

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 5.30 PM AT THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE AND ALSO VIA ZOOM

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Rich Littlewood, Steven McDonnell, Nicola Francis (Treasurer)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

Agreed. SJ would forward them to RL for posting on the website.

MATTERS ARISING

SP advised that she would have a discussion with SM regarding the size and location of a new Health & Safety noticeboard.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The awaited lease from the Freeman and legal department of Newcastle City Council had not been received.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of the Treasurer SP advised that the accounts for 2022 would be ready shortly taking into account trading hut income and expenditure.
No rent demand from the Freeman had been received.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2023

Nomination forms would be available from the Trading Hut.

SP asked existing Committee members if they would be standing for 2023. Those present confirmed they would so with the exception of Sue Johnson who advised that she would be resigning from the Committee and leaving the site with effect from Tuesday 21 February.

SB and TW advised that they may not be available to attend the meeting.

SP asked the committee if they had any suggested motions to be put to the members at the AGM. It was agreed that a motion would be put to the members that there would be no rent increase for 2023.

SP confirmed that she would address the issue of unkempt gardens and stricter controls to be enforced would form part of the Chairman's Report.

The termination of the Plant Scheme managed by SJ would be reported. An option of a new group to re-start the Plant Scheme would be put forward.

TRADING HUT

Takings for January amounted to £416.70.

Seed potatoes were selling well and contributed to an increase of income compared to January. Local Heritage varieties were expected shortly.

The shop had been stocked with compost and bird food. Paraffin was selling well but was no longer available to buy in bulk from oil companies. SP advised she had bought a 600 litre tank full last spring in anticipation of further supplies being unobtainable. In the light of this, the Committee agreed that current stocks should be sold to Moorside plot holders only.

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WAITING LIST AND LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

One plot had been let. One tenant would be leaving shortly. FL suggested that when 86 became available it should be offered in the first instance to a group which wished to re-start a Plant Scheme. SP advised that a new group would have to draw up a business plan to be put to the Committee. TW asked SJ if she could list “ways and means” of running the scheme.

The inspections of plots took place with the acknowledgment that little was changing at this time of year. However, attention was drawn to certain plots which had not seen any substantial improvements, viz. 17, 20b, 23a, 27, 73b, 79b, 89/90, 95, and 110.

SJ advised that she had written to the tenant of 20b at the request of the committee in January asking if the tenant would like to have help in clearing the plot. To date there had been no response. SP suggested that a meeting with him may be required.

In addition, it was noted that the gates of 33 and 54 were off the hinges. The front fence of 91 needed attention.

SP noted that several fences were leaning. FL had offered help to the tenant of 74 with a fence repair.

FL noted that there had been further work on the construction on plot 75.

FL noted that the Comfrey Project plots were looking good.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

SP noted, in the absence of SM, the conversation regarding internal fences.

COMMUNITY PLOT

There was nothing to report.

URBAN GREEN /NAWG MATTERS

Rents for sites other than the Wartime Sites were awaited.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

FL commented that rubbish had been dumped on plots 73a and 73b

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7th March 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.33 pm

SJ 15 February 2023