

EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION
Monthly Committee Meeting
Carrickfergus Town Hall

Minutes of Meeting - 5th August 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Ronnie Allen (Chairperson)
Melanie Brown (Vice - Chair)
Austin Herron (Secretary)
Muriel Phillips
Myrtle Fraser
Andrew Gault
Stephen Kinnon
Pauline Whittley
Freddiy Blair
Brenda Cameron
Bill Dick
Phil Allen
Thomas Howells
Maxine Law

In Attendance

Raymond Hanna

8.1.09 Apologies

Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)

8.2.09 Minutes

The minutes of 7th July 2009 were proposed as a true record by Tommy Howells and seconded by Pauline Whittley and adopted as a true record by the meeting

8.3.00 Matters Arising

Ronnie raised a concern under item 7.8.09 regarding the establishment of sub committees etc and indicated that what he had meant to convey was that though anyone could seek to set up a sub committee or working party that it should be properly agreed by the full committee with terms of reference and a co-ordinator etc. Following further discussion it was proposed by Freddy and seconded by Bill that all current sub committees including those from last year should stand and that all new sub committees and working groups should have terms of reference and a coordinator and this was agreed by the committee. Austin indicated that he would try to incorporate this into the standing orders he was working on with his organisation and administration sub committee.

8.4.09 Correspondence

The committee noted a letter from Stephen Daye to Ronnie regarding the launch of the Allotments Watch initiative

8.5.09 Liaison with Council

Austin reported that he had met with Stephen Daye and raised a number of items such as the water leak in Field A the issue of a new lock and chain welded to the Allotments entrance gate and the structures issue. Stephen had agreed to issue a works order regarding the leak, have a more detailed look at the lock and chain arrangements and was open to the suggestion of meeting with a committee working party to look at the issues surrounding the fences and buildings on individual plots. Given the general level of concern about this it was felt that this approach should be followed as a matter of urgency. Tommy had some worries that a smaller group discussing this could make people feel excluded but it was agreed that any agreement reached would be ratified by the full committee. Mel also felt a smaller group might initially be more productive. In the context of the planning aspect of the issue Phil pointed out that fences were much higher on the Annandale site in Belfast and Andrew felt the matter of recreational use needed clarification. Ronnie stated that the whole planning system in this area was unclear and Freddy said that he already had an email giving him permission for a temporary fence. Following this discussion it was then proposed by Myrtle that a Structures Liaison sub-committee be formed whose terms of reference would be *to meet with council personnel and any other relevant organisations with a view to establishing agreed uniform regulations regarding structures on individual plots, where all proposals developed in this way would be brought to the full committee for ratification.* This was seconded by Pauline and agreed by the committee with the members appointed being Muriel, Ronnie, Bill, and Tommy with Ronnie as coordinator.

Finally Austin also reported that Stephen Daye had indicated that Radio Ulster would be making a broadcast from the site at eight o'clock on the morning of the Fun Day and had asked for volunteers to be interviewed. It was agreed that Ronnie and Myrtle should attend and any other plotters who were interested.

8.6.09 Fun Day Issues

Andrew reported that everything was more or less on track and that he had purchased a number of children's gifts and that the vegetable donations were going well. Myrtle said that there would be a number of private stalls and that some of the plotters were selling jams and chutneys and donating the proceeds to the Association. Raymond said he had some concerns about the toilet provision and Austin agreed to raise this with Stephen Daye.

7.8.6.09 New Agenda Items

It was felt there should be further consideration given to general communications and external liaison issues as well as fundraising and three new items were agreed for the agenda of 8.8.09 – Communications; 9.8.09 – External Liaison; and 10.8.09 Fundraising

8.8.09 Communications

Ronnie felt that a major problem during the first part of the year has been the feeling of lack of involvement or awareness of ordinary plotters in the work of the committee. Muriel thought it could be useful to have more general meetings, and Tommy felt it would be useful to have at least two such general meetings but Ronnie was concerned that we should try to avoid having meetings unless there was something specific to report. Muriel felt we could still have some form of informal

meetings which could update members on current developments. Andrew felt some of this might be achieved by a news sheet and Ronnie said it would be helpful if we did this to have a third semi official notice board where this could be displayed and he referred back to his point on this at last month and proposed that such a facility be erected on the site. This was seconded by Freddy and agreed by the meeting. Austin said this would also be useful for posting material from local complementary organisations such as the garden Society and agreed to clear this with Stephen Daye. Ronnie agreed to source this structure.

9.8.09 External Liaison

Austin pointed out that as secretary he frequently received requests for information, contacts, meetings etc from various external organisations. Some of this was on an ongoing basis such as with the Carrick Garden Society and some were one off requests and he felt it would be helpful if there was a sub committee to spread some of the workload in this area. He therefore proposed the formation of an external liaison sub committee whose terms of reference would be to *explain and provide information about the work of the Association to outside bodies and individuals and to meet with and represent the organisation where appropriate to such people and groups*. This was seconded by Pauline and agreed by the committee with the members being Pauline; Phil; Myrtle and Austin with Myrtle acting as coordinator since she is a current senior member of the garden society

10.8.09 Fundraising

Tommy reported that he and Austin had discussed the Big Lottery application form and felt that since it would need more detailed work and raised wider fundraising issues that a sub committee or working group was necessary. He therefore proposed the formation of a sub committee with the terms of reference *to look at items and services needed to help with the development of our Association and its aims and objectives and seek funding and support in kind to achieve these goals*. This was seconded by Austin and approved by the committee with the following members agreed to serve – Tommy; Stephen; Austin; and Mel who will act as coordinator.

11.8. 09 Any Other Business & Date of Next Meeting

Phil asked that we keep contact with the Council regarding the Biodiversity report which we had submitted to them last year and Austin said that he would follow this up with the appropriate people.

Next meeting confirmed as agreed – Town Hall - 7.00 p.m. - 2nd September 2009

There was no further business and the meeting closed.