

Little Moor Allotments Committee Meeting 19 June 2024

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

Apologies – Ken F, Peter C

Review of Actions from previous meeting

- Despite emails to the Council re the Lease and a breakdown of costs re legal/surveyor there has still been no reply. This is the same for West Jesmond Allotments who are coordinating Lease matters on the behalf of several allotments. Therefore, the action is carried over. **Action – Chris**
- Open Day in August - planned for Sunday August 18/8 10 – 2.00pm . We still need an Organising Committee, though we have a few people who are willing to get involved. Chris will do an outline of what needs doing. Lesley will contact the Northumberland Natural History Society re giving a talk. **Action – Chris & Lesley**
- HMRC re registration. Activation code received. Now complete.
- Peter Calver (Building & Structures) now has a photo on our website. Action complete.
- Personal Data requests – we need to ensure we have the correct emails and phone numbers of members. We also need a “Privacy Notice” and a Retentions & Disposal Policy (we will keep records for up to 3 years after a plot holder has left). We now need to inform members of this. The question was raised by Sara as to whether we need to be registered with the Information Commissioner’s Office. **Action – Chris**
- Plot Signage – work is ongoing. Action carried over to report progress **Action – Tony**
- A survey was done of the Fencing around the site. Tony reported that the vast majority is in a safe condition, 2 posts near the Trading Hut need shoring up and a few places along Ilford Road need reinforcing. Work will begin week of 23 June. We also discussed replacing some of the gates but we aren’t able to do that until the Lease is signed so will keep on doing repair jobs until then. **Action - Tony**
- “Restricted mobility” plots. One of our members can get the paint significantly cheaper and will paint his own shed. Then, if we’re happy with the result the Committee will arrange for the other 3 to be done. **Action – Tony**
- Drainage – there have been issues across the site. **Action – Chris to speak to Ian to review the Drainage Map. Not yet done so carried over.**
- Frank’s April demo is too big for the website. Action closed

Chair’s report

- Nothing to report

Membership report

- We have 2 new members on Plots 57 and 141 and 4 have left from Plots 2,25,57,125
- Work has had to be done on some of the vacant plots e.g.
 - 57 where the Greenhouse was taken down. Thank you to Tony and Rob for all your hard work with that.
 - 2 and 125 have to be sprayed and Plot 94 has to be grassed over. As always, thank you to Frank for all his hard work.
- Plot 141 is being halved and shared with another member.
- There are only 3 people on the waiting list – we will publicise to the public that “plots are becoming available” to generate interest.

Secretary’s Report

- The sad news was shared that Gordon Paterson had died. Chris will email members. **Action - Chris**
- Sixteen Letters have been sent to some members reminding them of their responsibility to weed, to prune trees or remove them if necessary. Most responses have been very positive. Those who have not yet replied will receive a reminder. **Action – Chris**
- Plot 56/57 – bath has been repaired
- A skip will be organised to clear the rubbish from the last Volunteer Day as soon as the wood chippings have gone (or been moved). This will not be for general use as there is a lot to clear away, including tidying up behind the Trading Hut.
- Membership of the National Allotment Association – we will review this next year when our membership of the Northumberland one expires.

Communications Report

- Nothing to report

Finance Report

- Current account -£5668, Savings Account £44,477 (with £10,000 at higher interest rates)

Trading Hut Report

- Sales of Plants and Produce has been very good since the beginning of May and has raised £2630 for the Association. A massive thanks to Frank for the “growing” and everyone who volunteered at the Trading Hut for the “selling!”
- We have 2 new light weight strimmers for hire at £4 for 30 minutes.

- The importance of keeping equipment clean to minimise the risk of cross contamination was reiterated. Lesley will contact the NAS for their advice. **Action - Lelsey**

Building & Structures Report

- Nothing to report

Matters Arising

- Volunteer Tidy Up day will be Sunday 7 July – 10.00 to Noon. Jobs will include
 - Tidy up behind the Trading Hut
 - Emptying a shed
 - Finishing the border on Ilford Road
 - Removing a tree
 - Filling the skip
 - Chris will email members. **Action - Chris**
- Date of Next Committee meeting will be Tuesday 16 July at 7pm at the Allotment picnic table (weather permitting)