

Minutes of the 2006 AGM of the Arundel and Elgin Garden.  
Held on 6.11.2006 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. Ann Canning (AC) Builders. Pat Morton (PM) Garden Management. Leslie Feeney Baily (LFB) Children.

Apologies received from: George Saadeh (Treasurer) Sylvana Caloni (SC) Garden Keys Catherine Williams (CW) RBKC Liaison

#### 1: Chairman's introduction and Treasurers Report.

NP introduced the committee members and their responsibilities over the past year and talked through the projected budget for 2006-7. He explained that the meeting would be invited to choose between two proposed budgetary levels: a precept of £28,000 which was the same as the current year and would cover only normal expenditure and a precept of £36,000, which would cover the costs of replacing the existing keys with electronic 'fobs'.

#### 2: Key Fobs.

NP had got two quotes of around £4,000 to install a fob system and had allowed £4,000 for installing a direct electricity supply into the gardens. This would be a good idea in itself. The meeting discussed security and vandalism to locks and it was not recognised that fobs would provide an all-round solution. Their reliability was also questioned. The Committee agreed to get a spare barrel cut for the existing locks. On voting, the proposal to switch to fobs was rejected with only four votes in favour.

#### 3. Minutes of the 2005 AGM.

These were read by residents and approved subject to one change suggested by Barbara Jervis (BJ). DB will incorporate this.

#### 4. Paths.

Residents requested the Committee to get quotes for resurfacing the paths which were described as being narrow and difficult to walk on. The Committee was also to look at different surfaces. DB stated that the one wheelchair user in the garden had been able to get from the garden gate to her own gate without problems. NP stated that a proposal to replace the paths would need the approval of an AGM. Residents requested that £3,000 should be added to the precept to cover initial expenditure. It was decided to look into improving the present surface.

#### 5. Tree planting and pruning.

DB requested that the meeting approve the felling of a cherry tree at the Ladbrooke Grove end, because it was causing the adjoining mulberry to grow unevenly with the risk that the mulberry might split or topple over. A new tree would be planted to replace the cherry. After discussing various alternatives, the meeting agreed to fell the cherry by 10 votes to 5. A resident, Jane Broughton (JB) complained about a gingko being planted on the Arundel side of the garden where there were already many large trees. DB explained that gingkoes were very slow growing and by the time it had grown to any height, the horse chestnut would probably have died and the limes would be on their last legs.

#### 6. Garden planning and maintenance.

The meeting discussed the replacement of Paul Walsh and his wife and daughter by David Hawkins. NP stated that Paul had been fine but his family were not pulling their weight and David was working harder and was more committed. DB stated that Paul had not taken well to the extra layer of management appointed at the last AGM – someone who knew about gardening. David was now following the garden maintenance plan written by Roz Page and she had prepared planting plans for next year. Residents questioned the need for a garden designer and requested more participation in the garden. NP suggested that a garden sub committee be formed of committee members plus bringing in volunteers to clear up litter and

perform other useful activities as directed by the committee member reporting in to the committee .The following residents volunteered to be available: Pat Morton. Sarah Edwards. Jane Broughton. Ann Factor. Melody Parker. Tassy Barham. Georgina Shepherd. Leslie Feeney Baily, Sally James.

#### 7. Garden Squares Open Day

Catherine Williams would be unable to organise this event in 2007. Jane Broughton volunteered to be responsible for this. *(This will now be handled by Tassie Barham)*

#### 8. Noise and Litter.

The meeting discussed late night noise and litter from parties. Three results emerged. Where children were causing the problem, residents should telephone their parents and complain.

Where adults were causing the problem, Barbara Jervis volunteered to go out and talk them. Residents would be asked to use the council's litter bin outside the KPR Gate.

#### 9. Bonfire night.

The meeting recorded its thanks for GS for organising the display and David Hawkins for building the bonfire.

#### 10. Garden Website.

A resident, Peter Baily suggested the garden had its own website for history, regulations, planting plans and so on. It need only cost £500 to build and £20 per month to host. The proposal was voted on and agreed by a majority of 20 to 4. NP suggested that a Website Sub Committee should be formed, headed by a committee member and run by Peter Baily

#### 11. Bye-laws.

NP announced that, in the light of discussion at last year's AGM, bye-law 17 had been amended

#### 12. Precept.

NP suggested that the precept be set at £30,000 to give us £2,000 extra for improvements. This was carried *nem con*, with one abstention.

#### 13: Election of the 2006 - 2007 Garden Committee.

SC having resigned, there were now two vacancies on the Committee. Three residents put themselves forward. In the ensuing ballot CW garnered the least votes. The meeting recorded its thanks for all her work over many years and hoped she would remain involved.

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

#### The 2006 – 2007 Committee

Chairman, Legal Affairs. Nick Pedgrift. 7616 8480

Secretary, Builders Permits. Anne Canning. 7221 1672

Treasurer, Fireworks. George Saadeh. 07855 994397

Garden Keys, Sarah Edwards. 7727 5276

Insurance, Garden trees. David Bailey. 7727 2903

Small Children. Leslie Feeney Baily. 07801 482248

Garden Management. Pat Morton. 7229 4342

Guy Nixon. 07789 868974

Garden Squares Open Day. Tassy Barham, 07949 096597/7229 8667