

## **Minutes of Working Party Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022**

**Venue:** Moor Green Allotment site

Meeting started at 14.00 hrs Chaired by Maxine Smith- Chair of Moor Green Allotments  
Minutes by Barbara Smith, Secretary Birmingham and District Allotments Confederation-  
Lower Tinkers Farm Allotments

**Attendees:** David Draycott ( Moor green Allotments), Derek Cullen (Northleigh Allotments),  
Hester Blewitt (Ward End Allotments), John and Stephanie Wallbutton (Greenaleigh  
Allotments ), John Upton (Gospel Lane Allotments) Ross White (Harborne Lane Allotments)

**Apologies** from Phil Zjalic (Wychbury Road allotments), Jo Nelson (West Heath Allotments) ,  
Amy Rowe (Station Road Allotments),

M. Smith opened the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to determine the process of how to proceed.

She stated that there is a need to elect a Chairman and proposed that nominations for Chairman should be opened and received by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Stephanie and Hester commented that as they didn't know anyone in the group, they felt that they weren't able to nominate and asked for an extension. It was felt that a delay in appointing a Chair might delay proceedings. Jon Upton suggested that a Chair should be elected immediately as speed was needed. Max asked for a show of hands for those who wanted to leave nominations open until Wednesday. The motion was passed.

Nominations for Chairman were invited. David Draycott was nominated by John Upton and seconded by Derek Cullen. David stated that he would be happy to be put forward for the post. The nomination had support of the meeting.

Max asked for nominations for the role of Minute secretary. Barbara Smith was approved by the meeting, as Minute Secretary.

It was proposed and agreed that the process should take two months, it should include four in person meetings taking place at two weekly intervals. The National Allotment Society would be invited to have zoom meetings with the Working Party in the alternate week to the in-person meetings, if that can be arranged.

Stephanie Wallbutton asked why the NAS needed to be involved. It was explained that they could provide legal support and also had a wide knowledge and experience of Allotment management. They would be useful to answer questions as they arise.

Jon Upton commented that Zoom meetings can be recorded, so if anyone was unable to attend, they could watch the recording.

It was decided that all minutes should go to Liz Bunting...Officer of the National Society.

Dates were set for the meetings to be held on Tuesdays at 18.30 hrs at Moor Green Allotments :

12<sup>th</sup> April, 26<sup>th</sup> April , 10<sup>th</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> May

It was agreed that :

1. Any dissemination of information from the group should go through Barbara Smith.
2. The Working Party should formally inform the Council of their intentions and also to inform all Associations clearly, so that they are able to understand all options and the risks involved.

It was suggested that someone, or a small group, within the Working party could be responsible for overseeing the information that is sent out. A draft email will be created and sent out to the group for approval, this will then be sent out to Associations and the Council.

Derek explained that in the past there was a hybrid system in Birmingham, whereby some sites had full Self-Management but others were managed directly by the council. The self-managed sites retained 60% of rent monies, half of which was expected to be spent on repairs and maintenance the remaining monies could be spent at the Association's discretion. Self-management stopped in 2012, however it had worked well. He would do more investigation into this, try to find a copy of the original agreement and bring the information to future meetings.

David suggested that at the next meeting it would be good to set out the options and to divided into small groups, each to investigate a specific option. This would share the work load. Hester volunteered to look into 'Handing the Management Back to the Council". She will look into schemes whereby commercial companies manage allotments.

Jon gave out copies of an article from the National Society Magazine on self-management.

Meeting ended at 14.48 hrs.