

EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION
Monthly Committee Meeting
Carrickfergus Town Hall 4th February 2009

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Myrtle Fraser (Chair)
Gary McCabe (Vice Chair)
Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)
John Wann
Phil Allen;
Maxine Law
Pauline Whittley
Raymond Hanna

In Attendance

Alderman Billy Ashe (Coordinator Carrickfergus Community Forum)

The chair opened the meeting by welcoming Alderman Ashe who had agreed to attend the meeting to provide information on the Community Forum and how it could assist and support the activities of the Allotments Association, She suggested that it might be appropriate if he addressed the meeting before the start of formal business which would allow him to leave earlier if he wished and this was agreed by the meeting.

Alderman Ashe thanked the meeting for the opportunity to attend and outline the work of the forum and his role as coordinator. He explained that the Forum was established to develop and support community groups and their activities in the Carrickfergus area. At present it consisted of 69 groups mostly in the Carrick area and had been initiated to look at the low community moral and infrastructure in the district, which he felt the forum was succeeding in addressing. He also explained his own role as Coordinator which is to act as key worker for the group and provide executive organisation and strategic advice and support under the direction of the Forums management committee which is elected by the member groups.

On other issues and points raised he indicated that the Forum had succeeded in helping with the rolling out of the Peace 1 & 2 programmes and was currently awaiting part 3 which was about to be announced. On the matter of sectarianism and racism in the area he felt that any of this which existed was hidden and covert and police reports dealing with this were in single figures

Myrtle again thanked Alderman Ash for his presentation on behalf of the committee and hoped the Allotments Association would be able to play an active and supportive role in the work of the Forum, and he left the meeting.

1.2.09 Apologies

Austin Herron (Secretary)

Richard Cochrane

(It was agreed that in the absence of the secretary that Pauline should take the minutes of the meeting)

2.2.09 Minutes

The minutes of the 7th January 2009 were proposed to the meeting and an amendment was proposed. Under 1.7.09 John suggested that in line one stating that “he had worked up an draft on” was an inaccurate recording of the discussion and that it should read “he is currently working on a draft of” would be more appropriate. This was accepted by the meeting and the minutes as amended were proposed by Raymond Hanna and seconded by Phil Allen and adopted by the meeting

2.3.09 Matters Arising

There was some discussion on the £5 membership fee arising from the correspondence item 1.4.09 and it was agreed to put this down as an agenda item for the next meeting. Pauline reported that she and Ivan had again failed to meet as agreed (1.7.09) to look at the procurement procedures and it was suggested that they should try again before the next meeting as a matter of urgency Myrtle gave a verbal report on the further deterioration of site drainage and access conditions covered in item 1.8.09 and it was also agreed that this should be retained as an agenda item for the next meeting with a view for discussion for urgent action if things had not improved. On item 1.9.09 it was reported that there was as yet no indication of the success or otherwise of our funding application and John felt that in this context we might also wish to look to the Lottery Heritage Fund. Following some discussion on this it was agreed that he would follow up the details on this and report back to the next meeting. It was also noted that the final proposal had been agreed remotely rather than by a face to face meeting.

2.4.09 Correspondence

The meeting noted an email received from Austin regarding correspondence from Maxine and decided to await further developments. Gary suggested that she might also wish to reconsider going to the police. Maxine indicated that she was going to write to Stephen Daye enclosing a copy of her email correspondence.

2.5.09 Reports and Liaison with Council

There were nor reports or liaison meeting items available for this meeting

6.09 New Agenda Items

It was agreed to put Seed Swapping and the Community Forum as additional items on the meeting agenda

2.7.09 Work Programme Items

There were no work programme items progress to report.

2.8.09 Funding Applications

It was agreed that this had been adequately dealt with under matters arising (2.3.09) and could be picked up as matters progressed in the same way at the next meeting

2.9.09 Structures on Site

Pauline reported that she had met with the council employees and there was some suggestion that a surplus portacabin might be available from Shaftsbury Park. Myrtle said that she was also aware of this and it was agreed that all interested members should look at the structures.. Since there might be cost implications in this it was stressed that it was imperative that the Fun Day grant application details be completed for approval for the next meeting, and accepted in this context that the meeting should only proceed if this material was available.

2.10.09 Seed Swapping

Following some protracted discussion on the possible arrangement of seed swapping activities it was decided that given the stage of development of the Association and the lack of appropriate accommodations it would be too complicated and impractical to organise formally at this time and that it should be simply encouraged on an informal basis at present

2.1.09 Community Forum

Following some further discussion of Billy Ashes presentation on the work of the Forum it was proposed by Ivan and seconded by Phil that we confirm our membership of the organisation, and this was agreed by the meeting.

2.12.09 Any other Business & Date of Next Meeting

There was no further business and the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance. The date and time of the next meeting was set for Wednesday 4th February at 7.30 p.m. in Committee Room 2 in Carrick Town Hall.

The meeting concluded.