

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2022 AT 5.30 VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Susan Pownall (Chair), Sue Johnson (Sec), Tony Whittle, Rich Littlewood, Steven McDonnell, Sue Brophy, Frank Lightfoot, Joyce Ozouaki, Nick Coster, Nicola Francis

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sue Brophy

FL had to leave at 6pm, JO couldn't join until 6.04 and SP wasn't able to join until **5.50**.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 1 March were accepted except for the wording used in connection with the election of a secretary. SJ would supply alternative wording but the outcome of SJ becoming elected for 2022 would remain.

MATTERS ARISING

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was nothing to report other than the items discussed below.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rents were being received with 17 outstanding. NF commented that this was about average. Water usage for 2021 had increased dramatically from 2020. NF did not believe that the meter or meter readings were at fault. FL and RL suggested that either a leak or taps left running could be a factor. RL suggested that "concussive" taps which automatically switch off would help in the toilets.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The takings for March amounted to £743.27.

Sales were going well, including potatoes and jam. Tomato grow bags were on order.

WAITING LIST AND LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

The tenant of plot 57 had decided to decrease to a half plot size and would occupy the renamed plot 57A. A new tenant for 57B had paid the annual rent.

The tenant of plot 10 gave indications of giving up but would remove some belongings before doing so.

NC noted that the standard of cultivation appeared generally acceptable. For example, while about 6% of plots were unprepared, prepared ground amounted to about 32% and preparation underway was about 32%. A few gardens of concern were mostly those previously identified. FL and SM noted that the site looked good for the time of year. SP had taken note of fences which needed attention and had spoken to the tenants concerned.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

FL and SM had noted trees which needed attention. The leaning willow on FL's garden caused particular concern. They suggested that the gateway could be sealed off but it was also noted that that would create a problem of access for the tenant on the adjoining half garden.

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PLANT SCHEME

Growing was underway and members had been advised as part of the Housekeeping email. A separate email relating to the Plant Scheme only would be sent nearer to opening time.

COMMUNITY PLOT

RL had been concerned about bonfire material being put on the garden in advance of the bonfire. This created a query as to the advisability of having a bonfire other than the one for Guy Fawkes Night. SP commented that it was a good idea to have a communal fire, other than 5 November. Complaints about bonfire smoke had been made by some residents of Moorside North. The smoke was a result of fires situated in some West lane gardens.

Use of the Community Plot to co-incide with National Allotment Week in August would be considered.

URBAN GREEN /NAWG MATTERS

From a meeting with UG the previous week SP was able to advise that there would be a City Show in 2022 and an Allotments Competition following the same timetable as in previous years meaning that Moorside's own judging of gardens would take place at the end of June to be followed by UG's decisions for the City Awards.

There were plans by UG to hold an enhanced City Show in 2023 together with a Food Festival in future years.

The rent demand from UG would be received shortly. Public Liability Insurance would as usual be added and would cover the period April to September 2022.

UG would shortly issue a Tenancy Agreement.

UG were working on developing the future relationship between themselves and the NAWG.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

FL commented on the number of greenhouses on site which do not appear to be used.

FL commented on the construction of the shed on plot 95 and he would be willing to offer advice if so required.

FL commented that the tree on his plot was in a dangerous state and was aware that Urban Green had been requested to deal with it. SP advised that their allotments budget for 2021 / 2022 had been used and no further monies for the period was available.

JO requested from SP clarification of the complaints procedure.

A 10 ft by 8 ft greenhouse would shortly be donated to Moorside and applications would be taken from interested plotholders.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at 5.30 p.m.

The Committee thanked RL for once more facilitating the meeting by ZOOM.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm

SJ 2 May 2022