

## MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1 MARCH 2016 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, Steve McDonnell and Tony Whittle.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Nick Coster. **SP** had written to John Reid thanking him for his contribution to the association.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** held on 2 February 2016 had been distributed to Committee members. **SP** had written to the Comfrey Project and had been assured that work would begin on their plots. **SP** had discussed the issue of the defibrillator with NAWG; the consultant leading the scheme had a large budget at his disposal and it was felt that the facility should be made available to a much broader community and not confined to the allotment site. **SP** would seek quotations for resurfacing the middle path up as far as the bee garden.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**KG** had received notification that NSALG membership needed renewal. She had completed and returned the questionnaire confirming site and membership details to the Allotments Officer.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NF** reported that approximately 30 rents remained unpaid and that this was not unusual for the time of year. The deadline for payment of rents was the end of February and **NF** would start chasing the rents which were outstanding. Nearly all members had returned a rent form and it was possible that some new volunteers for site groups had come forward.

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

**SP** reported that sales in February had risen and that the recent *CTS* delivery was selling well. Deliveries of landscape fabric, manure and soil conditioner (from John Mead) were due.

#### **WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION**

There were 28 people on the waiting list. **TW** had re-let plots 31 and 85 and plot 71b had been vacated. The first site inspection would be on 5 April.

#### **NAWG MATTERS**

**SP** had been notified by the Allotments Officer that additional insurance, costing around £50, was available for allotment sites that take on outside activities (e.g. Greening Wingrove); with Moorside's limited participation in outside activities, it was not worth taking out the additional insurance. The results of the Newcastle Allotments Lead Biomonitoring Study, which had been conducted in October 2015, would be revealed on 3 March at 6-8 p.m. in the Collingwood Room in the Civic Centre; anyone wishing to attend would need to register, for catering purposes, by ringing 0191 2783129.

#### **TREE PRUNING ON MOORSIDE**

The tree surgeon had assessed the trees that needed attention on the site; weather permitting, the work would be carried out during the second week in March. It would be helpful for members whose trees were being treated to be on their plots. The timber would be chipped and left on site.

#### **APPLICATIONS FROM PLOTHOLDERS FOR PERMISSION TO ERECT STRUCTURES**

The following applications had been received:-

1. To erect a 8 ft x 6 ft greenhouse on plot 17, to be sited at the back of the plot
2. To erect a 8 ft x 6 ft greenhouse on plot 22, to be sited at the back of the plot
3. To erect a 6 ft x 4 ft greenhouse on plot 46, to be sited at the back of the plot
4. To erect a 20 ft x 8 ft polytunnel on plot 58, to be sited at the back of the plot

## MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

There were no objections to applications 1, 2 or 3. Application 4 would need to be modified before being allowed to continue since it exceeded the maximum dimensions (10 ft x 8 ft) allowed in the Council's *Buildings and Structures Guidance* document.

### MOORSIDE SUB GROUPS

**Bee Group:** Hameed Haykal has had his bees moved and had given up plot 85. He needed more netting for his screen which **SP** would order.

**Bee Garden:** work was in progress.

**2016 Plant Scheme:** Seed sowing had begun. Wood chippings had been laid on plot 86 and George Kell had built some cold frames. **SJ** would post a timeline on the website.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ **KG** would order a skip for Easter through the Allotments Officer.
- ◆ The Show Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month; **TW** would suggest that in future they meet on the first Tuesday, before the Moorside Committee meeting, so that he could report back to the Committee. The 2016 Moorside Show would be held on 10 September.
- ◆ The lawn mower had been serviced; Pat and Tony Francis had kindly paid for the servicing.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

**KG**

**30 March 2016**