

Minutes of Management Agreement Working Party Meeting held on 26th April 2022

Meeting started at 18.30 p.m.

Minutes by Barbara Smith, Secretary Birmingham and District Allotments Confederation-

Attendees: David Draycott (Moor Green), Derek Cullen (Ward End), David Read (Ward End), John Upton (Gospel Lane), Barbara Smith (BDAC-Lower Tinkers Farm), Keith Yardley. (Station Road), Jo Nelson (West Heath Allotments), Phil Zjalic (Wychbury Road), Ross White (Harborne Lane)

1. **Apologies** John and Stephanie Wallbutton.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting.** Minutes were approved.
3. **Feed Back on Zoom meeting with Liz Bunting of the National Allotment Society.**

Useful meeting. Discussed both Self-management and re-negotiation of the Agreement. Liz Bunting will research the best model of Self-Management for Birmingham. Birmingham has the largest number of plots of any other town or city. Any umbrella organisation will need paid employee. She stated that in any negotiation we would need to have our own legal representation. Lack of training is an issue.
4. **Options for the new management Arrangement with the Council.**
 - a. **Revised Management Agreement group feedback**

Query about what a 'non material breach' of the agreement was. On-line clarification. a "material Breach" was an important breach of the obligations of the agreement whereas a non-material breach was a minor breach. Concerns expressed about the lack of Induction and Health and safety training and how best to deal with this. It was decided to draft a "Schedule" to the Agreement stating the Council's training obligations including Health and Safety . The Revised management group will re-draft the Agreement including alterations for the working group to look at the next meeting.
 - b. **Self-management group feedback**

Appreciation expressed at the extensive research done by Hester and the analysis written by David Read. This analysis suggested that the Council may be against a "hybrid" system whereby some sites are self manged but some remain with the council. Liz Bunting had added to the information grid. Jon Upton had obtained a document from Hotwells District Allotments about their management, he thought it would be useful and presented it to the team. There was a discussion on the need for robust policies and procedures to ensure good governance and prevent possible corruption. David suggested the size of Birmingham would give economies of scale so not to be frightened about an Umbrella organisation set up.
Agreement that we cant proceed much further without meeting with Darren Share and that Barbara would email again to set up a meeting.
5. **Communication and Engagement**

It was agreed to post the minutes of the Working Party meeting on a dedicated page of the BDAC web site. together with a brief note. It was decided not to hold zoom meetings with Associations at this time.

When the options are finalised, they are to be presented to the BDAC executive for approval before sending out to Associations

There should be a formal presentation of options at a special BDAC meeting with a single agenda

After Associations have received information about options there will be a six week period for sites to decide.

6. Issues for Council Meeting

The meeting read Annex A document and agreed that it stated our position on management issues. We should add a query about “Legacy” contracts- contracts that run for several years. – If we opted for self-management what obligations would we have to carry on the contracts.

Meeting ended at 19.50 hrs.

Next meeting Tuesday 10th May on zoom