

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2011 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE COMMUNITY HUT, MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS

PRESENT: Peter Whewell, Krys Gaffney, Sue Brophy, Sue Johnson, Nicola Loose, Sue Pownall, John Reid and Tony Whittle.

There were no **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 6 September 2011 had been distributed to Committee members. **SP**, not **SJ**, would liaise with David Vincent over seed orders. **PW** had contacted Terry Maxwell who was keen to help gardeners who were experiencing difficulties.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There were three more applications for an allotment; there were now 47 people on the waiting list. **KG** had ordered plants to the value of £36.70 from *Unwins*.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The show had made a profit of just over £100. **NL** had received the Council rent bill.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

SP had compiled the Trading Hut rota for October/November with just sufficient volunteers. David Vincent was organising the *King's* seed scheme and seed potatoes would be ordered shortly. *Thompson & Morgan* offer 50% off seeds and plants to allotment associations. **SP** was expecting a delivery of manure and would be ordering scaffolding boards and soil improver. The water supply would be turned off at the end of October and pipes in the toilet block would need to be insulated with foam before the onset of winter.

BEE GROUP

TW had obtained a nucleus hive to be used as a back up. **PW**, **TW** and **SJ** had visited *Wor Lottie* in the grounds of Henderson Hall. The scheme aims to educate schoolchildren on the provenance of food; there is also a beehive fitted with a camcorder. **SJ** had attended a mini session at Ouseburn on preparing bees for winter.

NAWG MATTERS

There was not much of note to report.

MOORSIDE 2011 & 2012 SHOW

PW, **SJ**, **TW** and Pat Francis would be on the Show Committee for 2012. **PW** had thanked Rob Germany for his help with plants at the show; Rob had advised that sowing seeds and taking cuttings in advance of the show would increase the stock of plants for sale.

PLOTS

The following plot changes had taken place:-

1. Dave Cummings had moved from 50 to 86
2. Gillian Maughan now had one full plot from the two **half**-plots 13 and 50
3. Renny Borthwick had moved from 88b to 92
4. Kevin Goodwin on 88a had also taken over 88b

Peter Stoddart (formerly on plots 91/92) wanted money for the shed that he had left; the new tenants did not want it. Dave Cummings also had a shed for sale. The sheds would be advertised for sale on the website. The tenant on plot 86b had expressed an interest in also taking over plot 59 but it was agreed that this was not permissible. There were two members currently on half-plots who wanted to move up to full plots. There would be a site inspection on Saturday 8 October at 9.00 a.m.

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GREEN ENERGY UPDATE

The siting of 10 solar panels on plot 59 would take up excessive space and they would be costly. Red House Farm allotments at Whitley Bay have a solar panel on their trading hut attached to a battery which costs around £600; they also have plastic recycled beds. A visit to the site would take place on Tuesday 11 October at 2.00 p.m. (meet at Moorside at 1.30 p.m.).

FLOODING

The issues of flooding and planting outside Moorside had not been raised at a meeting of the Town Moor Planning Committee on 1 September as promised by Sue Stokel-Walker, Head of Parks. **PW** would follow the matter up. The Foreman of the Freeman, Kevin Batey, had inspected the front of Moorside along Fenham Hall Drive in the company of Tony McKenna, Head of Parks and Leisure; they did not foresee any problems with planting of the space immediately in front of our boundary fence but wanted to know the types of plants that the bee garden group proposed to plant and Kevin would take this information to a Freeman Stewards Committee.

TASK GROUP FEEDBACK

The Council had quoted £2,500 for paving around the disabled beds. This was clearly over the top and Mark Todd, the Allotment Officer advises we get competing quotes

The Tree Officer had not yet visited the site.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

◆ All of **SB's** plums had been stolen. **SP** would add this incident to the monthly report for the police.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 1 November 2011 at 5.00pm at the Nuns Moor Centre.

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.