

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2019 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Sue Johnson and Tony Whittle.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 5 March had been distributed to Committee members. **SP** had reported on behalf of **SJ** that she had ordered soft fruit plants and the tenant on plot 63a would be offered the half-plot next to the community plot for a probationary period of one growing season. **SP** would identify the location of all taps on the site with Tony Francis.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Parks and allotments had transferred to the Newcastle Parks and Allotments Trust with effect from 1 April; the trust had **KG's** contact details as secretary.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The Trading Hut takings for March amounted to £978.43. **SP** had asked John Mead for a supply of topsoil; transporting it to the site was a problem.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF reported that a small number of rents were still outstanding and she had sent chaser emails to the members concerned; **SP** would also write to these members, giving them a fortnight to pay their rents. The Community Plot would not be charged rent but would have to generate income for Moorside.

COMMUNITY PLOT UPDATE

The group was proposing a potato-growing competition. **FL** had fenced the back of the plot; he would demarcate the adjoining plot with posts and would donate timber for the remaining fencing. **FL** would cost the horizontal rails for the fencing and ask the member on the neighbouring plot for a donation towards the cost of the fencing.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

SM reported that risk assessments now needed to be carried out and suggested that independent assessors (e.g. other association members) should do so to avoid possible omissions or oversights. The new noticeboards needed to be 36" x 42".

WAITING LIST AND LETTINGS

TW reported that there were 30 people on the waiting list and that several plots had been re-let. The new tenant on plot 72 wanted to construct a shed and greenhouse at the path end of the plot; **FL** would inform him that these needed to be located at the back of the plot and **SP** would send him written permission to do so.

MOORSIDE SHOW

Pat Francis was concerned that if the show was cancelled for any reason, she would need to cover the £650 outlay involved; she had asked whether the association would subsidise the show in the event of cancellation. **SP** would try to seek sponsorship for the show and suggested that Moorside should obtain a show banner to highlight the event.

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2019 PLANT SCHEME

The hedges on plot 86 had been trimmed and the dilapidated fence had been repaired; the old shed had been removed and the area was being paved to provide extra space for selling. Large sections of ground had been dug and an area had been planted with potatoes. The greenhouses and coldframes were filling with seedling plants which would be available for sale from mid-April onwards.

NAWG MATTERS

The CEO of the trust, James Cross, supported allotment gardening and would liaise with the Freeman on behalf of wartime allotment sites.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ♦ The gravel outside the Trading Hut would need to be levelled.
- ♦ **KG** would order a skip for mid-April.
- ♦ **FL** proposed to level his half-plot.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 7 May at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre. There will be a site inspection at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.35 p.m.

KG

5 May 2019