**Appendix 2 – Constitution Update (Mark Carroll)**

Good evening everybody, my names Mark Carroll, and I’m the publicity officer of the federation.

At last year’s AGM a motion was passed calling on the BHAF to be more representative of its members. It also called for the federation to look at its objectives, as there was no mention in them that the BHAF *should* be representative of its members or indeed how it should do that.

A subsequent steering group was set up which suggested new objectives for federation. These were voted through at a subsequent SGM last year. They have already been ratified.

The new objectives required that the rest of the constitution be looked at to reflect these changes. At the same time as this was happening the Council together with the BHAF and other partners began the process of building an allotment strategy for the city. The outcome of the strategy may have large implications for the BHAF constitution so the committee has decided that rather than fully rewrite the constitution now, we should wait until the strategy process has completed. However minor tweaks to the constitution are needed to bring it closer to the requirements of the new objectives.

There are 10 minor changes suggested and already agreed by the BHAF committee. We hope you will agree with them as well. This document, outlining the suggested changes, has been on our website for some weeks and was linked to in our recent newsletter so hopefully many of you will have already seen the suggested changes.

1. added sentence

2. new objectives

The first objective states that the BHAF must represent the interests of allotmenteers effectively to the Council. This is what we are now attempting to do, we are taking a pro-active approach on issues which affect plot holders interests.. Issues like plot cost, plot size and plot availability are at the forefront.

As I said, these new objectives have already been voted through, so I don’t think we need to look closely at them.

3. Read Added Clause. We suggest adding a clause to the membership section. Too many plot holders do not seem to realise that they are already members of the federation and that it is the body that represents them. This clause makes that clear.

4. 2 Added roles. We suggest two new roles. Vice Chair and Plot Liaison. We should have a vice chairman anyway, and a plot holder liaison officer will be a welcome addition.

5. To tidy up the constitution we suggest removing full powers from the president. It is an honorary role and the president does not attend Committee meetings.

6. We suggest adding a new clause. Read new Clause (powers)

The federation is a voluntary organisation that doesn’t have the resources to represent 3000 plot holders individually. We need some kind of tiered system. Allotment Associations, where they exist are the perfect platform for gaining a representative view on issues. We already have excellent functioning associations on many large sites.. Roedale, Moulsecoomb, The Weald, I believe Eastbrook as well and others. The Committees of these associations are elected by plotholders and thus a valid structure of representation is there. Each properly formed association will be able to elect a representative to join the federation committee with full voting rights.

If you are not represented by an association, then you could look into forming one. Individuals on sites can elect a representative to attend any meetings they wish, but to have voting rights they need to represent a properly formed association (see membership)

7. ADD Committee members - not just officers. (Minor point.)

8. Remove ‘Site’ as this implies that only site reps can be committee members, and any plot holder can be a committee member not just Site Reps. Associations can elect plot holders to represent them on the Committee, it doesn’t need to be a site rep. - although of course it can be.

9. Same as above. Remove ‘site representatives’ which is in brackets in the current constitution. This will make the constitution actually match the reality. Committee members can be plot holders as well as site reps, we don’t want to prevent plot holders from belonging to the Committee.

10. Finally we suggest a different quorum for different meetings. At the moment the quorum for all meetings is 4 members.