

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.15 P.M. IN THE COMMUNITY HUT, MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS, FENHAM HALL DRIVE

PRESENT: Peter Whewell (Chairperson), Krys Gaffney (Secretary), Nicola Loose (Treasurer), Robert Germany, Susan Hrisos, Sue Johnson, Sue Pownall, John Reid and Niels Souter.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Sue Brophy and Frank Lightfoot.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 17 September had been distributed to Committee members. The ex-chairman's printer was no longer needed and would be stored in the Community Hut. Members' surplus beans being sold from the Trading Hut were broad, not runner. The minutes were accepted as being a true record of the meeting.

There were no **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NL was still waiting for a cheque from the Council for the second lock; **PW** advised her to speak to Helen Raper.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

SP reported that the member from plot 95 had helped to move compost from the store to the Trading Hut; it was agreed that he should be rewarded with two bags of compost. The King's seed scheme was under way; it was agreed that more maincrop and fewer early seed potatoes should be ordered for next year. It was noted that spending £100 on seeds from D.T. Brown's would result in £200 of free seeds.

SHOW SECRETARY'S REPORT

SP reported that a coating of bitumen was needed on the roof of the Trading Hut as it was beginning to rust. The estimated cost for a vinyl canopy to cover the area between the Trading and Community Huts was in the region of £2,000.

LETTINGS AND INSPECTION TEAM

The holder of plot 89 had decided to give up his plot and it had been re-let to two young families.

GARDEN CLUB

Five people had attended the meeting on 17 October; it was agreed that there was a need to encourage more people to attend and that meetings of the Garden Club should be publicised in the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER

The latest edition of the newsletter was now on the website, thanks to **RG**. The next edition would be published in December; as ever, **RG** was looking for articles to be included in the newsletter.

GRANT APPLICATIONS.

The *Grassroots* grant application for paving round the Toilet Block would be considered by their Committee in November. Northumberland Wildlife Trust are keen to plant a 3' wide double hedge of native species including hawthorn and blackthorn along the inner, eastern, boundary of the fence which would improve security in that part of the site and also provide a wildlife corridor; they are applying for a grant to fund the project. **PW** had written to members on the eastern boundary to canvass their views on the hedge planting.

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WORKING PARTY REPORTS

SJ had started clearing the turnaround area. **PW** was investigating the production and funding for sign boards for the Bumblebee project.

WAITING LIST PETITION

PW had sent a petition to the Council for more allotments in Wingrove Ward and would speak to the petition at the next Council meeting on 4 November 2009.

BONFIRE BAN

Members would be able to burn bonfires from 1 November. It was suggested that other sites in the west of the city should be contacted to seek their views on the bonfire ban ending earlier than this and it was agreed that our Nawg representative Hugh Smith should be invited to the next Committee meeting to discuss the ban and also to discuss drainage problems. It was also suggested to ask whether the Council could provide brown garden waste bins for allotment sites which would decrease the need to burn bonfires.

SITE VISIT BY THE FREEMEN

The Freemen were impressed with the site on their recent visit and had no complaints about Moorside.

RESEARCH INTO THE BENEFITS OF ALLOTMENTS

Six M.Sc. students from the University of Newcastle supervised by Dr Tim Townsend were interested in doing research into the benefits of allotment gardening; they were designing an initial questionnaire covering its different aspects which would be distributed to members - there would be a prize draw to encourage the completion and return of the questionnaires.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ **PW** would be helping to re-write the NAWG strategy which currently runs to 70 pages...
- ◆ A stocktake of the Trading Hut would take place on Sunday 29 November 2009.
- ◆ **KG** would order a skip for 23 October (for the week of half-term).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be on Saturday 5 December at 10.00 a.m. in the Community Hut.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.