

2010 GARDEN AGM
Agenda for AGM Meeting at
7.00pm on Tuesday 9th November, 2010
Charlie's Café 59 Portobello Road, London, W11 3DB

All residents paying the relevant Council Tax are entitled to attend and vote.

1. Minutes Approved
2. Brief Introduction to Members of Committee and their roles. Committee to resign.
3. Chairman's Report:
4. Treasurers Report
5. Tree Report
6. Garden Report
7. Children's Play Equipment
8. Precept
9. Election of Committee Members – resignations and appointments
10. Any other business

Glyditsia Tree – Branch Falls

Many of you will have seen the significant branch falls from the Glyditsia (the large acacia like tree near to the children's play area at Ladbroke Grove end). The tree has been carefully checked by our Arborialist and is now thought to be safe. We will be taking a 2nd opinion to be absolutely sure that no further reduction is necessary to ensure the safety of residents. More on this at the AGM.

Minutes of the 2009 AGM of the Arundel and Elgin Garden.

Held on 9th November 2009 at the Notting Hill Community Church, Kensington Park Road at 7pm.

All committee members were present, Tassy Barham, TB(dogs, children and entertainment), Guy Nixon, GN(trees), Sarah Edwards, SE(keys and permits), Kevin Stewart, KS(garden), Robert Sargent, RS(secretary), Wolfgang Felix,

WF(treasurer), Bernie Tetlow, BT(legal affairs) the meeting was chaired by George Saadeh, GS, Chairman.

Chairman's Report , the first requirement was for the committee to resign and then GS explained the voting procedure that would be used at the end of the meeting to elect new members, if this was required. The minutes from last year's AGM were then approved although there was a question raised about the precept, whether £35,000 or £40,000 had been approved. For the record, the minutes clearly stated that the meeting had agreed to £40,000 by 40 votes to 22. There was also an issue about the availability of the minutes but these were posted on the web site and had been on the garden notice board earlier in the year. The chairman then explained that it had been a year of transition with five new members joining the committee and that this had been a smooth process he thanked the departing members from the previous year for their help in achieving this. GS finished by saying that it had been a successful year in the garden with the introduction of the new play equipment being a highlight. It was, however, marked by a shortage of cash with less money being spent on plants than previous years.

Treasurer's Report, WF started his report by emphasising how well he felt the committee had worked together this year particularly in managing the payments to suppliers given the restricted cash flow. Also, how it had been a year of change for the role of treasurer with the change of bank to HSBC on Portobello Road. He then took the meeting through his prepared financial report. It was clear and well received and WF stressed the importance of understanding the difference between the September year end and April when the precept comes in from the council. The precept had come in on time in April and outstanding invoices were paid. The most prominent of these was for the new paths. He highlighted the exceptional items including the new play equipment and water rates. Follow up work showed that the garden has over £1000 in credit on our water bill. We then went through the budget for 2009-2010 and established there would be no major new expenditure for the year and there would be no cost for the garden design and a lower cost for water. He then recommended a reduction in precept for the coming year to £35,000 leaving an anticipated year end surplus of in excess of £7,000, for exceptional items. A vote on the precept was taken at the end of the meeting.

Garden Report, KS gave the garden report and started by stressing what a good job David Hawkins had done and how he had been liberal in applying some of his restrictions. Particularly good work on compost and mulches were highlighted. He then went through the costs. These had been kept down with the acquisition of a new hedge trimmer, enabling the safe trimming of high trees and hedges, being the only major expense. Going forward the annual cost of fertilizing the grass and more expenditure on flowers were the only request. The addition of more geraniums around the centre hedge was recommended. A question was asked about the stability of the gates and iron railings at the end of the garden. It was explained that the committee was aware that there was erosion and that this had been discussed at a committee meeting. This, however, would be a major

expense that would require a further increase in the precept and that it was felt that this would not be appropriate this year.

Play Equipment, TB explained that she had taken over responsibility for this area when Kate Poole returned to the US during the summer and thanked Kate and others for their hard work in getting the new equipment installed. It was agreed that it had been a great success. TB then explained that plans were to complete the project this year with an additional £2,500 from the precept. This was agreed by a majority vote of the meeting with a focus on both older and younger children which are currently not well catered for. It was explained that as the swings had taken up more room than expected all new additions would have to be at the Ladbroke road end. It was proposed that the willow tunnel could be removed to allow more room for the small children's equipment. A recommendation was made to order the new equipment before January 1st to benefit from the reduced levels of VAT.

Dogs, a long discussion was held on the continuing issue of dog mess. It was suggested that dog owners leave their dogs on a lead to ensure they clean up and then let them off. The issue of dog mess is becoming an increasingly bigger concern and unless there is a significant improvement the committee will look into imposing some restrictions.

Trees, GN explained that the lime trees had been pruned with the exception of the trees at the Kensington Park road end which were left to help reduce noise. Two new trees were planted during the year a Raywood Ash and a Paulownia, which had taken well. An Elder was removed from the Arundel side with the permission of the arboriculturalist from RBK&C with the understanding that another tree be planted to replace it within the garden. The large horse chestnut on the Arundel has been diagnosed with bleeding canker disease. There is a cure from Italy which has not yet been licensed, we will monitor the situation. It was agreed that a quote would be obtained to raise its canopy to allow more light. In the coming year there were no major projects planned, just light pruning. Following a vote, it was agreed to plant three fruit trees. One in the centre garden and two at the Kensington Park Road end, on the north side of the garden. The height of the 2 trees at the KPR end was discussed and GN agreed to source a small/ornamental variety to ensure that not too much sun light was blocked out. It was also agreed that evergreen bushes should be added to the Ladbroke road end to help reduce the noise following the building of the new bus stop.

Entertainment, A budget of £2,000 was agreed for the upcoming year. The summer party was considered a great success and £500 of the funds were approved for event next year. It was agreed that we would not be selling tickets and that additional funds could be raised from a pig or sheep roast. The bonfire/firework event was also well received and that we should continue with the open day.

News Letters, it was agreed that all newsletters will no longer be hand delivered to each door but will be available on the internet and posted on the notice board in the garden. However, for those who require a hard copy some will be made available.

Precept, A precept of £35,000 for next year was agreed by vote, following the recommendation of the committee.

Any other business The issue of anonymous letters was raised and the felt that these did not deserve a formal response, the meeting agreed. A notice will be posted in the garden to state that the committee finds this form of communication unacceptable particularly to private individuals.

The committee then all agreed to be re-elected and Pat Morton and Jane Berkley announced that they wished to join the committee. It was agreed that we would go forward with 10 members.

The meeting ended with thanks to the committee and a round of applause but unfortunately no refreshments!