

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1 AUGUST 2017 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

PRESENT: Susan Pownall (in the Chair), Krys Gaffney, Nick Coster, Nicola Francis, Sue Johnson, Steven McDonnell and Tony Whittle.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Sue Brophy and Frank Lightfoot.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 4 July had been distributed to Committee members. A commended plot was defined as one that had come close to the top spot, narrowly missing being chosen. The *YouTube* videos about the preparation of produce would remain as public viewing. The Plant Scheme was growing produce for autumn planting and the show. **FL** and **SM** had prepared a five-page document about concerns that they had regarding the minutes of the July meeting and omissions from the minutes; it was agreed that the document was too lengthy to be discussed and that **SJ** would consider their comments in the light of her own notes from the meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF reported that the last rent had been received. Information from the rent forms is kept on the membership database and **NF** keeps the forms archived at home. Some members have volunteered to help the various site groups but have not been asked to do so and some cannot commit to be available at all times. It was suggested that a list of jobs to be done should be published on the website for anyone who was available to undertake them. In 2016 the association received £7,495 in rent and paid out £4,888 to the Council. This left a balance of around £2,600 to pay for water rates, membership of NSALG, insurance, general maintenance and administration (such as room hire for meetings and skips). There is a small surplus from the Trading Hut and the Plant Scheme.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

20 tons of chippings had been delivered and **SP** thanked all the volunteers who had helped to spread them; a heap still remained next to the pavement but will be used to fill in any depressions in the path when the chippings have settled. **FL** had suggested using a dry mix of pea gravel, sand and cement over the chippings to consolidate them; he would be asked to source, order and pay for the materials and would be reimbursed the estimated cost of £100. **SM** suggested that some alterations should be made to the manure area to reduce wastage since a lot of the manure is trampled into the ground; however, an £80 load of manure yields at least 80 barrowloads which get sold at £1 per barrow so little is lost in terms of actual cost. Takings in the Trading Hut were low as it was the holiday season; some new organic products were now in stock and **SJ** had banked around £350 in July.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION

There were 35 people on the waiting list and there had been no new applicants. The tenant of plot 83b had left. The tenants of plot 48 would be leaving and the plot would be re-let as a whole plot. A group of volunteers was on the point of strimming, spraying and covering plot 59 when the tenants arrived in the garden. **KG** would contact the tenants of plots 59, 83a and 90a to enquire about their intentions.

CITY ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION RESULTS

Moorside as an association had done well in the competition and the site had come third in the City. Stan and Audrey Tortoise had won first prize for the Best Full plot with glass, Lat Allman and Ann Gibson had won second prize for the Best Organic plot and Grow School had won fourth prize for the Best Group/Community project. The prizes and trophies would be awarded at the City Show. **SP** had received a letter from the Allotments Officer about a flag being flown on a flagpole at Moorside; he asked for it to be removed pursuant to clause 5 of the tenancy agreement stating that it could cause nuisance or offence. After discussion, it was agreed that **SP** would reply stating that although some members of the association questioned the rationale behind the council's

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argument, the flag and makeshift flagpole would be removed.

REPORT FROM SHOW GROUP

A *Wanted* poster had been finalised and the entry brochure was now available. The list of categories for the show would be posted on the website and some paper copies would also be available. Pat Francis wanted to include three new categories for awards, namely Best Organic plot, Best Full plot without glass and Best Group plot; it was proposed that these should be rewarded with prize card awards.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

SM reported that the second risk assessment of the year was due for the Trading Hut; **SP** advised him that the first one was done and available in the shop for collection. A query was raised about child safety and protection at the tombola that would be situated on **SM's** plots; he has two sisters who will be in attendance and all children will need to be supervised by a responsible adult during the event.

NAWG MATTERS

SP reported that having attended some of the consultations, it seemed likely that the management of parks would be devolved to a charitable trust although the future of allotments as part of the trust was still unclear. However, if allotments were to be drawn into the trust, the figures indicated that rents collected from allotment sites would be put into a central fund along with funding for parks and no money would be ringfenced for allotments as is the case at present; the trusts would decide how the money would be allocated. Moorside would be reliant on its own resources. The scheme for parks would be implemented from October 2017 and, if agreed, from April 2018 for allotments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ Rob Germany had left a large magnolia plant on NC's plot; it would be moved to the butterfly area.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 5 September 2017 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

1 September 2017