

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

PRESENT: Sue Pownall (in the Chair), Krys Gaffney, Sue Brophy, Nicola Francis, Sue Johnson, Frank Lightfoot and Tony Whittle.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Steve McDonnell.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 3 November 2015 had been distributed to Committee members. The water supply had been turned off.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had been informed by the Allotments Officer that the Freemen would be visiting Moorside on Wednesday 2 December at 11.30 a.m. **TW** and **KG** would meet with them. The church hall had been booked for the AGM on Wednesday 27 January 2016. **KG** had received a document from the Allotments Officer relating to Public Liability Insurance which she would complete and return.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SP and **SJ** had completed the stocktake; a quantity of tomato food had been disposed of since it had deteriorated and some bags of compost had been exchanged for paving slabs. **NF** had distributed an up-to-date membership list to the committee members who needed to access it. The rent form would be modified so that members would need to specify which concessionary category they belonged to and to capture their contact details; **SP** would change the rent form. The Council rent for 2015 had been in the region of £4,000 and rents from members amounted to £4,800; after payment of water rates this left the association with a very small surplus. **NF** proposed that the rent for a full plot should rise from £70 to £80 (concessionary from £55 to £65) and that the rent for a half plot should rise from £35 to £40 (concessionary £27.50 to £32.50); what constituted a concessionary rent would need to be re-defined. This proposed rent rise would need to be ratified at the AGM. A pack of documents for the AGM would be prepared comprising an agenda, minutes of the 2015 AGM, Chairman's report, and the rent form; the accounts sheet would be made available at the meeting. The pack would be emailed to all members; it could be distributed by hand to the small remainder of members without email addresses.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The Allotments Officer had a contact offering 100 tons of free, well-rotted horse manure for delivery in 7-ton loads; **SP** had ordered a load. Seed potatoes had been ordered and would arrive in mid-January; a form was available for members to pre-order their requirements. The association had purchased a range of stock from **FL's** son Sean, at a very reasonable price. 12 tons of topsoil, screened and enriched with farm and chicken manure had been bought at £35 per ton; because of its high quality, it would be sold to members at £1.50 per barrow. 6 tons of this topsoil, to be paid for by the association, had been delivered to four plots; there was a shortfall in reinstating the topsoil by Northumbria Water on these plots after they had completed their project. A further 9 tons of the topsoil was available for individual members who wished to buy it directly from the supplier. **SJ** enquired about the purchase by the association of a powered vehicle, to be used by members, and would research what was available.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION

There were 26 people on the waiting list. Plot 24 had been vacated and because of the configuration of the shed/greenhouse, would be re-let as a whole plot to an experienced gardener.

NAWG MATTERS

There was nothing to report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

♦ **TW** would need to contact the mechanic to service the generator.

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- ◆ Work was in progress tidying the bee garden over the winter.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 5 January 2016 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre. There will be a plot inspection at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.

KG

20 December 2015