

EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Committee Meeting

Carrickfergus Town Hall – Dobbs Room

Minutes of Meeting on 1st July 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Ronnie Allen (Chairperson)

Melanie Brown (Vice - Chair)

Austin Herron (Secretary)

Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)

Muriel Phillips

Myrtle Fraser

Andrew Gault

Stephen Kinnon

Pauline Whittlely

Brenda Cameron

Bill Dick

Phil Allen

Thomas Howles

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year, called the meeting to order, and opened the first item on the agenda:-

7.1.09 Apologies

Maxine Law

7.2.09 Minutes

Since this was the first meeting of the new committee and the last minutes dealt with activities of the previous year's committee Austin suggested that the accuracy should be verified only by people who were present and served on the past committee and this was accepted by the meeting. The minutes were therefore proposed as a true record by Pauline Whittlely and seconded by Ivan Johnston and passed by the appropriate persons.

7.3.09 Matters Arising

Under 6.3.09 Ronnie asked if there had been any movement on the second notice board which Phil had constructed and Austin said that he understood this was still with the Councils works department for erection. Ronnie indicated that he would follow this up and erect it himself if necessary. On the Fun Day item in 6.5.09 Myrtle reported that she had been in contact with the Policing Board who had promised further funding for the event. Ronnie felt this was very welcome and might have relevance to something he wished to raise under the next agenda item

7.4.09 Correspondence

Ronnie stated that he had received some correspondence left for him just before the beginning of the meeting regarding District Policing Partnership funding. Austin thought that this might be the same material Myrtle had regarding funding for the fun day but on full examination the material addressed to the chair was with respect to longer term funding for an allotments watch programme. Following some discussion it was decided that while the committee could support such an initiative in principle it would be important to discuss the matter in more detail and given the timescales involved an emergency committee should be arranged to allow Policing Partnership representatives to explain matters in greater detail.

7.5.09 Reports and Liaison with Council

There were no reports or liaison meetings with the Council and it was requested that for the next meeting that the issue of locking the site gate should be looked at with a view to requesting a lock and chain be secured to the gate so that it could be used but not removed. It was also suggested that rather than the usual monthly liaison meeting next month it might be more useful for Stephen Daye to come to the next meeting.

7.6.09 New Agenda Items (for end of meeting)

It was agreed to add items on Warning Letters about Plot Structures: Fundraising; Bottlenecks to Development; and Membership Cards as agenda items 9; 10; 11; & 12.

7.7.09 Meeting Times/Dates/Venues; Contact Details; & Committee Paperwork

Since this was the first meeting of the 08-09 committee Austin said he had included this agenda item to cover some of the more mundane items of business and allow people to request any changes they wanted to proceedings. He explained that to date meetings had been held monthly on the first Wednesday of the month in the Town Hall at 7.00 p.m., and that he provided minutes which were numbered by meeting number item number and year such as with the current meeting seven item seven of 2009, followed by a description of the item as shown on the agenda for the meeting. He also indicated that he could supply everyone with a contact sheet for the whole committee so that people could contact each other directly but could remove anyone's details if they did not wish these circulated. Since there were no objections or requests for changes to any of these arrangements it was agreed that things should continue in this way.

7.8.09 Fun Day Working Group and Other Sub-Committees

The previous committee had established a working group to help co-ordinate the organisation of the Fun Day, consisting of Myrtle Andrew and Raymond Hanna with Andrew as co-ordinator. Andrew indicated that he had not been aware of his position in the group but was happy to continue in that role if the current committee was happy to continue in this way and the members confirmed their support of these arrangements. The previous years arrangements of topic working groups was briefly discussed and Ronnie felt that a more informal approach could be used where people who had an interest in a matter could arrange their own sub-committee or working group and get on with what they wanted to do and this was agreed.

7.9. 09 Warning Letters About Plot Structures

Freddy felt that there was considerable concern among many plotheolders about the Councils approach to the matter of fences and windbreaks on and around plots and this had also been expressed at the AGM. Muriel agreed and also felt that there was an additional problem in that apart from the general unhappiness with the rules laid down in the plot leases there was also an issue of these being applied in an uneven way. There had also been some cases of people threatened with eviction with little warning concerning their breach of rules and Andrew thought this and some of the other concerns might be resolved if Stephen Daye could agree to ask some of the committee to accompany him when he made his site inspections so that the particular problems could be discussed at the plot involved. Pauline felt it would be important to also involve the plot holder concerned in any such arrangement and that the role of the committee should be purely reactive in these circumstances. Following further discussion it was decided to try to arrange some form of follow up discussion with Stephen Daye on these matters

7.10.09 Fundraising

A number of members felt it would be important given the relative newness of the Association to look at rising funding for important communal items such as storage and meeting facilities. Mel thought we might be able to get help in kind from local organisations such as B&Q. Tommy indicated that he had a contact with excellent experience in applying to the Big Lottery and agreed to bring further details along to the next meeting where it could be put on the agenda as an item for discussion and action.

7.11.09 Bottlenecks to Development

Ronnie said that he felt it would be important at the start of this new year to try and identify any issues which were perceived as bottlenecks to the future growth of the Association and improved development of the site. He said this could be small things like the second notice board to improve communications or joint purchasing of compost, seeds, equipment, or buildings. Following some further discussion it was also agreed to return to this item at the next meeting.

7.12.09 Membership Cards

Some of the members were concerned about the membership fee issue and felt that it would be important to begin issuing cards as soon as possible to those who had paid their fees. Ivan stated that he had already collected a good number of fees and Austin indicated that he already had a card design from last year ready for printing out and thought he would be able to borrow a laminator but had no laminator available and suggested the Association buy one and a date stamp. This was agreed by the meeting and he said when these items were available he would get the names from Ivan and begin issuing the cards.

7.13.09 Any Other Business & Date of Next Meeting

Ronnie said he thought it might be a good thing to write to the Eden Community Association and express our gratitude about how well we had been received into the area. Austin informed the meeting that since Ronnie had discussed this with him last week he had tried to get contact details through the Carrick Community Forum but understood the organisation was inactive. It was therefore agreed to follow this up in the context of the community centre plans. As well as the arrangements agreed in 7.7.09 it was also agreed that the Secretary should try to arrange a reconvened extension of the current meeting specifically to deal with the Allotments Watch matter as agreed in

7.4.09

The meeting closed