

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 March 2020 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

PRESENT: Susan Pownall (in the Chair), Tony Whittle, Richard Littlewood, Frank Lightfoot, Steven McDonnell, Sue Brophy, Nicola Francis, Nick Coster and Sue Johnson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None

As a prelude to the meeting, Susan Pownall said a few words about the untimely death of Moorside Secretary Krys Gaffney who died on 23rd February. Krys was a valued and long serving secretary at Moorside and had, in addition, undertaken several other roles for the Allotment Site.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 19th February 2020 and the current committee was elected by the members present to serve for the next twelve months together with new member Richard Littlewood. SP welcomed RL to the group.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Susan Pownall was elected to serve as Chair, Nicola Francis as Treasurer and Sue Johnson as Secretary. SP reminded members that sometimes there were confidential matters discussed within the confines of the Committee that should remain privy to members and as a result were not minuted or discussed outside..

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 4th February 2020 had been distributed to Committee members. RL noted that he had not received minutes during 2019 to be posted on the website, the last he received being December 2018. This situation would be rectified over the forthcoming months when KG's notes could be obtained. In the circumstances, no date could be given at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

SP advised that Urban Green would not be providing skips. Minutes from the AGM were to be reconstructed and issued to members in the absence of notes made by KG. The tenant of 53a had requested permission to erect a shed 7' x 5' with forward facing windows and door, and the request was approved. There was a discussion about an open day in conjunction with, or separate from, that proposed by Greening Wingrove. RL suggested linking with The National Allotment Society plans. The Minutes from 4th February were approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Not relevant for this month

TREASURER'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

Takings for February amounted to £548.80.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

There was nothing new to report.

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COMMUNITY PLOT UPDATE

RL reported that there would be regular Sunday refreshments during March 2020. The last of the rubbish possible to burn had been done. Paths were progressing and the planting from 2019 was doing well. RL would mark out cultivated areas and this was work in progress. FL would construct fencing between the Community plot and adjacent plot 64. SP requested a quotation from FL for wood and materials.

PLANT SCHEME 2020

Seed and equipment was ordered or received and the first seeds sown. Discounts are used including a Black Friday discount from seed supplier DT Brown. Weather permitting, sales should begin mid-April. One grower has had to give up after many years of superb growing.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

There were 34 people on the waiting list. Plot 32 was vacant. Half plots 60a and 60b were to be let as a whole plot 60. Plot 14 would shortly become vacant. Inspections of plots would begin on April 7th and the Inspection Team would consist of Tony Whittle, Steven McDonnell, Sue Brophy and Frank Lightfoot.

NAWG MATTERS

There was nothing new to report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- SB would continue to tend the Bee Garden which has previously been undertaken with KG.
- SB would continue as much as possible with tending the outside perimeter grassed area. The shrubs from the large tubs were no longer there but SB would fill the tubs with soil conditioner and tidy them. SP and SB would liaise on this. RL suggested they be emptied and moved inside the perimeter fence.
- There was a discussion about wind damage to polytunnels and when it would be appropriate for the tunnels to be taken down.
- It had been noticed that food had been discarded near to the Northumbrian Water grid. FL is to follow up a previous query to Northumbria Water about the installation of CCTV.
- Further quotations had been received for the repair of the potting shed on the less able plot. To reduce potential expense, FL offered to cost out materials to effect the repair in-house as a matter of urgency.

The meeting closed at 6.40.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 7th April 2020 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre.

SJ

10th April 2020