

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 JULY 2016 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

There were no **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 7 June 2016 had been distributed to Committee members. **SP** would persevere in obtaining a quotation from the council's maintenance department for the cost of laying and flattening chippings on the path fronting the Trading Hut; stone chippings would cost £400 but would have to be spread by the association. **SP** had been re-elected as a NAWG representative at the Allotments Forum; the forum itself is of interest to ploholders on various subjects. The strimmer was now in working order and the leak in the gents' toilet had been repaired. The document prepared by **SM** would be compared with the Moorside tenancy agreement and a sub-group would draw up a definitive document on health and safety at Moorside. **SP** agreed to circulate the tenancy agreement and associated Moorside rules/advice already in place so that the committee members could compare the two before the next meeting. Noticeboards would be cleared of out-of-date notices (if any) and one board would be reserved for official and relevant information; one for the Moorside Show and other events; and the remaining two at the east and west gates would be used for information of general interest to members.

MOORSIDE/CITY ALLOTMENTS COMPETITIONS

Nick Ghost had selected the final nominations for Moorside for the City Allotments Competition on 28 June and the judging had taken place on 5 July. It was suggested that criteria for the competition could be posted on the Moorside website.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF reported that the association finances were in a healthy state.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

Trading Hut sales were steady.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION

There were 35 people on the waiting list and plot 96 had been re-let to a pair of experienced gardeners; the outgoing tenants would be given a week to remove any items that they wished from the garden. There was concern about cultivation on plots 7 and 85 and the tenant on plot 73b would be asked to remove a toilet cistern and other rubbish from the garden. Willow trees on the Comfrey Project's plots were in need of cutting back; **SP** would discuss this issue with them.

NAWG MATTERS

There had been a meeting of the Town Moor Joint Working Group in the Civic Centre; some Moorside members and Wingrove residents had been present at the meeting. No assurances were given about the re-opening of the Nunsmoor allotment site; analysis of the soil was in progress and weeds were being allowed to grow so that their uptake of any toxins from the ground could be assessed. The Freemen had expressed concern about structures on allotments generally which they said did not fit in with their criteria and indicated that some would have to be dismantled.

MOORSIDE SHOW

The show brochure was nearing completion. More volunteers were needed for show day on 10 September. It was suggested that a member of the show group should be dedicated to sell raffle tickets from the Trading Hut during opening hours.

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PLANT SCHEME 2016

SJ reported that the scheme had come to an end for the current season but that some plants were still available for sale at half price. The scheme's takings amounted to £1,128.

BEE GROUP

The bee garden was looking attractive. There had been two bee swarms on the site during June.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ **FL** had received a list of suggested plants for butterfly conservation on the site from Jonathan Wallace and supplied **KG** with costings for some of the plants and planting materials which he had obtained from Halls of Heddon. Any purchases to be backed up by original receipts.
- ◆ The tenant on plots 68/69 would only be allowed to have one greenhouse on each of his plots but would need to tidy up his gardens.
- ◆ It was suggested that the association should buy a lighter portable generator than the current one, to enable members to use electrical equipment on the site; **FL** would research costing.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 2 August 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 7.00 p.m.

KG

20 July 2016