

Minutes of the 2011 AGM of the Arundel and Elgin Garden  
Held at 7pm on the 8th November 2011 at Charlie's Cafe, 59 Portobello Road,  
London W11 3DB

All committee were present with the exception of Bernie Tetlow, BT, who has recently moved from the garden.

Committee: Tassy Barham TB (Dogs and Entertainment), Jane Barclay JB (Children), Wolfgang Felix WF (Treasurer), Guy Nixon GN (Trees), Sarah Edwards SE (Keys and Permits), Robert Sargent RS (secretary), and the meeting was chaired by George Saadeh GS (Chairman).

Minutes from last year's AGM were approved.

#### Chairman's Report

GS started the meeting by introducing the committee and their roles and announcing that Bernie Tetlow, Wolfgang Felix and himself will be stepping down from the committee.

GS then stated that it has been a quiet year in the garden with recent security issues being the only area of raised concern. He thanked the committee for a good and harmonious year and stated that the gardeners, Chris and Anna are doing a great job.

#### Finance Report

WF took the meeting through the income and expenditure for the year just ended. We started the year with a gross balance carried forward of £36,834 and received the precept of £30,000, as requested. Major expenditure for the year included tree pruning for £2,244, the only exceptional item being the large branch that fell off the gleditsia. £2,453 was spent on entertainment, well within the £3,000 budget, 10% of the precept.

For the coming year, WF highlighted three areas of potential high expenditure. Tree pruning, £5,500 for the regular pruning of the lime trees, this happens every three years. Garden gate locks, c. £5,000 for the introduction of an electronic fob lock system and £5,000 for repairing the fences at both ends of the garden. Of these it was felt that the fences could wait another year, if that was needed. With all of these and the regular expenditures we would still be left with £10,000 before next year's precept.

WF concluded by informing the meeting that it was the committee's recommendation to maintain the precept at £30,000 for the coming year. This is in line with the recommendation of RBKC to maintain or lower garden precepts.

#### Trees

GN started by telling the meeting that there is now a cure for the leaf problems for the Horse Chestnut, an injection costing £300 has been tested by RBKC and should stop the browning of the leaves in August. The Gleditsia is unstable and needs to be taken down following the branch falling off during the year. As much of the roots will be taken out as possible and it will be replaced by either a Liquidambar or a Tulip Tree. This will be planted slightly closer to the middle of the garden so it does not cast extra shade over the properties on the north side of

the garden. It has been decided that the Robinia in the central garden is a sucker of the larger tree in the main garden. The gardeners have requested that it be taken down and this has been endorsed by James Burton at Modern Arb Services. Approval will be sought from RBKC to remove it and as it is a sucker this should not be an issue.

The size of the Mulberry Tree was raised as an issue but it was decided that it was on a regular pruning programme and no action will be taken at this time.

#### Garden Report

TB started her report by saying how good the garden looks and this was confirmed by the meeting, she then took the meeting through some of the projects carried out during the year. The Rhododendrons, by the children's swings, have been receiving fertilizer after years of little care. Two of the quarters of the central rose garden have been re-planted and the hedge borders and the horse shoe bed have received new plants. A compound has been erected at the east end of the garden and it was agreed that this looked good.

TB then highlighted some of the projects for the coming year. The bed, behind the meadow, at the east end of the garden will be overhauled. Two Acers have died and this will be replaced by two more Acers. A variety of climbing plant will be planted to grow over the compound to make it more attractive. Also, Azaleas will be planted in the bed next to the swings.

#### Security

The longest discussion of the evening was about security following recent concerns by residents that the garden gates were being tied open by builders. The locks on the gates have not been changed for a considerable period and a debate was had on whether they should be replaced with key locks or an electronic fob system should be introduced. The fob system would be more expensive, c. £5000, but would benefit from additional security features. It was also discussed whether this would allow households to have two fobs rather than just the one key. The conversation concluded with a vote by the meeting that resulted in a decision to have an electronic system and to allow two fobs per household.

#### AOB

A discussion was had on whether more of the precept should be spent on entertainment. The limit has been 10%, £3000, over recent years. Following a vote of the meeting it was agreed to increase the percentage to 12.5%.

A vote was taken on the precept and it was agreed to keep it at £30,000 for the coming year.

Finally, three new members agreed to join the committee, Calum MacInnes, Nicolas Bellet and Nathalie Faure-Beaulieu.