

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 MAY 2022 AT 5.30 VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Susan Pownall (Chair), Sue Johnson (Sec), Tony Whittle, Rich Littlewood, Sue Brophy, Joyce Ozouaki (joined at 17.42), Nick Coster, Nicola Francis

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 5 April were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

The construction of a shed on plot 95 had been approved and SP had written to the tenant accordingly. The tenant was going to remove the existing small shed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The construction of a greenhouse which had been donated to Moorside had been welcomed by the tenant of plot 8. His construction application was approved.

Repairs to the toilets and a tap in the West lane had been repaired. FL had a tap repair to be done which he would do himself.

There was a discussion about the miscellaneous repairs needed on site. These included the leaking roof of the trading hut, painting the exteriors of containers being the lock up store and toilets. It was agreed that quotations from outside agencies would be appropriate for several of the maintenance jobs which ought to be considered and listed. TW offered to obtain quotations.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Several rents remained unpaid and NF had emailed the tenants to advise that if rent was not paid they would be asked to return their key thereby ending the tenancy.

Membership of the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) would be renewed and the annual fee paid.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The takings for April amounted to £978.68 with some money owed.

WAITING LIST AND LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

There had been no lettings and the waiting list was frozen.

Both SP and JO had had contact with the tenant of plot 10. SP had also sent three warning letters but no work had been carried out on the plot. SP had also spoken to her on a personal level not as a plot tenant. There was unanimous agreement that the tenant should be asked to vacate the plot within 14 days but that she had the right of appeal within that time frame.

Other plots of concern were 11, 17, 20, 85, and 91. SJ would write to the tenants of 11, 17 and 20b. Due to the personal circumstances of one of the joint tenants of Plot **20a** (not to be confused with 20b) members of the Committee expressed a wish to help on the garden and it was agreed the tenants would be approached to ask if this would be welcome. SP would speak to the tenant of 91.

The tenant of 52 had made progress. One of the two tenants of 85 had left and the sole remaining tenant would be advised by SP that the plot was in need of attention. The key with the leaving tenant had not been returned.

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TW advised that the shed being constructed on 95 was looking good.

The co-ordinator of the Comfrey Project had left. NC had seen tenants working on the plots. SP had contacted the organisation regarding a leaning fence.

The tenant of 108 had been offered downsizing to a half plot which he declined. There was a unanimous decision to advise the tenant that cultivation of the plot would be subject to a monthly monitored inspection by the Committee inspection team and that full cultivation needed to be carried out against a four-month timescale, with a quarter of the plot being cultivated each month..

The damaged tree on plot 73a had been referred to Urban Green who were organising a further quotation from a contracted tree surgeon. Their visit was due on 4th May.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

The damaged tree on plot 73a was noted.

PLANT SCHEME

The first day had raised £15.60. Tender plants were being sown and grown on. JO would be providing some ever popular courgettes.

COMMUNITY PLOT

RL advised that there would a discussion during the summer regarding an Open Day event to be held in August to coincide with National Allotment Week. This would supersede the annual Moorside Show..

It was proposed that an event would be open to the general public but there would not be an exhibition of produce. Refreshments would be provided. It was to be decided whether or not to have activities for children. JO suggested a scarecrow competition.

URBAN GREEN /NAWG MATTERS

Urban Green Newcastle (UGN) would have a further meeting on 4 May regarding the City Show. Moorside nominated garden winners would be notified to UGN for the city wide competition.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RL agreed that due to lack of time, he was not able to fulfil his offer to build a notice board and that the Committee should proceed with the purchase of a commercial type structure to be situated opposite the shop. This would be further investigated by SP.

SB requested funds for purchasing plants for the planters along the middle lane now that spring flowers were over and this was agreed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday 7 June at 5.30 p.m.

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

The meeting closed at 6.47 pm

SJ 30 May 2022