

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2022 AT 5.30 NUNSMOOR CENTRE AND VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Susan Pownall (Chair), Frank Lightfoot, Steven McDonnell, Sue Brophy, Nick Coster, Sue Johnson (Sec) via Zoom, Tony Whittle via Zoom.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Nicola Francis and Rich Littlewood.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

Agreed, with a few of amendments suggested by FL.

MATTERS ARISING

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

SP proposed that a face-to-face AGM be held towards the end of February as in pre-Covid years. The Committee agreed. SP would ask the Treasurer to make the necessary arrangements.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

There was nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the Treasurer's absence, SP reported that the former had been in discussion with Newcastle City Council regarding the Lease, specifically the level of PLI which would be higher than in previous years and cost more.

HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The takings for December amounted to £267.50.

SP and Fiona Thoburn carried out a stocktake. Rats or mice continued to be problem for the storage of bird food. Metal bins may be required.

WAITING LIST AND LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

There had been no changes with waiting lists or lettings.

Plot 73b would shortly be vacant and FL requested a meeting with the next proposed tenant.

There was no evidence work being done on plots 20b, 79b and 95 which had been noted as problem plots previously. In addition, little or no work had been done on plots 17, 23a, 27, 89/90 and 110.

Improvements were noted regarding plots 10, 18, 30, 52, 80a, 83b, 91 and 106/7a.

The tenant of plot 10 had been on site.

There was a debate about the co-ordination of inspections. SM suggested that the team concentrate on persistently neglected plots during the winter season. FL suggested that inspections should be made on the Tuesday of the monthly meetings as happened before Covid restrictions.

FL and SM requested sight of letters sent to ploholders. NC suggested that a spreadsheet with the relevant information would suffice.

TW and SP commented that the winter weather made it less feasible to tighten up.

FL agreed that the tenants of plot 10 could have his telephone number in order to discuss trees on their plot.

The hedge between plots 21 and 22 while overgrown was likely to be there due to beekeeping on plot 21.

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It was agreed that Easter would be the preferred time to request a skip.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

SP advised that the toilets had been cleaned and locked as the water supply had been turned off for the winter.

COMMUNITY PLOT

Net income for the year was £258.39 and came from a Coffee Morning in March, seeding a bonfire area, and Open Afternoon on 20 August and Fire Friday on 4 November.

SP suggested that applicants on the waiting list, and / or any small community groups, could be offered a small section or raised bed on the Community Plot.

URBAN GREEN /NAWG MATTERS

The Lease with the Freemen was to come.

SP advised that the NAWG, as an independent body, was not recognized by Urban Green Newcastle (UGN) SP explained their intention to set up an advisory panel and the ramifications involved with the proposed inclusion by UGN of members from NAWG serving on the panel.

SP advised that UGN requested that prizewinners from the allotment competition and any others interested meet at their Jesmond Dene office on Friday 9 December and be presented with prizes.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SM requested information about a lockable notice board. SP advised that she had researched this previously. SP was aware of several items to be considered.

A branch from the willow on the East Lane had been removed by Council contractors.

SB and Jean Hannon will be trimming the willows in the Bee Garden over the next few months.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held Tuesday 3 January 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm

SJ 1 January 2023