

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER 2021.

Present: Susan Pownall, Chairman; Nicola Francis, Treasurer; Sue Brophy, Nick Coster, Frank Lightfoot, Rich Littlewood, Tony Whittle.

1 Apologies for Absence: Sue Johnson, Secretary; Steven McDonnell

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2021. Agreed by all present. RL to post on website.

3 Matters Arising

Defibrillator. TW had researched the cost of obtaining one for Moorside – about £1200, SP suggested contacting the Ward Councillors (a) for financial assistance; or (b) to ask if they would consider positioning a device outside the allotments for general use at a cost to be borne by the Council.

Tree Surgery: SP was progressing Moorside requirements with UGN and the Council.

4 Chairman's Report

SP reported that the trophies for the 2021 Moorside Competition had been engraved and presentations to each winner would be arranged as soon as possible. The results of Newcastle University's Blood Monitoring Survey, which many Moorsiders had taken part in, had now been published and a copy of the findings was on the Moorside website. An application had been received from the plotholder on Plot 60 to erect a greenhouse. The construction was agreed subject to it being moved further towards the back of the plot. SP to write formally to the plotholder setting out the conditions.

5 Secretary's Report

The Chairman reported in the Secretary's absence. The monthly Bulletin to plotholders had been sent out. SP made one addition to the section on the water being turned off for the winter in that plotholders should fill up their water butts and other receptacles for use until the mains supply was resumed towards the end of March 2022, subject to weather. SJ had provisionally ordered a skip for communal rubbish but terms were payment on delivery and she awaited a cheque from the Treasurer. SJ was hopeful of reinstating the Moorside plant scheme in March/April 2022 which had been suspended during the pandemic. The Secretary had been the point of contact from the Council inviting the Wartime Sites to a meeting with the Freeman in the lead-up to September 2022 when the sites would come under Freeman control. The date for the preliminary meeting was 5th November and would be attended by the Moorside Committee officers – Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

6 Treasurer's Report

NF was refining the end of year accounts, checking that transactions had been allocated correctly within MAA's Santander and HSBC accounts. She had received the sale proceeds for Kings Seeds orders. The purchase of new gate locks was discussed. TW to confirm prices with supplier, circa £180 each. NF to reimburse him at point of purchase from MAA funds.

7 Trading Hut Manager's Report

SP reported that the shop takings in October 2021 had been £351. 20. She had ordered a variety of seed potatoes for January delivery/sale. She would stocktake during November.

8 Waiting List, Lettings and Inspections.

TW reported that he had reviewed the waiting list which now stood at 47 with email applications pending. It was agreed to suspend the waiting list for 12 months and to revise the website advising applicants of an approximate 6-year wait for a plot. SP would advise shop helpers not to hand out further application forms. There had been no lettings in October. It was also agreed that less stringent inspections would continue throughout the winter but problems on particular gardens would be monitored. The majority of existing problem plots had seen an improvement over the previous month.

9 Health and Safety.

S McD had indicated there was nothing to report.

10 Community Plot Update

RL outlined the plans for the Bonfire Night on 5th November. SP would supply keys for the shop and store to access equipment. She would clean and supply battery lighting for the toilets. She would also let RL have – if known – the details of the Community Police to notify them of the event. FI had built the bonfire from plotholders' wood supplies and SMcD/RL would be fire marshals for the night. Refreshments were being provided for sale by plot volunteers.

11 Urban Green Newcastle/NAWG Matters.

SP reported that an Allotments Officer to UGN had still not been appointed.

12 Any Other Business.

SP reported the abandoned van outside the east gate had been removed. Plot 5 had suffered damage to a shed door due to intruders probably looking for somewhere to sleep. Incident thought to be linked to Plot 10 where shed had been slept in. Nothing seemed to have been stolen. FL had had new and labelled timber stolen, purchased for his new shed. A further plotholder had reported wholesale theft of fruit from her trees. Agreed to repeat the consequences of such behaviour in the next Bulletin.

FL reported also that gates were still being left unlocked by plotholders.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 7th December 2021 at 5.30 pm via ZOOM.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm. RL was thanked for facilitating the ZOOM link.

SCP.

4th November 2021.