



Burley Model
Allotments
Association
Constitution

Established 1892
Remodeled 1958

Issue Number - Draft Version 03

Version Control (The latest version of this document MUST be in the top row)

Version	Ver. No.	Date	Details
Draft03	03	24/07/2007	Final Draft prior to Committee approval and issue.
Draft02	02	23/04/2007	Second draft prior to Sub Committee meeting approval.
Draft01	0.1	16/04/2007	Draft first formal draft.

Version No.	Summary of Changes - only recorded once "Issue" status reached	Changes made by
Draft 03	Sect 3 Remove Honorary Members may be granted rights to vote at meetings at the discretion of the Committee.	Keith Barrett
Draft 03	Sect 4 Vice Chairperson insert "Take responsibility to set up working parties and sub committees as directed by the Committee".	Keith Barrett
Draft 03	Sect 4 Membership Secretary insert "The Membership Secretary will be "Data Controller" as relating to the Data Protection Act and will act in accordance with all legislation".	Keith Barrett
Draft 03	Sect 4 Publicity Officer replace "monthly" with "regular".	Keith Barrett
Draft 03	Sect 4 Sub Committees insert "one of who will be nominated as show Secretary".	Keith Barrett
Draft 03	Sect 7 – 7.6 insert "Money for nominated charities or organisations may be raised throughout the year by the sale or auction of donated items. Recipient charities will be nominated by the committee. All donors will be made aware in advance of the recipient charity or organisation".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 1 – 1.3 Replace "Horticulture Equipment" with Horticultural Materials".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 1 – 1.5 Insert "but not exclusively".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 3 Honorary Members Insert "will have no voting rights but".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 4 – 4.1 Insert "The Committee shall retire at the Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 4 Chairpersons Role remove "In expecting 100% all-round support is able to lead by example".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 4 Chairpersons Role Insert (relating to the running of the meeting)	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 4 Chairpersons Role remove "Get things done by consent and with the help of members".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 4 Chairpersons Role Insert "The Chairperson should lead by example and endeavor to elicit the maximum consensus and agreement and thus minimise disharmony".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 4 Membership Secretary's role insert "The registers will be viewable on the website, posted at the hut or available on request to any member or other interested party"	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 4 Publicity officer reword to "Be responsible for releasing information to the press"	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 6 - 6.1 Insert "and rules"	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 6 – 6.2 remove "Discussed".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 8 Insert "Rules" to the heading.	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 8 - 8.1 Insert "or rules".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 8 - 8.2 Insert "or rules".	Keith Barrett
Draft 02	Sect 8 - 8.3 Insert "or rules".	Keith Barrett

Contents

Statement of intent		Page 4
Section 1	Aims and Objectives	Page 4
Section 2	Powers	Page 5
Section 3	Membership	Page 5
	Associate Members	Page 6
	Honorary Members	Page 6
	Group Members	Page 6
Section 4	The Committee	Page 6
	Chairperson	Page 7
	Vice Chairperson	Page 7
	Secretary	Page 7
	Membership Secretary	Page 8
	Treasurer	Page 8
	Publicity Officer	Page 8
	Archivist	Page 9
	Trustees	Page 9
	Auditors	Page 9
	Committee Members	Page 9
	Sub Committees	Page 9
Section 5	Meetings	Page 9
Section 6	Rules of Procedure	Page 10
Section 7	Finances	Page 10
Section 8	Amendments to the Constitution	
	And Rules	Page 11
Section 9	Dissolution	Page 11
Section 10	Equal Opportunities	Page 11

B.M.A.A. Constitution

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The name of the organisation shall be Burley Model Allotment Association (B.M.A.A.).

We will actively pursue the continual improvement of the fertility, cleanliness, productivity and facilities of the site, as a whole, for the benefit of and as a legacy for those who follow.

We are committed to ensuring that the environment and wildlife areas are protected and to publicise the pleasure and virtues of gardening as a hobby and recreation.

To work with the Leeds and District Gardeners Federation, the Local Authority and any other national or local organisation to the benefit of all members and gardeners in the area.

We aim to ensure that the B.M.A.A. grows and develops as an organisation and that it fosters good links within the local community.

