

West Cheshire Allotment Federation

Minutes of the Inaugural Annual General Meeting held at Whitby Sports and Social Club, Whitby, Ellesmere Port on Saturday 13th July 2013 at 11:00am

Present: Colin Crawford (Chairman), Andrea Hallissey (Secretary), Alan Hull (NSALG) Kate Pritchard (Boughton Heath); Garry Scargill, Sophie Gandini (Brook Lane); Mark Underwood (Burton Road); L Bailey (Elton Gardens); Kevin Beards, Paul Grayson (George Allen); Chris Taylor, Paul Jones (Highfield G A); Mervyn Gardener, Steve Jones (Hoole AGA); Maria Heywood, Kelvin Heywood (Kingsway West); Steve Quayle (Red Lion); Isobel Ridley, Robert Yardley (Townfield); W Wakefield, Terry Swan (Whitby Poplars).

Apologies: Alan Bradley (Treasurer); Paul Shakespeare (Burton Road); Andy Percival (NWC Assoc); Sealand Cottage ; Kingsley A A.

		<u>Action</u>
1	Welcome	
1.1	The acting chairman welcomed the delegates and their guest, Alan Hull, to the inaugural meeting.	
2	Federation Name	
2.1	The name of 'West Cheshire Allotment Federation' was proposed and seconded. There were no other suggestions.	
2.2	The name 'West Cheshire Allotment Federation' was unanimously approved.	
3	Constitution of the Federation	
3.1	A draft Constitution for the Federation had been previously circulated with the invitations. Comments regarding the details of the draft Constitution were discussed.	
3.2	It was agreed that, for clarification, the phrase '...for the benefit and on behalf of allotment holders....' should be inserted into Para 2.5.	
3.3	A number of other suggested changes to the Constitution were discussed but it was generally felt that as the draft was very similar to other Federation constitutions then the draft should stand until it was found wanting in the future.	
3.4	The circulated draft Constitution, with the amendment detailed in 3.2 above, was accepted by all but one of the delegates.	
4	Election of Officers	
4.1	Colin Crawford was proposed, seconded and approved as Chairman	
4.2	Andrea Hallissey was proposed, seconded and approved as Secretary.	
4.3	Alan Bradley was proposed, seconded and approved as Treasurer.	
5	Member Associations and Societies	
5.1	The following associations and societies confirmed they would be joining the Federation:- Boughton Heath; Brook Lane; Burton Road; George Allen; Highfield G A; Hoole AGA; Kingsway West.	
5.2	The Secretary reported that Sealand Cottage had indicated that they intended to join and Kingsley A A would consider the matter further when the level of subscription had been fixed	
6	Management Committee	
6.1	Representatives from the following Associations and Societies - Boughton Heath; Brook Lane; Burton Road; George Allen; Highfield G A; Hoole AGA and Kingsway West – will make up the initial Management Committee.	

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West Cheshire Allotment Federation

6.2 The names of these representatives are detailed on Appendix A .

7 Subscriptions

- 7.1 It was reported that the estimated future expenditure could be in the region of £150, which would largely be the cost of room hire for the 4 meetings. It was suggested that some venues may not charge for community groups. This option is to be investigated.
- 7.2 It was agreed that the subscription for the 2013 / 14 year should be £10 per Association or Society.

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8 Bank Account

- 8.1 It was agreed that an Account, in the name of the West Cheshire Allotment Federation, should be opened with the Co-operative Bank.
- 8.2 The signatories should be the Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman. Any 2 of the 3 being able to sign cheques.

9 Auditor

- 9.1 Ian Gould (Boughton Heath Allotment Association) was proposed, seconded and approved as auditor.

10 Guest Speaker

- 10.1 Alan Hull (North West Mentor for NSALG) gave an interesting summary of how the Federation had come into existence and what the benefits for its members would be. He clarified that the Federation was there to promote self help and assistance in finding outside funding. The Federation could not apply for funding in its own right but could advise members with their own individual applications.
- 10.2 In conclusion Alan wished the Federation every success for the future.

11 Any Other Business

- 11.1 The following member associations requested assistance and support:- Boughton Heath (continuity of Parish Council requirements with those of other managing authorities); Brook Lane (Self Management and Insurance); Burton Road (Self Management and legal issues); George Alan (General help and support); Highfield G A (Ballot of members form, Consideration as to how the NASALG supports Federations); Hoole AGA (CW&C letter to all plot holders) and Kingsway West (Self Management). The matter of legal issues attached to self management was raised with a suggestion that Andy Percival could possibly clarify issues regarding legal and personal liability linked to self management schemes.
- 11.2 Townfield also requested general support.
- 11.3 Highfield Gardening Association was thanked for donating the raffle prizes.
- 11.4 The Secretary and Chairman were thanked for the work they had done in getting the idea of the West Cheshire Allotment Federation successfully off the ground.

12 Date of Next meeting.

- 12.1 The next meeting will be at 11.00am on Saturday 12th October 2013 at a venue yet to be determined. Hosted by The George Allen Allotment Society, Ellesmere Port,

West Cheshire Allotment Federation

Appendix A

Members of the West Cheshire Allotment Federation Management Committee

Association or Society	Representative	Representative
Boughton Heath	Kate Pritchard	
Brook Lane	Sophie Gandini	Gary Scargill
Burton Road	Mark Underwood	Paul Shakespeare
George Allen	Kevin Beards	Vicky Wylie
Highfield G A	Chris Taylor	
Hoole AGA	Mervyn Gardener	
Kingsway West	Jules Miller	Maria Heywood / Ben Hayes