

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2017 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**.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS FOR 2017

SP was elected and agreed to continue as Chairperson, **KG** as Secretary, **NF** as Treasurer, **SP** as Trading Hut Manager and **TW** as Lettings Officer.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 3 January 2017 had been distributed to Committee members. It had been confirmed that Moorside as an association is responsible for removing barbed wire from the site; **SP** would ask the Council for a quotation to remove it. **SP** would install the alarms on the Trading Hut and storage containers. **SJ** would obtain a ground bolt for securing the centre gate.

MINUTES OF 2017 AGM

The meeting had been well attended. **NF** confirmed that the target is to hold at least a year's rent in surplus in the association's accounts; the reserve was for any contingencies which arose. The Trading Hut ought to be generating more profit than at present; its aim was not to make money but to keep it viable and to this end prices would need to be reviewed. The minutes were agreed as being a true record of the meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF reported that rents were coming in slowly and that members have until the end of February to pay. The certificate of insurance would be posted in the Trading Hut.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The Newcastle Building Society had turned down the association's grant application and **SP** would re-apply for funding from another body. The Trading Hut was still operating winter opening hours; this did not appear to have affected takings and sales were gradually improving. The housing for the generator would need a new lock.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION

TW reported that there were 38 people on the waiting list. Plot 83 had been re-let. Plot 20 had been vacated and would be re-let as a whole plot whilst plot 7 would be re-let as two halves. **TW** suggested that new tenants should be required to show proof of their address (a utility bill would suffice) and that this clause should be incorporated into the tenancy agreement. The amendment was approved unanimously by the Committee members present.

NAWG MATTERS

There would be a meeting on 8 February to discuss the future of the Parks and Allotments at present managed by the Council. It had been suggested that responsibility for the department would be devolved from the Council and that it would be managed on their behalf in the form of a trust. Tony Dorcan, who has worked on similar projects with trusts, would be the speaker at the meeting.

BEE GROUP/BEE GARDEN/BUTTERFLY GARDEN

FL had ordered plants for the butterfly garden from *Halls of Heddon* which would be available in March. £598 remained in the bee grant.

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2017 PLANT SCHEME

Seed sowing would begin shortly. The scheme wanted to install a seat, dedicated to Dave Eason (who founded the seed scheme) and Peter Whewell, on plot 86. **SJ** had bought some half-price seeds at the end of 2016.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ A photographer was interested in taking pictures of the parakeets on the site; there were around 26 of them at the last count. It is against the law to trap parakeets or any other wild birds.
- ◆ **SM** asked for safety to be made a regular agenda item. There would be a link to safety matters on the Moorside website. Risk assessments needed to be carried out twice a year for the Trading Hut, toilets and storage containers. **SM** would carry out a risk assessment with **SP** in the Trading Hut on Saturday 6 February.
- ◆ **SJ** would book the meeting room in the Nunsmoor Centre until November 2017.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 7 March 2017 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre.

The meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

KG

4 March 2017