1. AIMS & OBJECTIVES: The aims and objectives of the organisation shall be to:-

- 1.1. Promote the interests of all members in gardening activities and a healthy lifestyle, where people can grow wholesome produce. Encourage the highest standards of cultivation, layout and landscaping.
- 1.2. Take action for the benefit of all members and to endeavour to protect members against damage, trespass and theft within the site. Offer advice, help & assistance wherever it is deemed necessary in the interests of all plot holders.
- 1.3. Obtain a supply of seeds, fertilisers, and other horticultural materials on behalf of members and promote regular seed, seedling and cutting swaps. To arrange social events including competitions, lectures and demonstrations for the benefit of members and the local community.
- 1.4. Liaise with other gardening associations, local allotment societies, Council officials and any other organisations that are related to the B.M.A.A. in any way. Liaise with any committee set up by the Government, Local Authorities and other bodies. Inform our members of relevant news in matters of mutual interest.
- 1.5. Increase local awareness of the allotment site and to promote the allotment site, its activities and healthy lifestyle to the wider community for example but not exclusively: - schoolchildren, ethnic groups, disability groups, special schools, older persons homes, youth groups and local clubs.

B.M.A.A. Constitution

- 1.6. Increase the B.M.A.A. membership and the uptake of plot holders on the allotment site when necessary. To actively pursue maximum occupancy of the site. To encourage full participation in activities, outings and fundraising events from as many members as possible.
- 1.7. Advise the plot holders to take care of their own health and safety and that of others affected by their acts or omissions. Ensure that the use of all machinery, work equipment, substances & transport equipment are carried out in accordance with the instruction and training received. Increase awareness of health and safety issues amongst members.

2. POWERS

In furtherance of the above the Association shall:-

- 2.1. Obtain funding / grants wherever possible. Procure monies by grant applications, fundraising and membership fees; to develop, maintain and improve conditions and facilities at the B.M.A.A. site, for the members and community including but not exclusively; - toilets, club/meeting room, site shop etc.
- 2.2. Hold regular monthly meetings and an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M) and hold extra meetings whenever it is felt necessary.
- 2.3. Initiate and undertake any other legal/lawful activity calculated to further the objects of the Association.

3. MEMBERSHIP Membership of the B.M.A.A. will be open to all persons. The cost of membership of the Association will be agreed at an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) or an Extraordinary General Meeting (E.G.M.) and payable with the annual rental charge. All plot holders will automatically become members unless they indicate in writing to the Secretary that they do not wish to be. Membership will begin when a valid application form is accepted by the Membership Secretary and the fee is paid; only members who are plot holders will have voting rights at meetings. Associate, Honorary and Group membership will be free of charge.

- 3.1. The Committee will consider all applications for membership as its first item at every meeting.
- 3.2. Members may resign at any time giving 14 days notice in writing (precluding email) to the secretary.
- 3.3. Any member not having paid their membership fee by the 10th December will be deemed to have resigned.
- 3.4. The Committee may expel members who do not conform to the rules and abide by the Constitution of the Association.
- 3.5. All decisions of the Committee are final provided that members are given the opportunity to state their case.
- 3.6. Any member who may consider themselves aggrieved by the action of the Committee may appeal to the next meeting of the Association Committee. The individual concerned will have the right to state their case and be accompanied by a friend. All appeals must be in writing to the Secretary (precluding email) giving 14 days notice.

B.M.A.A. Constitution

Associate Members

The Committee may invite any individual who supports the aims of the Association to become an Associate Member. Partners and helpers of plot holders will automatically qualify as Associate Members. Please note that Associate Members will have no voting rights

Honorary Members

The Committee may invite any individual who has supported the aims of the Association or given service to the organisation, to become an Honorary Member. Please note that Honorary Members will have no voting rights but at the discretion of the Committee may be granted voting rights and may become trustees or members of the Committee.

Group Members

Any group whose work is supportive of the Association may be invited by the Committee to become a group Member. Please note that Group Members will have no voting rights.

4. THE COMMITTEE:- For the purpose of administering the rules and the running of the Association, the following officers and Committee shall be elected annually and be empowered to effect such decisions as may be required to maintain and uphold the conditions of the agreement held with Leeds City Council and such rules democratically prescribed by the membership.

