

## MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2017 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Sue Brophy had sent her apologies to the Chairman but they were picked up after the meeting.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** held on 7 February 2017 had been distributed to Committee members. **SP** would request application forms to re-apply for funding from bodies other than the Newcastle Building Society.

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

**KG** had received notification that membership of the National Allotment Society was due for renewal. It was agreed that, at £3 per member, the association derived benefits from membership of the NAS.

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

**NF** reported that most members had paid their rents by the end of February; she would shortly be sending out reminder letters to those that hadn't.

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

Thieves had broken into the Trading Hut, and most plots on the site, over the weekend; the generator had been stolen. **SP** had notified the police and the Allotments Officer and the association had been given a crime number relating to the incident. **SP** had arranged for a welder to make the Trading Hut reasonably secure. She would investigate the value of the generator for replacement purposes. All serial numbers of Moorside equipment had been sent some time ago to the Police, including that of the generator. She had ordered more paraffin (for which **NF** had a 10% discount voucher) and also more compost. The Trading Hut had reverted to normal summer opening hours (10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.).

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

**TW** reported that there were 36 people on the waiting list and that no new applications had been received. Plots 14 and 20 had been re-let as full plots and one vacant plot remained. Plot inspections would begin on 4 April at 2.00 p.m. The water would be turned on at the end of March. The requirement for new members to provide proof of residency was now included in the tenancy agreement.

#### **NAWG MATTERS**

**SP** had received literature about consultation seminars due to be held regarding the future of parks and allotments; these seminars would be open to the public and **SP** would post details on the website. She had already posted the notices on the notice boards throughout the site. A final year student of human geography at Northumbria University was conducting research on the impact of allotments on families with children; it was suggested that he visits the site on a Saturday to conduct interviews with relevant members.

#### **BEE GROUP/BEE GARDEN/BUTTERFLY GARDEN**

**FL** had received the plants he had ordered for the butterfly garden. He would provide original invoices from suppliers and also suggested buying the compost required from the Moorside shop out of the allotted grant money. **SP** reported that Greening Wingrove had a small number of fruit trees available free of charge and **FL** requested a crab apple from the selection to incorporate into the Butterfly Garden. Wet conditions had prevented work on the bee garden.

#### **REPORT FROM SHOW GROUP**

**SM** had not attended the Show Group meeting. The minutes from that meeting had requested views from the main committee about holding a Moorside social event for members, other than the show itself. Suggestions included an open day or tea and cakes in midsummer in the picnic area. Whilst it

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sounded a nice idea, discussion centred on staffing and whether it would detract from the main event. The Committee referred it back to the show group for further clarification on logistics. The show group had also referred back to the main Committee further thoughts on the raffle should the event be rained off. The Committee's original decision stood. **TW** and **SM** would discuss various issues with Pat Francis concerning prizes for the Young Master Gardener at the show. **SM** proposed that the show group would benefit from the expertise of **FL** in joining them given his experience in the field. The committee felt this was a matter for discussion within the Show Group and advised a direct approach.

### **MOORSIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**SM** had prepared a report on safety at Moorside for consultation by the committee and discussion at the next meeting. He had bought 'No smoking' signs for the containers and toilets and 'Cleaning in progress/wet floor' standing signs for the toilets. **SP** asked him to put them in place where he thought necessary without further recourse to the committee.

### **2017 PLANT SCHEME**

The scheme had received a delivery of compost and seed sowing of hardy outdoor vegetables had begun; sales normally begin in mid-April. Continuous hard-standing had been re-laid on the plot so that visitors and volunteers did not fall over.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- ◆ **KG** would order a skip for Easter, in April.
- ◆ Richard Littlewood had suggested that solar panels be fitted on the Trading Hut to provide heat and lighting. The committee felt this was worthy of pursuing.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 4 April 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 6.35 p.m.

**KG**

**17 March 2017**