

## Little Moor Allotments Committee Meeting 29 January 2024

Present – Ken F, Lesley G, Chris H, Dorothy R, Tony R, Mark F, Sara G, Liz B

Mark had emailed previously to say he would be stepping down from the Committee and the role of Building & Structures management. The Committee thanked him for his contribution over several years.

NB – As this meeting was focussed on preparation for the AGM in February there was no review of actions or “ordinary” Committee matters discussed. These will be carried over to the next meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Volunteer Day agreed for Sunday 11 February 2024

### Upcoming AGM

- To be held on 13 /2/24 – 7pm for a 7.30pm start at the South Northumberland Cricket Club.
- Tony R will be “on the door” to welcome people and give out the drinks’ tickets.
- Chris H will email the agenda and Chair’s report to members by Sunday 4 February latest
- Items to be discussed / agreed at the AGM include
  - Rents for 24/25. There was a lot of discussion about this and a detailed review of the costs/income figures prepared by LG and LB. Further clarification was needed on some figures and KF, LG, CH, LB will meet again on the 31 January to do that.
    - Running Costs will not include any costs (or income) generated by the Trading Hut as not all members use the Hut. These and all costs associated with the Trading Hut will be kept separate and not used to fund rents or running costs. They have, at times, been used this way in the past. Going forward, any surplus will be exclusively used to contribute to investment/ capital expenditure.
    - Immediate Capital expenditure is needed to
      - fix damages to water supply (awaiting quote)
      - repair or replace fencing and gates in various places
    - Currently, Rents are barely covering our Running costs. We have seen significant increases in Water Costs and Insurances. We have also had new, additional costs imposed on us this year as a result of moving from Council “stewardship”. These include a new cost of an Accountant, a Surveyor, Skip Hire and Northern Counties membership.
    - It was agreed that Rents should reflect our Running Costs and include a contribution to our Capital costs.
    - Everyone agreed, therefore, that Rents have to be increased (particularly as there was no increase during 23/24)
  - Matter arising at the AGM – likely to include Peat Free and Refugees on Site working party

- Election of Auditors – recommendation for Connected Voice
- AOB – must be submitted to the Secretary prior to the AGM
  - Need to ask for volunteers and stress financial impact of not getting them
  - Chris to buy “thank you” vouchers
  
- **Date of Next Meeting – 19 February at 7pm at KF’s house**