The B.M.A.A. Committee will be governed and managed as follows:-

- 4.1. The Committee shall retire at the A.G.M. but shall be eligible for re-election
- 4.2. The Committee may fill casual vacancies and any members appointed shall hold office until the next Committee election.
- 4.3. Officers shall only be appointed at such a meeting if a Committee election is on the agenda.
- 4.4. The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of such officers as agreed at a Committee Meeting. The Officers roles are outlined below.
- 4.5. We will encourage new Committee members as we realise that new people are needed all the time to bring in new ideas talents and skills to the Association.
- 4.6. The Chair shall chair meetings of the committee; if absent the Vice Chair shall take the chair; if the Vice Chair is absent a nominee from the floor shall take the chair.
- 4.7. All committee positions will be elected annually at the A.G.M. Nominations to be received by the Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting and decided by ballot conducted at the A.G.M.

B.M.A.A. Constitution

CHAIRPERSON: -

- To call and chair all meetings - whose (the Chairperson's) ruling on all matters (relating to the running of the meeting) must be accepted and obeyed by all concerned.
- Holds only the Casting Vote. The chair can not vote unless the vote is tied.
- To ensure that the Association's rules and constitution are followed.
- To keep in mind the interests of the members and be prepared to initiate changes in policy to meet changing circumstances.
- The Chairperson should lead by example and endeavour to elicit the maximum consensus and agreement and thus minimise disharmony.

VICE CHAIRPERSON: -

- In the absence of the Chair, undertake the duties of the Chair
- Take responsibility for specific projects as directed by the Committee.
- Take responsibility for the review of the B.M.A.A. constitution and rules.
- Take responsibility to set up working parties and sub committees as directed by the Committee.

SECRETARY: -

- Carry out the decisions of the Committee.
- Be responsible only to the Committee.
- Act always in accordance with the decisions taken or where an emergency arises, between Committee meetings, then with the Chairperson's agreement.
- Deal with all correspondence and other matters promptly.
- Prepare Agenda's in consultation with the Chairperson.
- Maintain an up to date Minute Book and Attendance Record.
- Be the expert in the affairs of the Association.
- Keep the Chairperson and Committee informed and up to date on all matters.

B.M.A.A. Constitution

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: -

- Keep an up to date list of the names and addresses of all members.
- Keep a register in strict rotation of all applicants for plots.
- Keep a register, separate from above, of Associate Members.
- The registers will be viewable on the website, posted at the hut or available on request to any member or other interested party.
- Sending and issuing of all invoices according to the schedule before the 1st October.
- The Membership Secretary will be “Data Controller” as relating to the Data Protection Act and will act in accordance with all legislation.

TREASURER: -

- Administer the funds of the Association.
- Provide updates to the committee on the finances of the association including records of income and expenditure.
- At least 6 financial updates to the committee will be made each year.
- Take charge of all monies paid to the Association.
- Pay all bills promptly.
- Open a Bank Account in the Association's name.
- Ensure that the Secretary and Membership Secretary have sufficient Petty Cash for stamps, stationery, etc.
- All cash collections to be suitably recorded by the giving and taking of receipts.
- All transactions must be recorded and traceable to the person responsible.
- Keep proper accounts.
- Produce a Statement of Income and expenditure for auditors to approve for the AGM.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: –

- Manage the Website.
- Produce regular newsletters.
- Publicise the annual show.
- Produce and distribute posters.
- Issue notifications of all events.
- Produce information leaflets.
- Be responsible for releasing information to the press.
- Liaise with sponsors.

B.M.A.A. Constitution

ARCHIVIST: –

- To keep all historical records pertaining to the association.

TRUSTEES: – No less than 2 trustees will be appointed who will be responsible for the site to the landlord (Leeds City Council) in accordance with the lease.

AUDITORS: – An independent auditor shall be appointed to audit the accounts of the Association and report accordingly to the AGM or EGM.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: – Along with at least one of the above named Officer's, at least 4 ordinary members must be in attendance at all Committee Meetings. All meetings are to be held in accordance with the rules and constitution of the B.M.A.A.

