

**EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Monthly Committee Meeting**  
**Carrickfergus Town Hall 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Present:

Myrtle Fraser (Chair)  
Austin Herron (Secretary)  
John Wann  
Phil Allen  
Maxine Law  
Richard Cochrane  
Pauline Whittley  
Raymond Hanna

In Attendance

Stephen Daye (Parks & Countryside Officer – Carrickfergus Borough Council)

4.1.09 Apologies

Gary McCabe (Vice Chair)  
Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)

4.2.09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009 as presented were proposed as a true copy by Pauline and seconded by Phil and adopted unanimously by the meeting

4.3.00 Matters Arising

None

4.4.09 Correspondence

None

4.5.09 Reports and Liaison with Council

The Chair welcomed Stephen Daye to the meeting and it was agreed that in the circumstances matters under this item would be dealt with directly on this occasion. Stephen thanked the committee and said he welcomed the opportunity to deal with a number of items. He had circulated a number of copies of a draft allotment use guide and said he would welcome comments and/or suggestions from the committee and any other Association members the committee thought appropriate. Also the spring edition of the newsletter would be mailed out soon and he was arranging three skips for the annual site cleanup for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of May. He also suggested that the committee might wish to talk with George Gibson and Stephen Johnston about the proposed Eden Community Center to explore the Allotment holder's possible use of the premises and the attached car park. Myrtle agreed she would look to arranging a meeting and include John and Austin

#### 4.6.09 New Agenda Items

It was agreed to include a new agenda item (No 14) on Fires on the site

#### 4.7.09 Work Programme Items

John, Phil and Raymond circulated a draft paper on the hedgerows and will await comments from other committee members. There was no reports form the other work areas

#### 4.8.09 Site Conditions

Following some discussion on the pathways issues Stephen agreed to provide a detailed specification on the proposed works and a timetable for implementation as soon as this was available. He also agreed to look again at the overall site drainage and address any specific concerns from plot holders

#### 4.9.09 Hedgerows

Following general concerns about the works carried out on the hedgerows Stephen explained that there had been some confusion on the specific nature and timing of the work. Phil suggested that due to what had happened to the hedges recently then it was unlikely that any planting programme could be implemented before next year

#### 4.10.09 Fun Day Accounts

Myrtle reported that both she and Ivan had been in touch with the Council and hoped that we would receive this grant in the near future.

#### 4.11.09 General Meeting

With the increase in membership and the specialist organic field there had been some suggestions on the web page forum that there should be a General Meeting. Following some discussion around membership fees and annual reports and accounts it was agreed to go forward with a general information meeting and to arrange an informal committee discussion on topics etc, the week before the event. Stephen agreed to organise the venue and assist with notification of the meeting.

#### 4.12.09 Manure etc

Robert Johnston and others have been arranging a supply of manure to the site were users contribute towards the delivery costs. Austin explained that apparently there had been some confusion on the use of this material since people were drawing it off on the mistaken understanding that it was 'free' and he felt that a notice could be placed on the notice board to explain the situation. Richard pointed out that we had taken a decision earlier in the year where tee shirts were involved that the notice board was not to be used for any activities where monetary transactions were involved. Following some discussion it was agreed that the notice board was to continue to be used only for official purposes. It was also proposed by Phil and seconded by Richard that the Council should be approached to provide a second notice board for members general use of this type and this was agreed by the committee.

#### 4.13.09 Dublin Trip

John provided further information on his suggested fact finding visit to a Dublin allotments group site and suggested that this could happen in early August. Maxine felt that this would be very helpful in looking at what people were doing elsewhere and agreed to liaise with John on this matter.

#### 4.14.09 Fires on Site

John indicated that he had some concerns about a fire he had seen on the site and Austin asked about burning infected material such as blighted potatoes which could not be composted. Stephen explained that it was against the tenancy agreement to light fires on the site and any infected material should be removed from the site or placed in the skips during cleanups.

#### 4.15.09 Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting closed.