

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 12.00 P.M. IN THE ROBERT STEWART MEMORIAL HALL, WINGROVE ROAD, FENHAM

The meeting was attended by 27 members and Peter Whewell was in the Chair.

The meeting had been called to consider the future of the Trading Hut following the retirement of the managers who had been running the hut since its establishment. The Association was looking for two managers who would be jointly responsible for the overall governance of the Trading Hut with a rota of volunteers who would help out; together they would decide on the times that the hut would open and there was scope for using the hut in a number of different ways. A number of members had already volunteered to help run the hut but as yet no-one was willing to take overall responsibility; the accounting aspect was daunting.

The Chairman invited comments and questions from the floor.

- There was a suggestion that the Association should sell all the stock and close the hut - it was generally felt that the hut was a good resource and that it should continue trading.
- It was suggested that the Trading Hut should maintain its current stock for the present.
- One member was willing to volunteer as manager but wanted to know how much time would be taken up running the hut - the burden was more of responsibility rather than time spent in actually running the hut; one of the retired managers was willing to help by taking in deliveries to the site.
- One of the members present had some experience of running the hut and was asked for his views; his advice was to obtain stock at competitive prices two to three times a year and that the Committee should then establish the prices at which goods should be sold.
- The Chairman had investigated the legal position of running the Trading Hut. Allotment associations are exempt from paying income tax and the Trading Hut's accounts had been examined and found to be in order. Moorside had had associate members in the past; they paid an annual membership fee of £2 to buy goods from the hut.
- At least three keys would be needed for the volunteers running the hut; more than this was considered inadvisable.
- The Trading Hut managers would each receive an honorarium of £30 and a free plot each.
- The Hut's greatest turnover was in paraffin sales and revenue had been lost since its closure.
- There would need to be close liaison between the Trading Hut managers and the Treasurer and apart from a small cash float, all money from sales should be banked.
- It was generally acknowledged that the retired managers had done a good job running the Hut.

Julie Marshall and Sue Pownall both agreed to manage the Hut.

Annie Brotherton, Dave Eason, Rob Germany, Emma Hughes, Sue Johnson, Pat MacDonald, Ann Mead, John Mead, Andrew Moat, Anne Noble, Barbara Taylor, George Taylor, David Vincent and Tony Whittle volunteered as helpers.

The meeting closed at 12.40 p.m.