SUB COMMITTEE'S:– A Sub Committee of no less than 3 members, one of who will be nominated as Show Secretary, shall be elected to oversee the running of the Annual Show. This Sub Committee will have delegated responsibilities to make all decisions regarding the Annual Show. The Sub Committee will have powers to co-opt any member to help with the organisation and running of the Annual Show. The Sub Committee will report to the monthly committee meeting giving a brief progress report. This report is to be a standing item on all committee agenda's

A Sub Committee of no less than 3 members shall be elected to oversee reviews of the constitution and the rules of the Association. This Sub Committee shall meet no less than 3 times a year and will have delegated responsibilities to make proposals regarding changes to the rules or constitution of the organisation. A report of all proposals will be made to the Committee.

5. MEETINGS:- All meetings will follow the following format:-

- 5.1. An Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) or an Extraordinary General Meeting (E.G.M.) shall be the forum used for Committee elections, constitutional and rule amendments.
- 5.2. An E.G.M. may be called at any time by the Committee or by not less than twenty five percent of the current plot holders of the Association stating in writing the precise business for discussion.
- 5.3. An A.G.M. will be held within 15 months of the previous AGM
- 5.4. The Committee shall give members at least 28 days notice of every A.G.M. or E.G.M... Notice of such a meeting shall be in an open and transparent way determined by the Committee.
- 5.5. A Committee Meeting shall be the forum used for the discussion of all other issues including Committee Membership, Association Membership, grievances and the day to day running of the allotment site.

B.M.A.A. Constitution

- 5.6. All Committee meetings are open to all members to attend and are held monthly on the second Monday of the month. However Committee meetings may be called on any date by the Committee.
- 5.7. The quorum for Committee meeting's will consist of at least one of the following Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Secretary and 4 other members (this can include other Committee members) a minimum of 5 people in total. The quorum for an A.G.M. or E.G.M. will consist of at least one of the following Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Secretary and 10 members a total of 11 people.
- 5.8. All meetings of the Association shall be conducted in accordance with accepted formal procedures for such meetings.
- 5.9. Items for the agenda or motions to the meeting must be given in writing (precluding emails) to the Chair 14 days before the meeting date.
- 5.10. All Committee meeting's A.G.M.'s. or E.G.M.'s will be used for allotment business only.

6. RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 6.1. With the exception of changes to the constitution and rules all questions that arise at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote.
- 6.2. Any motion must have a proposer and seconder before it is voted on.
- 6.3. If the number of votes cast on each side are equal the chair of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

7. FINANCES: -

- 7.1. An account will be maintained on behalf of the Association at a bank agreed by the Committee.
- 7.2. Signatories of the account will be the officers of the Association.
- 7.3. An audited account of the association's finances will be available at the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.4. Any member or persons having an interest in the funds of the Association may be allowed to inspect the books and records of the Association; provided that such a request is in writing and giving a valid reason. All such requests must be in writing to the Secretary (precluding email) giving 28 days notice
- 7.5. The Financial year for the Association runs from 1st October to 30 September.
- 7.6. Money for nominated charities or organisations may be raised throughout the year by the sale or auction of donated items. Recipient charities will be nominated by the committee. All donors will be made aware in advance of the recipient charity or organisation.
- 7.7. All monies raised by the association will be spent solely on objects laid out above.

B.M.A.A. Constitution

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES :-

- 8.1. Amendments to the constitution or rules may only be made at the A.G.M. or at an E.G.M.
- 8.2. Any proposal to amend the constitution or rules must be given to the secretary in writing (precluding email) 14 days prior to an A.G.M. or E.G.M.
- 8.3. Any proposals to amend the constitution or rules will require a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

9. DISSOLUTION

- 9.1. If a meeting by simple majority decides that it is necessary to close down the association it may call a special meeting to do so.
- 9.2. The sole business of this meeting will be to dissolve the Association.
- 9.3. At least 28 days notice will be given to members of the meeting and it will be advertised in an open and transparent way.
- 9.4. If it is agreed to dissolve the Association all remaining money, once outstanding debts have been paid will be donated to a local charitable organisation. The organisation to be agreed at the meeting which agrees the dissolution.

10. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES - The B.M.A.A. recognises that:-

- 10.1. Everyone has a contribution to make to our society, and a right to equal treatment.
- 10.2. We aim to ensure that no-one will be discriminated by us on the grounds of:- Age, impairment, colour, ethnic or national origin, nationality, race including asylum seekers and refugees, religious belief or faith, social class, gender, sexuality, gender reassignment, marital status, responsibility for dependants, trade union or political activity.