

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS CONFEDERATION

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY 2023 AT BORDESLEY GREEN ALLOTMENTS

1] MEETING OPENED by Chairman at 19.00 introducing Sue Griffith and welcomed A.Hodson back.

2] APOLOGIES – J.Brown, P.Thomas and S.Guest.

3] MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – minutes accepted and signed as correct.

4] MATTERS ARISING – none.

5] CORRESPONDENCE – **plot enquiries** - increasing, **Pay Back** – now insisted on sites having own insurance, B.Wilson [allotment officer] will be asked if City insurance covered this. **Fund raising opportunity** – B.Wilson had sent out information. **Grafting workshops** available at Oakdene Nursery. **Allotment Heritage** – C.Poolman ready to arrange displays, displays of pumpkins and gourds plus dried flowers suggested. Information will be sent out.

Management Agreement meetings – four held in January, follow up Working Party meeting on 8th February.

6] TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance @ 1st January 2023 £ 20,727.20

Income £ 743.70

Expenditure £ 386.30

Balance @ 1st August £20,634.88

Deposit Account £10,689.88

Additional £20 cheques prepared and being distributed.

7A] SHOW REPORT– P.Thomas was waiting for balance. B.Carr agreed to judge vegetables, D.Taylor will approach N.Johnson to judge flowers. C.Cullen will run tombola.

8] LOCAL SITE ISSUES – **Forge Farm** – is under Sutton Coldfield now, 11 sites being transferred individually. **Walsall Road** – secretary received an award for

community service. Bells Farm – J.Jupe reported that site was settling down. Broad Lane – had had 6 monthly inspection, faults reported but had taken a long time to repair. **Springfield Road** – concern over conditions for chickens, J.Whittaker to investigate and advise allotment officer as necessary. **Bordesley Green**, neighbour complained of water running from site onto his property. Allotment Officer has been informed. **May Lane** – has new chairman and secretary. **Forge Farm** – 10 pigs had come onto site from neighbouring property, not for the first time. Pigs removed, allotment officer advised. **Sutton Sites** – are asking if they can still participate in show and competitions. The rules will be looked at.

9] SELF MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT– S.Griffith presented her report on the future role of BDAC. [Report included with these minutes] She referred to 2010 Allotment Report which she had been very much involved in, together with others, including C.Birch. It was notable that there were a number of similarities. Funding to local councils reduced by 80% over 10 years. Much funding had to be matched. Birmingham Open Forum was now a charity, with employees and was receiving a lot of funding and widely involved in environmental issues. BDAC needed to change in order to regain influence and attract funding. Allotments already supported many of the fundamental issues currently being given much attention – mental health, social well-being, nature, bio diversity, growing food, recycling, cultural diversity and more. Allotments profile needed to be raised. The current agreement emphasises the work expected, by the City, of volunteers. The City was not going to increase its resources substantially, ie with more employee input. Many changes to organisations have taken place in last 3 years. BDAC had to change – charity, cooperative, simple interest company were examples. BDAC would be an umbrella organisation with allotment sites being part of it. Consideration would be needed to have someone with Health and Safety experience and legal experience. From recent strategic papers involving open spaces and growing food, allotments were not recognised. This again emphasises the lack of promotion of allotments in Birmingham.

Issues were discussed – C.Birch would gather information from local organisations and NSALG. and it would be made available for executive to consider. S.Griffith was thanked for her tremendous work.

10] NSALG/AREA 5 – meeting at Leamington Spa, important to keep links with other areas. NSALG have offered sponsorship to sites wishing to become incorporated.

11] DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS – 3rd April, 15th May [2 bank holidays], AGM on 20th May

12] NOTIFIED BUSINESS – members for Executive and local advisers needed.

13] UNNOTIFIED BUSINESS – **Mick Merrill** – agreed that a donation of £150 would be made to John Taylor Hospice. S.Griffiths – proposed by D.Taylor that she be a come an executive member, agree and accepted by S.Griffiths

MEETING CLOSED – 8:25, chairman again thanked S. Griffith and Bordesley Green for hospitality.