

Allotment Management Meeting 14th January 2023. At Meadow Road Allotments

Meeting Notes

Meeting opened 11.10a.m.

Attendees:

Archie Garbutt T R Beach (Harborne Hill) Heather Ramsey Carlo Dealey (Edgbaston Guinea Gardens) Mike Payne Peter Astbury Ian Brooke (Meadow Road Allotments) Stuart Guest (Tennial Lane) Jo Nelson (West Heath) Steve Williams (Quinton) Simon Hodge (Wheelers lane) Phil Zjalic Jane turner(Wychbury Road) Andrew Large Glenys (Court Oak Road) Philip Page Jeanne Page (The Leys) Hannah Greenwood Selina Bamforth (Springfield) Chris Hogan (Billesley Lane) David Draycott (Moor Green) Ross White (Harborne Lane) Barbara Smith (Lower Tinkers Farm)

B. Smith summed up the process and re capped how the working party had been set up last year and the thinking behind the re drafting.

This was followed by wide ranging discussion, points made were:

1. Appreciation for the time and commitment made by the Working Party. A suggestion that it was a good work model for any future developments.
2. Associations need a strong BDAC prepared to push and challenge the Council. To raise the profile of Allotments as an asset.
3. An awareness that going along the Full Self-Management route would involve a higher level of responsibility for Association Officers than at present.
4. Concerns about the difficulty in getting people to volunteer for roles on committees and a need to find new ways to engage plot holders. New ways of communication need to be developed including social media.
5. Concerns that the Council would sub contract the management of Allotments .
6. Concerns were expressed about the clause asking us to indemnify the Council. Question was raised that why were we expected to do this where other volunteers for different organisations were not. Also, a request for Indemnity to be added to the list of definitions in order to clarify what it entails.
7. Request that the Agreement should reinforce that Associations were volunteers.
8. Concerns about the clause that the Council can stop Association accessing sheds.
9. Concerns about the frequent checks on sites many of which were not applicable for the sites i.e. Asbestos checks were no asbestos exists. Are all these checks needed and what are their costs to the Allotments.
10. A suggestion that the Council separate Allotment budget from Council budget.
11. Concerns that the Council use out dated systems and that modern system might lead to cost saving that could benefit sites.
12. A call for the Council to look again at the rent increase in line with RPI. Could the rents next year be "capped"?
13. It was suggested that we think about taking rents in September finishing in early October. Because of frustrations that plots become available in Dec/Jan after the eviction process, meaning three months where plots can't be let. When they can be let the weather makes working on them impossible.
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Meeting closed 13.00 hrs