

Little Moor Allotments Committee Meeting 16 September 2024

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

Apologies – Ken F, Peter C, Sara G

Review of Actions from previous meeting

Chris

- The Lease saga continues though some progress has been made. The Council have sent a revised version. Unfortunately, it doesn't reflect the points agreed in a previous meeting between the Council and Guy Herzmark. Guy has responded and is awaiting a further response from the Council. Chris, Lesley and Liz will meet on Sunday 22nd to go through all the amendments prior to a meeting with Chris and Guy. Carried over.
- There has been no lasting damage as a result of the Jesmond Dene Road flood so no need for any further action. Closed
- Re Personal Data requests and whether we need to be registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. Chris has contacted the ICO, completed relevant online information as to the information we hold and how we use it. Now awaiting a response. Carried over.

Tony

- Update on plot signage. Work continuing. Carried over.

Other actions included several from the preparation for the Open Day. All completed and the Open Day was a huge success.

The sum raised was over £550, which will be split between the Hedgehogs Trust and Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

Many thanks to all those who made this happen!

Chair's report

- Nothing to report

Membership report

- We currently have 3 vacant plots.
- Plot 2 is due to be rotovated and bushes removed.
- Plot 26A identified as suitable for a pond.
- There are 6 people on the waiting list, however we are aware that applications via the NAWG site are not all being forwarded to us. This has been reported
- There is one new member on plot 83A
- Plot 25 – the possibility of this becoming 3 Restricted Mobility Plots was discussed and agreed. We would need to pave access on either side and install a shed & greenhouse. A grant will be applied for to help with the costs. One of our Plot Holders has experience in writing proposals and has offered to help. Tony

will follow up on this. **ACTION** – Tony to talk to the Plot Holder / Dorothy to research grant possibilities.

Secretary's Report

- The Open Day and the pre-open day tidy up were a great success and our thanks go to everyone involved for their help and contributions. It was so successful that we all agreed that we'd like to make it an annual event during National Allotment Week. There are a lot of photos of the day on the website.
- 5 Plot Inspection Letters have been sent out since the last meeting in July. All plot holders have responded positively. We've proposed a compromise with one plot holder to reduce the number of plots they have to make it more manageable for them.
- Paul Miller has managed to sell the paraffin container. We got £120 less site fees so about £105. Many thanks to Paul for his help.
- Sue Johnson from the NAWG (Newcastle Allotments Working Group) has been in touch with secretaries from all the allotments in the city to set up a meeting to discuss the role of the NAWG and how it's being updated. Meeting details yet to be confirmed.
- The Triangle Allotments have been in touch to discuss the lease prior to providing our feedback to the person coordinating the wartime allotments response to the council.
- Email sent out for the sunflower and pumpkin competitions. Pumpkins will be weighed at the trading hut on 13th October

Communications Report

- Nothing to report.

Finance Report

- Balances are as follows~
 - Current Account £5,990
 - Savings Account £9,544
 - High Interest Account £35,142
- £65 paid to a plot holder for the purchase of a Generator
- Open day raised funds of £551 which will be paid to 2 charities
- We last paid rent in April 2022. We have the money in a high interest account but need to work out what we will owe and “ring fence” it. **ACTION** – Chris to calculate.

Trading Hut Report

- Sales in the trading hut are slowing down as the growing season starts to come to an end.

- Produce has generated a huge amount of money this year for the association, thanks to Frank Snowden's efforts. The amount of produce we'll have available to sell is reducing now as we come to the end of the season, though we'll still be selling for another couple of weeks. Martin Stead is giving us a bag full of crocosmia bulbs which we can sell as well as some camomile plants.

Building & Structures Report

- Nothing to report

Matters Arising

- A run through of the latest versions of the Lease will take place on Sunday 22/9 in preparation for Chri's meeting with Guy.
- Our plans to install a pond... The Northumberland Wildlife Trust came to the site and were very helpful with their advice and support for the project. They advised re installation, location, shading, planting, safety and potential costs. We hope to make this an Autum project to allow the pond to fill and settle over the Winter. **ACTION** – Lesley to contact Kevin Batey, Town Moor Steward to see what help, if any, they can provide.
- Rent for the Restricted Mobility Plots – a rent reduction has been previously agreed. **ACTION** – Chris to email those affected re what their rents will be from March 2025 and detail planned maintenance.
- The Trading Hut clean & paint project will be scheduled for Sunday 3 November at 11.00. **ACTION** – Lesley to ask CB if he can get the paint.
- There was a brief discussion re what we should be selling when the Trading Hut is “renewed”. **ACTION** – Chris to make sure this is include in the agenda for November Committee meeting.
- A “tree tidy up” day is needed and will be provisionally planned for Sunday 27 October at 10.00. **ACTION** – Chirs to speak with FS to see if that day suits him. Also Chris to email members that, whilst clearing the debris will necessitate a Bonfire, members are strongly urged not to light their own bonfires

Any other business

As referred to in the Membership report, the NAWG have had a problem with people applying online for plots and their applications being re routed to the right place. This is now being worked on and it's hoped a solution will soon be found. **ACTION** – Lesley to keep the Committee informed.

Next Committee Meeting – Friday 25 October at 10.00 - venue to be confirmed.

