

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF A ZOOM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 5.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 12TH
JANUARY 2021.

PRESENT: Susan Pownall (Chair); Nicola Francis (Treasurer); Sue Brophy, Nick Coster, Frank Lightfoot, Rich Littlewood, Steven McDonnell.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Tony Whittle and Sue Johnson, (Secretary).

In SJ's absence, SP took the minutes of the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF 1ST DECEMBER 2020. Approved as a true record of everyone's contribution, compiled and circulated in lieu of a real meeting, which normally would have been held on 1st December 2020. RL to post notes on website accordingly.

3 MATTERS ARISING.

Potting Shed. FL was concerned about the ongoing liability of this structure to the Association. As the potting shed was now in an excellent state of repair following the recent outlay, SP suggested the topic should be discussed as and when a new tenant was found for the plot. The existing tenant had requested an upgrade to a larger garden on Moorside.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

SP informed the Committee that Tony Whittle, the Lettings Officer, was in hospital with a non-Covid 19 condition. The group sent their best wishes for his speedy recovery.

SP also reported that additional taps were springing up on people's plots. The meeting agreed that a clause prohibiting this activity be added to the Buildings and Structures Regulations and also highlighted in the Tenancy Agreement. It was agreed that if any plotholders had problems with water, they should report to the Committee in the first instance. It was additionally emphasised that all taps were for common use.

5 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Agreed that an AGM convened as a Zoom meeting was the best way forward. Agreed 7 pm opening for 7.30 pm start on 24th February 2021, which gave 30 minutes to sort any potential problems from attendees trying to access the meeting. The date would mean a further Committee meeting could be held prior to the official 21 days AGM notice required. Discussion followed on the best method of nominating the new 2021 Committee. Suggested the Secretary sends out the list of Committee nominees willing to stand again, asking for endorsement from the membership. Additional nominations could be taken at the AGM in the usual way.

2021 Rents: News was still awaited from Urban Green on the 2021 rents but NF recommended the current Moorside plot rental remain the same as in 2020.

6 SECRETARY'S REPORT: None.

7 TREASURER'S REPORT.

NF presented the 2020 accounts to the meeting and thanked Fiona Thoburn for her management of the trading hut and plant scheme accounts which NF had valued, saving her many hours of additional work.

NF went through the key points. Income was a little lower due to having no significant plant scheme and no Annual Show. Trading Hut sales were slightly up as the shop had benefitted from the closure of garden centres during the first Covid lockdown. The Kings Seeds orders had also increased over the previous year, thanks to site co-ordinator David Vincent. The Northumbrian Water bills were also about the same, which was a little surprising considering the wet season. On the whole, NF advised that other financial areas remained much the same as previous years and had no concerns.

7 TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

SP reported that shop takings for December 2020 were £251 75. The shop had been closed for the Christmas and New Year weekends.

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY

SMcD advised that the materials for the H & S notice board had been acquired and he would effect the repair once the weather improved.

9 2021 PLANT SCHEME

SP reported on behalf of SJ, who had decided not to run a plant scheme in 2021, citing impractical obstacles due to the current health crisis. The meeting accepted SJ's decision. NF/SB wondered if SJ might offer any opened and surplus seeds to plotholders either free or with a small donation to the plant scheme funds.

10 WAITING LIST AND INSPECTIONS

SP reported on behalf of TW. There were still 40 people on the waiting list with no lettings. Several plotholders were leaving but no formal notice from any had yet been received. FL voiced his general opposition to splitting gardens into half plots as a matter of course as the practice made it difficult in some cases to operate a rotational system. FL's comments were noted.

It was agreed that the Committee inspection team would conduct individual inspections in March, bringing their findings to the April Committee meeting regarding any plots falling below an acceptable standard. SP would send the Committee a plot-numbered plan of the site for identification purposes.

11 MOORSIDE ANNUAL SHOW

PF had indicated that a virtual show on the lines of the 2020 City Show was preferable given the current health pandemic. The meeting agreed that any format, including virtual, should be a scaled down event and that it was still early days to make firm decisions either way.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) FI advised that he had an opportunity to acquire a trailer for the site, free of charge. Agreed he would investigate further.
- (b) SB, NC and plotholder Jean Hannon were awaiting better conditions to tidy the frontage. The bee garden tidy-up was in hand.
- (c) On behalf of the Committee, FL thanked RL for organising the technical side of the Zoom meeting.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: By ZOOM at 5.30 pm on Tuesday, 2nd February, 2021.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm.

SCP. 13th January 2021.