BDAC Executive Meeting

Venue: Northleigh Road

Minutes of the Exec of 11th October 2025 Time 2pm

Present: David Read (DR Chair) Hester Blewitt (HB Minutes), Yvonne Brookes (YB), Cheryl Butler (CB), Clive Fenn (CF), Stuart Guest (SCG), Mohammed Ibrahim (late), Dave Reece (DRe), Tony Webb (TW)

Apologies: None **Absences:** None

Minutes of Exec meeting of 13th September: Agreed (proposer LT and seconder SCG)

Declarations of conflict of interest: None

Matters arising from previous meeting:

Plot Inspection process. HB has written 2 sided A4 information sheet and sent out yesterday to Exec members. 1 week to comment by Exec members. Also suggested Exec members look at draft Plot Management Manual prepared over a year ago.

Chair's Report

A Letter to BCC officers and changes in Allotment Rules. DR reported the email has already been sent to Simon Needle, Val Lecky, Bernie Wilson. Agreed that we request an acknowledgement of receipt of this and a response. Suggested we adjust settings on email to check whether emails are received and opened (Outlook can do this, can Gmail?)

B Update on BDAC Rules submission to FCA. Signatures need to go with submission to FCA, then send to FCA.

C Update on proposal for Agreement between BDAC and BCC. Agreed to circulate this to Exec members and propose it at the Half Yearly meeting. Discussion about what happens at Half Yearly meeting if turn-out of members (individual plotholders) is poor. Input from Exec members welcome to flesh out proposals.

D Update on Lottery application - DR reported that the application which was drafted by Get Grants had been rejected but we were getting advice from BOSF about alternative funding

Secretary's Report

HB provided a tabled report for the previous month, on what she and other officers have handled:

8 plot enquires, 3 relating to changes in association officers, 2 queries involving BCC, 16 advice-giving to associations/individual members or handling complaints referred to BDAC, 3 problems with drives/fencing and a resident's complaint about tree nuisance from a neighbouring site. We have had contact with 23 associations over that period, and also undertaken some aspect of management on 5 of the directly managed sites. In addition, she has been involved in links with BOSF and Bauhaus Bites (Council initiative) and helping with the BDAC stall at the Big Green Weekend at the Midlands Arts Centre.

Report from BOSF is that they are likely to get funding for 2 years which will be going into green spaces; strategy requested by Majid Mahmood is to provide more officers in allotments, figure of £1.5 million mentioned by Eddie Currie, with a view to creating more diversity in veg growing as well as flowers, and connection with prisons and probation service.

She reported on BDAC involvement on two sites where BDAC initiated Extraordinary General Meeting to address on-going problems and complaints – in both cases their constitutions didn't cover how to deal with these via EGMs.

In the case of the EGM which has already taken place and a new Committee elected BDAC officers will provide support and advice on-going till their next AGM in April, and in the case where the EGM has yet to happen, BDAC is suggesting that all existing members are suspended with a fresh Committee election taking place at the EGM with 2 individuals who are under investigation following a variety of complaints should not be allowed to stand. Following discussion of the issues, the meeting voted to support this stance, with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report from Yvonne Brookes

YB tabled a statement of Accounts/Income and Expenditure for the meeting, expenditure for the year to date (April to September) being £22,495.40 and Income being £2,069. BDAC has not yet received BCC money relating to the Management Agreement or the insurance, so expenditure – for example - £15,541.63 for insurance has been paid out of our reserves. So the operating loss of £20,426.40 will be cleared when BCC money is paid over.

She reported that any money due from the National Allotment Society has to be applied for (it works out at 50p per tenant member at sites where Associations are NAS members).

There were continuing problems with BDAC's bank Santander ie. Still no move to on-line payments so cheque payments will have to continue for the time being.

Reports from Working Groups

1 Governance, Management of Sites and Associations (MOSA),

1. Discussion about the proposed (BCC Rule changes) and the suggested responses and amendments which MOSA has prepared. HB has also prepared reports on 5 topics which can be circulated to Exec members and associations within the next 7 days, allowing further responses to be included so that the Half Yearly Meeting can look at the whole set of Rule changes.
2. "Keeping animals on allotment sites and plots" policy submitted for Exec approval. Suggested it needs to make reference to DEFRA (amongst other things) – deferred to a future Exec meeting.

2 Infrastructure/Flo Pickering Fund

DR reported that work has started on the 14 Flo Pickering funded fencing/drives improvements: so far, Bleak Hill, Shaftesbury Rd, Francis Road Stechford – this will continue to mid 2026. BCC has been asked how much money left in the fund for future work, but they won't be able to tell us until the current schedule of works is complete. It will be at least 2 months before we can start inviting associations to do new applications.

3 Events & Shows

1. MACs Big Green Weekender 20th and 21st September. Cheryl Butler reported that the BDAC stalls went well with – lots of interest in allotments and what BDAC does from visitors, which included many families and children who took away seeds they planted, Leaflets given out and contacts made with other organisations with stalls. Left over compost donated to ?? Suggested that we should have BDAC stalls at open days and events organised by Associations – if BDAC Exec members and others willing to run them.

2. Best site, Best plot, Best newcomer Update. Awards and overall winner in each class to be announced and certificates for Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver and Bronze awards to be presented at the Half Yearly meeting. Text for certificates to be done by Robin Russell for Best Site/Plot and YB/DR for Best Newcomer. Walmley Ash Association has one of trophies – HB to collect. New trophy to be bought to replace missing one for £90 plus engravings for cups – £300 in total: YB to organise.

Other items

Half- yearly meeting Saturday 15th November

Arrangements agreed for topics and organising of this meeting at Bordesley Green.

Any other business:

BCC asked BDAC to investigate an association which has not had an AGM in 5 years and other issues; this involves a BDAC Exec member. Discussion about what has been happening on the site. Exec member voluntarily stood down until investigation completed.

Decisions and Action list October2025

	Who	**When by**
Comment on 'Plot Inspection process' information sheet sent out on 10Oct to Exec members. Also comment on draft Plot Management Manual prepared over a year ago.	All Exec members	17th Oct
Request acknowledgement of receipt of BDAC response about changes in Allotment Rules and a response from Simon Needle, Val Lecky, Bernie Wilson Adjust settings on BDAC email to check whether emails are received and opened	Chair/Sec	ASAP
Put signatures on the BDAC Rules submission and send to FCA.	Chair	ASAP
Circulate proposal for Agreement between BDAC and BCC to Exec members who should respond without delay if they have comments Present agreement at the Half Yearly meeting.	Chair Chair	Within next 7 days
Funding application - Follow up with BOSF on alternative funders	Chair	ASAP
Apply to National Allotment Society for any funding we are due in respect of Associations which are NAS members.	Treasurer	ASAP
Keep on at Santander to sort out on-line banking and access to accounts	Treasurer	ASAP
Send prepared responses and amendments on proposed BCC Rule changes to Exec members for info & comment Prepare presentation on Rule changes for Half Yearly Meeting "Keeping animals on allotment sites and plots" policy	Secretary All Exec members Secretary	Within 7 days ASAP By 15th Nov
Defer "Keeping animals on allotment sites and plots" policy submitted for Exec approval to next meeting with some additions.	Secretary	Next Exec meeting
Prepare form for associations to submit new Flo Pickering fund request on-line	Chair & webmaster	Next Exec meeting
Find out about open days and events organised by Associations and others in 2026 so we can decide whether to offer to run BDAC stalls	All Exec – notify Sec	Any time
A number of things to organise for the Half Yearly meeting including presentations	Secretary, Treasurer & others	By 15th Nov