

## BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS CONFEDERATION

### MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 AT BORDESLEY GREEN ALLOTMENTS

- 1] MEETING OPENED by Chairman at 19.00
- 2] APOLOGIES – received from J.Brown, D.Taylor, A.Hodson.
- 3] MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Minutes agreed, signed as a true record.
- 4] MATTERS ARISING – no matters arising
- \*] MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT UPDATE FROM WORKING PARTY

David Draycott Chairman w.p.] and David Read updated the Executive on the management agreement. 7 working party meetings, including one with Liz Bunting [NSALG] had been held. One meeting held with ACC [Allotments Consultative Committee], D.Share, V.Lecky, B.Wilson, C.Birch and B.Smith. A draft agreement was discussed. **Much of the draft agreement was accepted by the City Officers.** KEY POINTS – a} openness and transparency, b} joint accountability in decision making, c} efficient and regular communications, d} clearly defined outcomes and targets for key objectives. TRAINING – there was a commitment by City officers to organise **training in Health and Safety, Risk assessment and enforcing Allotment Rules and tenancy agreement.** B.Wilson had sent **Schedule 9 with proposals for training.** Agreed to draw up **schedule 8 to cover complaints and evictions** as there was a lack of understanding of current procedures. BDAC exec would look at proposed schedule 8 and send proposed schedule to City. Discussion on current procedures followed and proposed schedules would include issues raised. It was believed that the **draft agreement provided a sound foundation.** BDAC would seek **legal advice,** C.Birch will do this. The **future of Birmingham Allotments management** – were being looked at, including full self-management, this was for next 2/3 years.

**Meetings will be arranged** by BDAC Exec for discussion of agreement. D.Cullen was remembered for his work in producing agreement for all to read. Councillors needed to be made aware to get a better profile. A **timescale** of 2-3 months [at least] for legal services to approve revised agreement. Draft agreement had been sent by B.Smith to all management committees. The

meeting expressed its great appreciation of the working party for its excellent work on behalf of the plot holders in the city.

5] CORRESPONDENCE – **plot enquiries** being received across the city. **C.Poolman** needed stories from African and East European countries, photos from past shows to be sent to him. **Rent payments** – City did not have provision for receiving rent by instalments. **Florence Pickering Fund** – forms requested. **Avian Flu** – notices posted on site. **BDAC constitution** – offer to retype for there would be digital copy from website- agreed.

#### 6] TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance @ 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2022	£ 19,387.70
Income	£ 0.00
Expenditure	£ 614.70
Balance @ 1 <sup>st</sup> June	£ 18,973.18
Deposit Account	£10689..88

7A] SHOW REPORT– still some cheques to be cashed. Trophies collected from C.Cullen.

7B] COMPETITION – trophies delivered and certificates/cheques sent, one needing amendment. Robin's Trophy missing replacement ordered

8] LOCAL SITE ISSUES – **Bells Farm** – committee members received training in rent collection from local advisor.. **The Leys** – theft of flowers recorded on camera. Howard Road East – secretary elected. **Springfield Road** – full committee elected at recent EGM. **Gospel Lane** – over hanging trees shading plots. **Longmeadow** – still complaint about rubbish against fence, BDAC Exec members had visited and found no problem. Evidence will be sent to Allotment Officer. **Walmley Ash** received £9441 grant for fencing and composting bays. **Birches Green** – new secretary elected. **Boulevard** – new secretary elected. **Sutton Coldfield sites** – no movement on transfer. **Melstock** –bee problem resolved, there was a maximum of 3 hives for Beekeeper's Association insurance. Location of hives was a decision for committees [training/]. **Falcon Lodge** – complaint from evicted plot holder against C.Birch. Proper action taken

by C.Birch in mediation [4/5 years ago] parties involved not to communicate with each other. Recent events dealt with by Senior city officer which has led to eviction of tenant. BDAC were not involved in eviction. **May Lane** – water plus bills being sent monthly – this was costly for postage, concerned there would be more problems with time delays.

9] ALLOTMENT DEPARTMENT – 3000 rent receipts short, some sites not issuing receipts.

10] NSALG/AREA 5 – **Area 5 AGM** – consideration being given for reestablishment of training for secretaries and chairmen. Good talk given on planting to attract birds, butterflies and other insects. Urged NSALG members to attend meetings.

11] DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS – 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, Half Yearly – 19<sup>th</sup> November.

12] NOTIFIED BUSINESS – concern over local advisor and exec vacancies- needed to be filled – will be on Half Yearly agenda.

13] UNNOTIFIED BUSINESS – **Ward End** – secretary believed **all paths** between plots were association's this was not the case the paths belonged to tenants. Access on these paths was restricted to the plot holders, a committee officer, BDAC representatives or a City Council officer. **Rent increases** - £10 for late payment to remain and increase also to remain. **Devolved budget** had increased but still insufficient. Cost of emptying cesspits had doubled. Budget still needed a breakdown. Chickens on site – committees could not “police” poultry but can oversee and report failings to allotment officer.

MEETING CLOSED – at 21.20