

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

NOTES IN LIEU OF MEETING WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd JUNE 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 5TH MAY 2020 had been distributed to Committee members. As no further comments had been received, these notes were taken as read and would be posted on the website.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising Notified to SJ.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

SP had picked up on outstanding issues from previous meetings, including the repair of the potting shed on the disabled plot, which remained the property of the Association. RL had confirmed he and FL would liaise on effecting the repair during the summer, subject to the purchasing and delivery of materials by A N Other. SP was obtaining quotations from local suppliers to meet RL's specifications.

There had also been complaints about limited availability of water taps, due to ploholders extended use of their nearest tap, as well as complaints of the filling up of ponds and water butts over an extended period, thus leaving hosepipes connected and running. SP would remind ploholders via the website that hosepipes were to be turned off and disconnected before leaving the site and that all taps onsite were available to all ploholders. SP had a plan of the site and would identify the location of each tap, emphasise that taps were to be made available to all, even though the tap might be inside a ploholder's gate. SP to circulate the plan on the website and pin up on notice boards. SP commented on the amazing state of the majority of Moorside gardens in which they were proving a saviour during the current health crisis. Everyone was most happy to be able to tend their plots and some had thanked the Committee for their efforts in keeping things running smoothly.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Covid-19 situation is likely to remain for some considerable time and impacts on several plot related activities. Hence the emphasis on social distancing and safety in all of these notes. The latest guidance from government for meeting outdoors relevant to our situation was on 1st June and the bullet points are attached to these notes. This and other information can be accessed on the website gov.uk. No more than 6 people should congregate on each garden (see Health & Safety).

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The continuing 'click and collect' Moorside shop service saw May takings at £1152. 84. There continued to be a national shortage of compost but Moorside was coping better than other outlets in providing the product to our ploholders. Sadly, the shop had experienced theft of compost from orders awaiting collection.

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HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

SP had highlighted an H & S hazard after an accident on the west lane which resulted in the person being hospitalised. The concrete surrounds of Northumbrian Water's inspection chambers had become eroded which had resulted in a dangerously protruding trip hazard. SM had contacted NW who had repaired the area immediately. SP had asked SM to thank the organisation for their prompt attention.

There had been three complaints by plotholders about the lack of social distancing and over-crowding on plots beyond an acceptable limit. SP had sought the guidance of Urban Green Newcastle whose previous two advice bulletins had not been superseded to date, including keeping to one's own garden and not wandering round the site especially with visitors, not visiting each other's plots, the exclusion of non-plotholders on site except for official 'helpers' on individual plots whose details should be logged with the Secretary, keeping 2 metres distance between each other at all times – all apart from the Covid-19 sanitising advice. The number of family members on plots - initially set at 1 or 2 for a limit of up to 2 hours at the beginning of lockdown -has since been eased slightly and left to the discretion of each Allotment Association.

SM was aware of at least 11 people on a plot but understood that they all from one household. But please note the comments in the Chairman's Report and the Secretary's Report above and the continuing need for social distancing. A distinction must be made between a household and a family whose members could be from several households. No more than 6 people should be on one plot at any one time and, unless in a bubble as defined by the government people from different houses should not congregate on different gardens.

SM cut back overhanging hedging on the central path which runs from the middle to east lanes.

MOORSIDE SHOW

In line with UGN's advice suspending community events, the Committee agreed in the interests of H & S to cancel the 2020 Moorside Show and the annual Moorside Competition. The City Show was apparently still on the UGN calendar but realistically unlikely to go ahead in the present health climate. RL had offered the services of the Community Plot team for a 'pop-up' event but they were reminded that the use of the Community Plot was amongst activities prohibited by UGN until further notice.

SP will let Pat Francis know of this decision.

NF had also suggested a casual open day event limited to plotholders who could chat over the garden fence and bring their own refreshments.

COMMUNITY PLOT UPDATE

The Community plot remains closed and no further information has been received from Urban Green which would alter this advice at the time of writing.

PLANT SCHEME 2020

A few more plants have been sold during the month following requests but there is no confirmation of monies paid at the time of writing.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

There are 37 people on the waiting list. Plot 34 has been let to someone already on the waiting list but also helping another member and therefore not from outside Moorside **which is still** currently not allowed. Urban Green will advise when this situation changes. Plot 19 is vacant.

