

## Committee Meeting 10.00 am Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Minutes

- Present:** Liz Bennett (LB), Chris Hodgeson (CH), Lesley Greenwood (LG), Dorothy Robson (DR), Tony Robson (TR), Mark Fuller (MF).
- Apologies:** Ken Fawcitt (KF).
- Previous minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting, May 2023, were agreed as being a true record.
- Chair's report:** Nothing to report (NTR).
- Membership update:** LG advised: **Waiting list** – 43 currently on the waiting list. **New** – plots continue to be re-let as they become available, a recently relinquished plot has a shed which the owner would like to sell – to be included in website 'For Sale' section. **Plot standards** – there are some plots requiring work to bring them up to the association's standards – these will be contacted by mail shortly.
- Secretary's report:** CH advised: **Freemen** – an informal meeting has been proposed by the Freemen to meet allotment site Chairs and/or Secretaries, CH will attend and hopefully clarify the acceptability of Metal Gates for the sites. **Site fences** – under the new site lease, the association will become liable for the upkeep and maintenance of the site's perimeter fences – a survey of the current state of the fences has been suggested to ensure the fencing is in a sound state prior to commencement of the lease. **Allotment competition** – notice of the 2023 Newcastle allotment competition has been received from Urban Green with details of the categories- discussed and agreed that we should be entering where possible. **Plot standards** – as noted above by LG above, there are many plots requiring attention around the site however the consensus within the committee was that the individual plot holder's circumstances would be considered, and encouragement and support would always be offered and given to anyone struggling.
- Website:** LB advised: **Newsletter upload** – LB advised that problems had been incurred during the upload of the most recent newsletter – discussed and agreed to retry with alternative format.
- Financial report:** DR advised: **Account balances** – all healthy, however the association currently owes 12 months back rent due to the move from Urban Green to the Freemen and this cannot be paid until the new Lease is accepted and signed by both parties.
- Trading hut:** CH advised: **CTS May delivery** – all prices for new stock have seen increases, these will only be passed on when the old stock is exhausted. **Sunday Plant sales** – have been excellent once again and the committee gratefully acknowledge the efforts by Frank and the Polytunnel and Sunday plant sales teams – Many thanks to all who helped make this such a great success. **Composting bins** – the Association has a collection of surplus used compost bins that have been donated and stored at the rear of the Trading Hut – discussed and agreed these should be made more available to plot holders along with the surplus tools that are also donated and stored.
- Buildings/Structures:** MF advised: Awaiting revised shed request application following notification that metal sheds are not permitted under Freemen and site rules.
- Tidy Up Day Tasks:** **Site Tidy up day** – the tidy up day planned for 11<sup>th</sup> June was discussed and various tasks identified along with plans for refreshments.
- AOB:** Revised Little Moor Allotment Association plot holder's tenancy agreement – all agreed the wording of the new agreement as sound, but should consider including a reference to the structures application process and associated actions at termination of tenancy.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for 6.00 pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**There being further unrelated general business the meeting closed at 10.40am.**