

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2021 AT 5.30 VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Susan Pownall (in the Chair), Sue Johnson (Sec), Tony Whittle, Frank Lightfoot, Rich Littlewood, Nick Coster, Sue Brophy

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Steven McDonnell, Nicola Francis (Treasurer).

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

MATTERS ARISING

SP advised that she will contact Ward Councillors, including the Councillor for Kenton Ward who is also Newcastle Cabinet member for Development, Neighbourhoods and Transport regarding the provision of a defibrillator.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The recent storm had caused severe damage to the front perimeter fence, and the fence at the rear of plot 51 which backs onto the moor, both of which had collapsed. Urban Green had been advised several times. There was also damage to the fence posts at the entrance of the area used for the delivery of manure. The police were aware of the situation which leaves the site open to intruders. Several individual gardens had suffered fence damage as had the tree on plot 34.

The police visited plot 10 due to intruders probably using the shed. They commented on the low level fencing at the rear of the plot.

Photographs for trophy winners had been taken and would be posted on the website.

SP and SJ had researched online for noticeboards and SP will follow this through.

SP commented that the rules regarding problems plots should be enforced and the committee members agreed. RL suggested that this point should be made at the AGM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

SJ reported on the useful meeting between the three wartime sites (Moorside, Littlemoor and Triangle) and representatives of the Freeman, namely David Wilson (Chair of the Stewards' Committee), Alan Bainbridge (Committee Member) and Kevin Batey (Superintendent) on 5 November. SJ had circulated notes to the Moorside Committee members prior to the meeting of 7 December. It was not anticipated that there would be a further meeting with the Freeman before March 2022.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF and Fiona Thoburn were preparing the Accounts

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

Takings at the end of November amounted to £182.55. The shop was closed for a couple of days following storm damage to the site. The stock take had been done and advised to NF.

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WAITING LIST AND LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

There were 50 people on the waiting list and there was one vacant plot. The waiting list had been closed until November 2022. It was noted that plot 10 was overgrown and the Committee was aware of the difficulty. The tenant of plot 108 would be requested to accept a half plot size. The willow hedge at plot 100 needs attention and SB offered to contact the tenant. SJ offered to write again to the tenants of plots 73b and 20b. FL suggested that plot inspections should continue during the winter months.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

SP reported that SM had checked the site for storm damage to fences.

COMMUNITY PLOT

Guy Fawkes Night and the bonfire had been successful and raised a profit of £88.08.

URBAN GREEN /NAWG MATTERS

The post of Allotment Officer had not been filled. NAWG had not met.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Thefts were still occurring. FL reported the theft of new timber from his plot.

TW had contacted the locksmith for new locks for all of the three gates.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday 4 January 2022 at 5.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.35 pm

SJ

17 December 2021