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NAWG MATTERS

There was nothing new to report and no meetings are currently being held.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Applications for sheds to be built on plots 34 and 85 were received and approved, as were applications for greenhouses on 30 and 32.
- SB has brought attention to *both locks* on the gates of the West Lane which come fall apart on opening and closing. They will be monitored for future replacement if necessary. TW to Monitor
- SB has also brought attention to the very wide cut-out in the East Lane Gate meant for hand access but big enough to allow a foot being put through. Would committee members please advise if they would advocate the space being reduced? Committee replies, please no later than Tuesday 30th June,

SJ

21st June 2020

Gov.uk extract re maximum people meeting up from 11th June

Meeting People and Social Distancing from gov.uk 11 June 2020

The government recognises how difficult it has been for people to be cut off from their family and friends in recent months. This has been necessary to help us all [stay alert](#), control the virus and save lives. This guidance explains how you can now see people you do not live with, while protecting yourself and others from coronavirus.

In England, there are 2 ways that you can do this:

- meeting outdoors in a group of up to 6 people with those you do not live with, whilst observing social distancing guidelines and keeping at least 2 metres apart
- from 13 June, single adult households – in other words adults who live alone or with dependent children only – can form a ‘support bubble’ with one other household. All those in a support bubble will be able to spend time together inside each others’ homes, including overnight, without needing to stay 2 metres apart. We are making this change to support the loneliest and most isolated. It is a targeted intervention to provide extra support to some of those most impacted by the most difficult effects of the current social restrictions, while ensuring we continue to keep the rate of transmission down

You must not:

- meet other people indoors – including in their home or your home – unless you are in a support bubble (from 13 June), or for other limited circumstances listed in law

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- meet outdoors in a group of more than 6 with people who are not in your household or (where applicable) support bubble, or for other limited circumstances listed in law
- form a support bubble with another household if neither you nor they are in a single adult household
- stay overnight in another household that is not in your support bubble, unless it is for the limited set of circumstances outlined in law

Staying alert when meeting people you do not live with

You should continue to stay alert and limit your contact with others. Staying at home is the easiest way to do this but, as above, you are permitted to meet family and friends subject to strict rules – on which there is more detail below. At all times, it's important to maintain social distancing guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

In order to keep you and your family and friends safe, it remains very important that you [stay alert](#) outside your home and follow some key principles:

- you should limit your interactions with people outside of your household or from 13 June your support bubble (if applicable) as much as possible
- you should continue to follow strict social distancing guidelines, particularly ensuring you are two metres away from anyone not in your household or, from 13 June, your support bubble
- you should take hygiene precautions by washing your hands as soon as you are home for at least 20 seconds, use hand sanitiser when you are out, use a tissue when sneezing and dispose of it safely and cough into the crook of your elbow
- from 13 June, you should only form a support bubble with one other household, should not change or add to your support bubble once formed, and must only form a support bubble with another household if you or they are in a single adult household
- you should access private gardens externally wherever possible – if you need to go through someone else's home to do so, avoid touching surfaces and loitering
- you should avoid using toilets in other people's home (outside of your support bubble) wherever possible and wipe down surfaces after every use
- you should wipe down any surfaces or door handles people from outside of your household or support bubble come into contact with if walking through your home
- you should avoid sharing plates and utensils with people outside of your household or from 13 June, your support bubble
- you should avoid using paddling pools or other garden equipment with people outside of your household or bubble

If you or someone in your household or, from 13 June, your support bubble (if applicable) are showing coronavirus symptoms, everyone in your support bubble should stay home. If you or a member of your support bubble is contacted as part of the [test and trace programme](#), the individual contacted must [stay at home](#). If the individual becomes symptomatic, everyone in the support bubble must then isolate. This is critical to staying safe and saving lives.

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Meeting outdoors with people you do not live with or are not in your support bubble (from 13 June)

You are allowed to meet in groups of either:

- up to 6 people from different households outdoors
- any number if everyone is a member of your own household – or, from 13 June, a member of your support bubble

You must not meet in a group of more than 6 with people you do not live with or from 13 June who are not in your support bubble unless one of the other limited exceptions as set out in law apply. This is prohibited in law. The relevant authorities, including the police, have the powers to enforce the law – including through fines and dispersing gatherings.

The following provides more detail on how the rules around outdoor gatherings work.

Support bubbles and meeting outdoors

It is already the case that households can spend time outdoors together even if the household is larger than 6 people. From 13 June, you will also be able to meet outdoors with everyone in your support bubble, even if this is more than 6 people

Since 1 June, you have been allowed to meet outdoors in groups of up to 6 people from different households. This might include members of your own household and, from 13 June, people in your support

Using garden equipment

You should not be sharing garden equipment with people outside of your household (or from 13 June in your support bubble) because of the risk of transmission. You could bring your own or if you have to use chairs, for example, you should wipe them down carefully with household cleaner before and after use.