

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2 MARCH 2021 AT 5.30 VIA ZOOM

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Tony Whittle.

ELECTION OF MOORSIDE COMMITTEE OFFICERS FOR 2021

SP advised that she was willing to serve as chair and both Nicola Francis and Sue Johnson had indicated that they willing to stand as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Committee members were asked if they wanted to put their names forward but no one did so. Susan Pownall was proposed and seconded by SJ and SB to serve as Chair, Nicola Francis by NC and SB as Treasurer and Sue Johnson by SB and NC as Secretary.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 2 February had been distributed to the committee and taken as read.

MATTERS ARISING

The tree surgeons had returned and left chippings on a couple of the gardens. The ash tree on plot 80 was taken down and the tree surgeons mentioned that ash dieback was prevalent. The tenant of plot 47 reported that an ash tree on his garden has dieback and the tree could be inspected. FL commented that some trees recover.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The AGM was held virtually on Wednesday 24 February and a total of 25 members logged in. The meeting via Zoom proceeded well.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The rents were coming in but some members had reported problems when making BACS payments. RL would add an explanatory note to the rent form. NF will report on the number of payments made at the end of March.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The Trading Hut takings for February amounted to £791.70 which was a healthy return for the time of year. Packets of seeds from the Plant Scheme were being issued from the shop on behalf of SJ. The shop was opened by SP due to the number of orders, including heavy bags of compost which made click and collected difficult to handle. Tomato growbags and fertilisers would be included in the next order. Members paying their rents at the shop with cash were requested to arrive with the correct money.

COMMUNITY PLOT

Weeding was kept under control. A bonfire was planned for the weekend beginning 6 March.

A garden table had been donated by the tenants of 104 but until required by the community plot was being used outside the shop. SM asked if the old lawnmower could be used for the community plot. It may need a repair and this would be checked and attended to.

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HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

SM commented that the rotovator would need checking before being let out. He now has the materials to construct a new notice board. He will be removing the cinema from his garden during March.

WAITING LIST AND LETTINGS

In his absence TW was confirmed as Lettings Officer as he had previously permitted his name to be put forward. There are currently 46 people on the waiting list.

Inspection of gardens would be made before the next committee meeting on 6 April. (After this meeting on 2 March it was noted by SJ and SP that due to Covid-19 restrictions the inspections would have to be made by each member of the team alone and that the team could not yet meet as a body). The team for 2021 would comprise TW, SB, FL, SD, and NC.

Several tenants have left and some of the vacant plots have been let internally, viz. the tenant of 18 has moved to 88, the co-tenant of 81 to 12, the tenant of 81 is now sole tenant. Vacant plots are now 18, 23, and 91. Plot 100 was vacant and has been let to an applicant from the main waiting list. It was reported at the February meeting that the tenant of plot 79a was having difficulty suppressing marestail. It was proposed by SP that plot 23 which was previously let as a whole could be halved and the tenant of 79a could be offered a half. A discussion regarding the halving of 23 ensued. It was agreed that individual committee members would inspect the plot for feasibility of halving it. FL was not in agreement with the halving of the plot. NF commented that the site might have to comply with the agreement in the Rules and Constitution to halve plots where suitable. SP commented that the allocation of half or whole plots could depend upon the capability of the gardeners. It was noted that TW kept a supplementary list of existing gardeners who request a change of plot, especially those requesting a move from a half plot to a whole. It was acknowledged that plots vary in size.

NAWG MATTERS

There was nothing to report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The tenant of plot 34 submitted a request to construct a greenhouse measuring 8 ft x 6 ft and two alternative plans. It was agreed by a majority vote that the plan (A) to place a greenhouse at the back of the plot and at the left side was acceptable and the tenant would be informed. The tenant of plot 60 had inherited a greenhouse frame from the previous tenant but given the plot was now a whole not two halves, it should to be sited at the back of the plot, which was currently a children's play area. SP would write to the tenant accordingly. FL had received a complaint about noise levels from children. A trampoline from plot 23 has been added to a play area on 85. NC queried how much of the plot was under cultivation. SJ commented that the Rules and Constitution already contained a paragraph regarding nuisance to one's neighbours (paragraph 7.2 of the Association Rules). SP would contact the tenant.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday 6 April at 5.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 7.05 p.m.

SJ

2nd April 2021