

Minutes of the 2004 AGM of the Arundel and Elgin Garden.
Held on 8.11.2004 at the Lazy Daisy Café, Portobello Road.

Present: residents of properties surrounding the garden and the committee members as follows:- Nick Pedgrift (NP) Chairman, Legal Affairs. David Bailey (DB) Secretary, Garden trees. Chris Fleming Brown (CFB) Treasurer. Catherine Williams (CW) Garden Keys. Ann Canning (AC) Builders. Pat Morton (PM) Garden Planning. George Saadeh (Irrigation). Sylvana Caloni (Special Projects).

1: Chairman's introduction.

NP introduced the committee members and their responsibilities over the past year.

2: Procedures.

NP re-iterated the customary limits of 2 minutes per speaker, 10 minutes per topic and asked all residents to state their names and addresses when speaking. He also explained that the committee for 2004-5 would be elected at the end of the meeting. The committee would elect a chairman at its first meeting.

3: Minutes of 2002 and 2003 AGMs.

These had been circulated via the newsletter and with the evening's agenda. They were approved *nem con*.

4: Treasurer's Report.

CFB presented our expenditure figures for the last year and projections for the future. He explained that the change in our financial year meant that we had one year of 18 months to 30.9.04, during which we received two precepts. Major expenditure items this year had been on fences and the irrigation system.

The year to 30.9.05 would be a normal year in which the main 'one off' expenses would be fencing. We currently had an adjusted balance of £32,000 in our current account and liked to retain a minimum balance of £10,000. These figures allowed us to run at a slight loss for this year and reduce the precept by £10,000 to £25,000.

This proposal was carried unanimously without the need for a formal head count.

5: Landscaping.

NP, PM and DB presented proposals for landscaping at the west end of the garden; these had been prompted by letters from residents. Paul's idea had been to place 7 large, ornamental pots around this area, filled with ornamental grasses or small trees. The pots could be removed for the bonfire. Residents considered that the garden was over-planted as it was and that children needed space to play. When the proposal was put to the vote, 15 residents voted against. No votes were counted in favour.

6: Trees

DB reported that the limes and horse chestnut had been pruned in the winter and three cherries in summer. The newly planted trees had survived except for a hawthorn near the Ladbroke Grove Gate, which would not be replaced. This winter's tree work would be to trim the suckers on the limes, prune the goat willow and lift the crown of the mulberry to allow for a seat underneath it. A ginko biloba had been planted in the centre garden and another sweetgum would be planted at the east end. DB reported that the horse chestnut showed symptoms of a disease which had killed a number of others in the borough. If no growth appeared next year, the tree would have to be felled and replaced.

7. Irrigation

GS reported that we had installed a low tech watering system costing £6,500 but due to problems with Thames Water it would not be connected till Friday. The water supply was currently unrestricted but we would see what the first year's bills were before considering meters to limit consumption.

8. Watering volunteers

PM reminded the meeting that the four sprinklers would need people to manage them – turning them on and off and arranging for cover when they were away. A number of residents volunteered.

9. Wildlife

The meeting learned that we no longer had a resident fox but that we currently had two adult hedgehogs plus one baby. Residents requested that more be done to encourage wildlife. Fiona Fleming-Brown agreed to contact the Holland Park Ecology Centre for details of bird feeders and ladybird houses.

10. Children

The issue of ball games and children's behaviour was discussed at some length. Sarah Edwards volunteered to help resolve the situation by acting as a point of contact if the children were misbehaving in the garden; her number would be posted on the notice board. The meeting recorded its thanks.

11 Election of the 2004 - 2005 Garden Committee.

NP reported that the resignation of Michael Wilmot had meant that there was a vacancy on the committee and that we were encouraging more parents to join.

The existing committee members were re-elected *nem con*.

Nominations were received from Leslie Baily who was elected *nem con*. She would be assisted in her role by Susan Cohen.

12 Drinks. The meeting concluded with a general discussion and a glass of wine.