

Moor Pool Allotment Association

Minutes of meeting Tuesday 8th April 2008: 7.30pm Lower Hall
Guest Visitor – Mike Hogg of the Pereira Road Allotments.

1. Apologies.

Mike Frost, John Walker, Kate Nancarrow, Mike Parkes, Kathy Casey, Joan Wearing and Zillah Westwood.

2. Minutes.

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and passed.

3. Membership Report:

There were 30 Full Members and 4 Associate Members which it was felt was fairly representative of allotment users on the Estate. 23 applications for allotments had been processed so far. These numbers, in addition to those on Graingers list, indicate a healthy demand for allotments.

4. Financial Statement and Membership Subscription 2008.

Current subs stand at £175.76. A verbal reminder was issued for outstanding payments (14) and a request for notification of members who have withdrawn from the Association issued. The proposal for the bank account for the subscriptions which was raised at the last meeting is to go ahead.

5. Report on Grainger.

Tim Nicholson of Grainger stated by e-mail that allotment agreements terminated for lack of cultivation would not be renewed. Agreements would be renewed on Sites D and E (but not for uncultivated allotments). On Site A, Grainger propose to renew agreements in the south west corner of the Valley Site for allotments that remain, however, an amended boundary will have to be agreed. According to Tim Nicholson, 'If allotment holders will not agree to the boundary change the terminations will stand'. Charges are also going up. Allotments, regardless of size or location will cost £25.00 in future. Rob Sutton had asked if this could be done as a staged increase. Birmingham City Council which charge a similar price provide additional benefits on most of their allotments. The Pereira Road allotments have toilets, water and tool sheds (which are available at a nominal rent). Over 60's are charged half price. There are also skip facilities for removal of rubbish.

Responses from Members:-

Were the landlord obliged to do certain things – cut the boundary hedges – maintain rights of way, etc?

We may not want water butts, composting facilities or tool enclosures, but what do we want?

Security can be an issue – on some allotments access is very easy.

6. Growers Forum.

The development proposals from Grainger had tended lately to us detract from our main aim of allotmenting. It was suggested a group of interested members met monthly to chat and share expertise as an 'Allotment Club'. A nominal sum of £1.00 per head each meeting was suggested. Monetary support for this 'fledgling club' could be forthcoming from the Moorpool Allotment Association. The new club would be totally informal and open to all. It was suggested that Grainger could send out a flyer mentioning the club with the next bill.

7. Clearance of Allotments.

Some residents are upset at the state of some of the unused allotments and a suggestion was put forward for a possible working party to clear and make good overgrown spots using

the 'many hands make light work' theory. Mike Hogg from the Pereira Road Allotments, attending the meeting as a guest, stated that if the standard dropped below a certain level at Pereira Road, a letter would be sent, and if no response or action was forthcoming, the matter was passed to the Council.

8. MAA Planning Objection.

The MAA had submitted a substantial objection in which various points were made to the proposed developments. It was felt that a constructive way forward was needed.

9.AOB.

A person was needed to maintain and update the MAA website which is linked to the MRA website.

Possibilities for the future:-

- Joint allotment tours
- Talks