

## **MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **NOTES IN LIEU OF MEETING WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN HELD ON TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY BUT NOT HELD DUE TO COVID-19**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Susan Pownall Chair, Tony Whittle, Richard Littlewood, Frank Lightfoot, Steven McDonnell, Sue Brophy, Nicola Francis Treasurer, Nick Coster and Sue Johnson, Secretary

**NOTES DATED 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020** had been distributed to Committee members. With one update, these notes were taken as read and would be posted on the website.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

- Under the Chairman's Report, SP was still waiting for RL to compare costings from the suppliers of timber and other materials for the repair of the potting shed, so she could order and arrange delivery. He had agreed to do the repair over the summer.
- SJ had asked for comments on the modification of the gate on the east lane which in 2017 had been enlarged to facilitate easier access to the lock from the outside. SB had raised the query. SP agreed that the gap was indeed large enough for an outsider to gain a foothold but the modification had been agreed at committee 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017. "**FL** volunteered to enlarge the hole on the east access gate to make it easier to reach the chain when opening and closing the gate" as recorded in the Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.
- SM also notes a piece of wood in the lock area would not make any difference to vandals coming in.
- FL advised that taps were installed in the 1980's but that the availability of taps and water pressure have been long-standing concerns. He also suggested the entire system is due for renewal but this would be very expensive and would have to be carried out by Northumbria Water. In addition, a former tenant coincidentally met SP and was able to point out many of the taps which he recalled being installed by individual ploholders.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

SP had received an email from Urban Green promoting a University project on the effects of lockdown on children's eating habits and related wellbeing, particularly in relation to people growing their own food on allotments. SP had put the details of how to participate on the Moorside website. Feedback from the University indicated the responses from allotments across the city to date had been encouraging.

The notice board inside the main gate had collapsed. SM had indicated he would liaise with a plot holder who helps with repairs and have it re-hung on the existing supports.

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

Urban Green Newcastle (UGN) had issued another directive aimed particularly at allotments citywide in the light of recent changes to lockdown, asking that all allotment holders be made aware of the new guidelines and advice. SJ had circulated the directive to members on Moorside and also posted the details on the website. **SP to post details on the notice boards.**

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

There was nothing to report.

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

Shop takings for the month of June amounted to £684. 80. SP was continuing to operate a click and collect service.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE**

Other than a couple of maintenance issues there was nothing to report.

### **MOORSIDE SHOW**

SP had notified PF that the Moorside Show was being cancelled and had agreed PF notify her Show Group volunteers and also post the news on the website and on the Events notice board.

### **COMMUNITY PLOT UPDATE**

The Community plot remains closed, and there was nothing else to report.

### **PLANT SCHEME 2020**

There was nothing to report.

### **WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS**

There are 37 people on the waiting list. Plot 19 has been let.

The tenant of plot 27a has been unable to tend his garden due to an accident.

### **NAWG MATTERS**

SP confirmed that following Zoom meetings with UGN, it had been decided that the City Allotments Show was being cancelled but that the team wanted to provide a digital on-line celebration. UGN would be sending out details to all allotments seeking input eg stories, images, gardening tips, recipes etc. **SP to follow up.**

There was still no news from UGN or the City Council on when the Freeman allotment sites in the City would officially come under Freeman direct management. **SP continued to enquire.**

### **CITY SHOW**

**Late news – just in 24 July.** UGN have confirmed that there will be no City Show this year. However, a virtual event is planned and more information will be made available on [www.urbangreennewcastle.org](http://www.urbangreennewcastle.org) shortly with further details posted on the Moorside website also.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The disabled plot was suffering very badly from maretail which was now coming up through the flagstones. It was not being controlled by the current young tenant.

SP has suggested contacting the tenant's family to see if they could help him remedy the situation or should the committee undertake the eradication.

**Would other committee members please contact SJ with their own suggestions, by 31<sup>st</sup> July please?**

Toys have been seen on several plots. SP notes that this may be due to the Covid situation with families, including children, coming to the plots. This would be reviewed at the end of 2020. SM also notes that this is not a problem as long as it is a temporary situation.

**SJ**

**24 July 2020**