

Minutes of the 2005 AGM of the Arundel and Elgin Garden.
Held on 15.11.2005 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. Catherine Williams (CW) RBKC Liason. Ann Canning (AC) Builders. Pat Morton (PM) Garden Planning. George Saadeh (GS) Acting Treasurer. Irrigation.
Apologies received from: Sylvana Caloni (SC) Garden Keys. Leslie Feeney Baily (LFB) Children

1: Chairman's introduction and treasurers report.

NP introduced the committee members and their responsibilities over the past year. In his review, he stated that the year had been a quiet one, during which we had been living off a surplus at the bank. He recommended that next year. The precept should be set at £28,000 but that this would be voted on at the end of the meeting.

2: Minutes of 2004 AGM.

These were read by residents and approved without comment. There were no matters arising.

3: Tree planting and pruning.

DB reported that the winter's pruning work would be confined to the suckers on the limes plus a crown reduction on the lime tree outside 61 Elgin Crescent. We had undertaken to do this regularly due to subsidence. Two new trees would be planted: a hawthorn where the fence on the eastern side was lowest and an American oak in the horseshoe bed.

Residents asked that an evergreen be considered for future planting and that a replacement be planned for the plane tree. DB agreed to both requests.

4: Garden planning and maintenance

PM reported that new planting had taken place along the borders of the garden and that the irrigation system was working well. The problem being that children were taking the covers for the tap housing, leaving deep, unprotected holes and that hedgehogs were falling into them and dying.

A parent requested that play equipment be installed for the numbers of very young children in the garden. These would replace the climbing bars which were considered to be under-used. NP explained that the member in charge of this was currently giving birth but would take up the case next year, liaising with the Town Hall on health and safety issues regarding the new equipment and the rubber tyre.

DB stated that the Committee was still dissatisfied with the look of the garden: recreational areas could be more robust and decorative areas more colourful. The committee had decided the best way to proceed was to take on board someone who knows about gardens and had recruited a professional designer called Roz Page who was qualified in garden design and horticulture, had won a silver gilt medal at Chelsea and works on wide range of gardens. She would carry out two jobs.

Help us make the most of what we've already got.

Plan planting for the future.

The first job had started - a 3 year maintenance plan equivalent to what the arboriculturalist did for the trees. This covers pruning of plants, maintenance of hedges, weeding, edging and lawn maintenance.

The benefit is that whoever is on the committee and briefing the gardeners will know what needs to be done at any given time. It therefore puts the committee back in charge of maintenance.

The initial fee would be set at £1,800.

5: Any other business: Lawsuits

A resident, Don Factor, raised the issue of the former Treasurer's appearance in court charged with breaching the byelaw on ball games. He had ascertained that the bye-laws could be changed quite easily. A number of other residents noted that a guilty verdict would place an unreasonable burden upon parents. NP stated that the Committee would not act in this matter until a verdict had been reached on the 24th. *

6: Any other business: Keys

Two residents reported problems with the locks. CW said these were inevitable and caused by vandalism as well as heavy use. She recommended regular treatment with WD40.

7: Any other business: Events

The fireworks were judged a success and the same operators would be booked for next year. Residents noted that other gardens charged for fireworks and also organised a bar and barbecue to raise funds.

It was agreed to have another garden party in Summer but residents wondered whether we might organise something more ambitious than the current Do It Yourself arrangement. NP stated that the Committee would welcome any suggestions and offers of help from residents.

8: Any other business: Paths.

A resident, Barbara Jervis, complained that the paths were useless, a waste of money and uncomfortable to walk on. These are being swept and will be rolled.

9: Budget

A precept of £28,000 was put to the vote and agreed *nem con*.

10: Election of the 2005 - 2006 Garden Committee.

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

No new nominations were received.

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

The 2005 – 2006 Committee

Chairman, Legal Affairs. Nick Pedgrift. 7616 8480
Secretary, Garden trees. David Bailey. 7727 2903 482248
Treasurer, Fireworks. George Saadeh. 07855 994397,
Small Children. Leslie Feeney Baily. 07801 482248
Garden Planning. Pat Morton. 7229 4342
Builders Permits. Anne Canning. 7221 1672
RBKC Liaison. Catherine Williams. 7727 8495
Garden Keys. Sylvana Caloni. 7221 8291

*Not Guilty. His actions did not constitute 'football or a similar game.'