets out a number of targets which directly affect Moorside such as minimum standards for plot cultivation, encouraging beekeeping and flooding. The City Show next year will be held on 10/11 September 2011.

### **DATE OF 2011 AGM**

This would be held on a date to be arranged in January 2011. All the members present at the meeting were willing to continue serving on the Committee.

### **MOORSIDE 2011 SHOW**

This will be held on 3 September 2011, a week before the City Show. The Show sub-committee would begin preparations for the show in November 2010; **SJ**, **TW** and **PW** volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

### **GARDEN CLUB 2010**

Only 2 people had attended the last meeting of the Garden Club. Rob Germany would be running the next meeting of the club on Saturday 13 November on the topic of 'Fruit and Grafting'.

### **SITE INSPECTION TEAM**

**PW** reported a number of plot changes and vacancies. A working party would meet on Saturday 30 October to demolish the shed on Plot 101; it was hoped that half of this plot could be re-let early in 2011.

### **MOORSIDE SIGN BOARD**

This item already covered under 'Trading Hut Manager's Report'.

### **PROJECTS FOR PLOTS 1 & 2**

Work on this project would need to start soon.

### **BREAK-INS AND SECURITY**

The Association now had a number to contact in the event of break-ins.

### **A CURE FOR MARESTAIL?**

Some members had suggested the Trading Hut might stock kibosh, (glufosinate-ammonium) as a cure for marestail. **PW** had obtained literature from the internet about the toxicity of glufosinate and doubts about its efficacy. It was agreed that information about the toxicity of this product would be made available to members and that the Trading Hut would not stock it

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**This will be on Tuesday 30 November 2010 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.