

## BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS CONFEDERATION

### MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>5th</sup> May 2023 AT BORDESLEY GREEN ALLOTMENTS

1] MEETING OPENED by Chairman at 19.00, meeting advised of article about Mick Merrill in NSALG magazine. David Draycott, Hester Blewitt, David Reid welcomed. Ross White[Harborne Lane] co-opted to executive, Luke Richards present as observer, wished to join executive at AGM.

2] APOLOGIES – J.Brown

3] MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – amendment made to treasurer's figures. Signed as a true record.

4] MATTERS ARISING – none.

5] CORRESPONDENCE – **Andrew Hodgson** sadly passed away soon after April meeting. **BDAC container** – relocated to Moor Green site. **Insurance certificate** – this other documents sent out to sites.

#### 6] TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance @ 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	£20693.28
Income	£ 0.00
Expenditure [inc.insurance]	£ 8100.41
Balance @ 1 <sup>st</sup> May	£12592.87
Deposit Account @ 1 <sup>st</sup> May	£10713.33

£7800.41 is due from Birmingham City Council. Accounts presented, agreed and signed by C.Birch. C.Birch suggested local committees may need financial support if changing to some form of incorporated organisation.

7A] SHOW REPORT– **Show Accounts** presented and agreed for AGM. Show had operated at loss. **2 marquees** to be purchased by Show Account [£950]. Show account received money from main account when required.

7B]COMPETITION REPORT – it was regretted but competitions were to be cancelled through lack of judges. This matter needed to be addressed.

8] LOCAL SITE ISSUES – **West Heath** – surplus land growing wild. **Beaumont Road** – no secretary, treasurer given advice on 2 plots. **Bells Sports** – evicted tenant still cultivating, no address, this was a problem for the landlord. **Broad Lane** – water bill for £11,310 received. **Warstock Lane** – non-quorate for meetings advice to be given. Henlow Road – issue over raised bed resolved. **Baldwin Lane** – new secretary. **Whealers Lane** – plot holder complaining about neighbouring plot holder. **Bordesley Green** – resident’s garden being flooded, City Council informed. **Chester Road** – over grown plots, letters had been issued. **Burney Lane** – neighbour complained about site, secretary advised, await response. **Team 6** – complaint about large fire – site not known. **Uplands** – complaint about some tenants being allowed to water plots. Committee aware of this and was addressing issue. **Wyrley Birch** – question raised about conduct of AGM by tenants. C. Birch had attended meeting and felt it was conducted fairly. **Chudleigh Road** – problems with bank account still not resolved. **Oldford Farm** – problem with overnight tipping. Moor Green – evicted tenant on site. **Grants** – D. Taylor advised of 3 grants being given to sites. **May Lane** – changing lock on gate to combination lock. **Site Security** – problem needed to be addressed. Issues arose with non-closing gates on sites. No rule governing this and this needed to be addressed, changeable system would help as keys were not often returned after end of tenancies.

9] MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT – D. Draycott gave update on revised schedules **6 [money handling], 8 [complaints procedure], 9 [training] and Allotment Rules**. R. White agreed to proof read. It was agreed that these revised schedules and allotment rules would be sent to committees before AGM. C. Birch emphasised the tremendous work carried out by the working party. There was still much to do, **BDAC Executive would need to look at the “Management Handbook” and BDAC Agreement with BCC.**

The next steps were to allow committees respond to schedule and Allotment Rules amendments within 20 days. A time limited discussion was needed. Discussions with BCC needed [June/July] involving BDAC and members of working party.

10] ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – minutes, agenda and accounts would be available for those attending. No nominations received for Chairman and Secretary’s positions. If none received the Executive committee would have to

“co-opt” . H.Blewitt indicated she would take on roll with support of chairman and committee. Executive members would take on an active role in dealing with problems in their team, alleviating work of both chairman and secretary. C.Birch advised ref chairman’s role that an understanding of and ability to manage change was important. There was plenty of experience in allotment management with the executive members.

11] NSALG/AREA 5 – area meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May in Wolverhampton.

11] DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS – AGM 20<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> August.

12] NOTIFIED BUSINESS – Florence Pickering Fund – C.Birch was most concerned there had been no movement to carry out work agreed last July. A.Downer, the City Officer co-ordinating the work had not replied to email.

Birmingham Open Spaces Forum – meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May, attended by B.Smith and H.Blewitt [BDAC, Chris Blythe and M.Kennedy [BOSF]. Advantages of Incorporated organisations discussed, volunteer hours counted and some money received. BOSF had no remit for food growing. S.Griffin pointed out that councils were involving companies and volunteers to manage more and more of council services. BDAC and allotment sites had the credentials in involving the community in so many ways already. Local management committees needed assistance to understand and become incorporated bodies.

13] UNNOTIFIED BUSIENESS – **first aid training** – H.Blewitt had details of courses available, would bring to AGM. **Heritage Project** – being promoted at AGM. **Current tenancy agreements [2014]** it was recognised that in signing the agreement it was not clear that individuals were assuming personal responsibility! A.Hodgson – agreed to donate £50 to cancer charity.

MEETING CLOSED – 21.30,C.Birch thanked committee for the support over the years..

