

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 5.30 VIA ZOOM

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Frank Lightfoot (post meeting)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 26 January 2022 had been distributed to the committee and taken as read.

MATTERS ARISING

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was extensive storm damage. A skip had been booked and SM suggested that broken glass should be the priority. As usual, metal would be collected by the metal scrap merchant. RL suggested that a bonfire for wood would be constructed on the day allocated and that he was flexible about when that day would be. TW commented that a bonfire would have to be supervised.

The newly appointed allotment officer with Urban Green had been expected to meet members of the Committee to inspect the storm damaged perimeter fences and trees but had not been able to attend. Additional damage had occurred since the first report from SP to Urban Green. The Top Gate leading onto the Town Moor was reported by NC to be leaning. The gate post leading into the manure area was damaged and the gate had collapsed. Urban Green directors were to meet on 1 February regarding their budgets and repairs to be carried out across the estate.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Committee members agreed that the tenant of plot 73b would be sent one final letter giving notice that the plot would have to meet cultivation standards by the end of April and failure would result in eviction. No rent would be collected during the intervening period but would be payable if the tenant complied and retained the tenancy from 1 May 2022.

SJ suggested that a request for contact details of non-members who assist members could be added to the Rent Form. With provisos from NF and TW this was agreed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF advised the accounts had been prepared ahead of the AGM. The Committee was concerned that the water bill for the accounting year end of 2021 was double that of 2020.

FINE TUNING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was confirmed to take place on Wednesday 23 February via Zoom 7.15 for a 7.30 start. The documents including the agenda would be emailed shortly and members without emails would receive the papers by post.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

Takings at the end of January amounted to £443.60. Seed potatoes were available. Reduced peat compost was expected during the next week. Paraffin was difficult to obtain. A supply of 600 litres was expected shortly but may be the last delivery unless obtained in ready cans of 4 litres. There remained the question of whether or not it was

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

viable to stock paraffin as, in addition, the margin of profit would be low. Few suppliers were stocking supplies.

WAITING LIST AND LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

There were no changes to the waiting list and lettings.

SP had tried to contact, without success, the tenant of plot 10. There was discussion regarding the Comfrey Project. The Committee members agreed that the tenant of plot 108 could be offered a half or third plot although the plot has one gate only.

Plot 56 has two greenhouses but the tenants are aware that one must be removed.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

SM had checked perimeter fencing and noted damage to several posts. SM had also noted the poplar on plot 34 had suffered further damage.

COMMUNITY PLOT

There was a discussion regarding a bonfire of rotten and damaged fencing. RL suggested mid to late March depending on the weather.

URBAN GREEN /NAWG MATTERS

The post of allotment officer had been filled and it was expected that he would meet with SP shortly. Fencing was to be repaired. Tree husbandry should be carried out before the end of February, that is, before the beginning of bird nesting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee agreed that rules regarding cultivation should be tightened up. SP agreed that the Chairman's Report at the AGM would reflect this. RL mentioned that regulations regarding polytunnels should be specified in the Rules and Constitution.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 5.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm

SJ

26 February 2022