

Bosden Farm Allotments Association - Meeting Minutes – Tuesday 11th July 2017 – The Harvester –
6.30pm

Present:-

William Law (WL)

Andy Humphrey (AH)

Claire Read (CR)

Paul McIntyre (PM)

M Shaw (MS)

I Gardiner (IG)

G Mincherton (GM)

V Simmutch (VS)

G Simmutch (GS)

B Hadfield (BH)

Apologies:-

Helen Savage

Cllr Wendy Meikle

Cllr Laura Booth

Amanda Thorley

- 1) Previous Meeting Minutes
- 2) Further updates

MS has met with Ian Walmsley- Greenspace. This matter is not with them at the moment, it is still with Education – MS advised that we make contact with Cllr Dean Fitzpatrick. CR has done this. Cllrs Wendy Meikle and Laura Booth are at the Area Committee meeting tonight. We need to ask them to raise this at a full Council Meeting and inform them of the amount of time it has been with the EFA. PM reminded that it has been raised at the full Council Meeting before.

MS advised to keep bringing this up and to keep asking.

CR informed that two emails have been unanswered by Paul Edgeworth at the Council.

CR explained that we had received a response from William Wragg MP but again, he was looking for an answer from the Greenspace team. We should get in touch with him to see whether he could push the EFA.

MS informed that the old site of Dial Park School would be being converted to 'Greenspace' for a Recreation area so that the old recreation area could be developed for houses. This will have gone through a 'disposal' process with the EFA so why is it taking so long for us? We need to refer to this when contacting Cllrs/MP.

The Allotments have been mentioned in the Area Committee Meetings in Sept '16 and Jan '17. We also need to keep Cllr Sheila Bailey informed.

GS asked whether the land was brown space. It was discussed that as far as we were aware, we had the impression that it could not be built upon and it was not one of the identified areas on the GMSF website.

There is a legal process to follow here but we can check the title deeds to see whether there is any ownership of the land by the church. MS advised to contact Cllr Dean Fitzpatrick regarding this. We should try to get a Title number.

3) Action Plan of tasks

- Bosden Farm – Farm Fest – we could advertise and try to gain further interest there – support from Allotments Stockport.
MS advised to keep raising the profile of the project.
VS asked about the demand for allotments. MS expressed that it varied across Stockport but there were sites with vacancies. We need to show demand for this site.
- Keep pressure on with the Council with the help of the Councillors/ MP.
- More advertising
- Move things on by sharing emails between the Committee members rather than waiting for monthly meetings.
- Obtain a rough idea of costs for the setup of the site, and so need to produce an itemised list of the things that need to be done to the site to prepare it and the rough costs associated with each of these. Such physical preparations would include: soil testing, waste removal, manure, car park preparation and many others.'

4) Any other business

Timescales for set up were discussed but it was stated this is impossible to predict.

M.S. will keep Bosden Farm Allotment Society on his agenda to promote with the Allotment Society.

Again it was stated that a long lease will be required if we are to be successful in obtaining a lottery grant.

Again M.S. confirmed substantial funds will be required to develop the site if/when we get the go ahead.

It was stated members need to be aware there will be a requirement of a site commitment and not JUST looking after one's own plot in isolation. Other members may need help and there will be the communal areas that will need attention.

Once we get the go ahead we need to ask the Council how much they will offer to help the development of the site.

The point was raised that the site was not level and would it need to be levelled? Apparently some allotment sites are on a hillside so this would not be required.

Next meeting date: TBC