

EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION
Monthly Committee Meeting
Carrickfergus Town Hall
3rd June 2009 – 7.00 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

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

In Attendance

Stephen Daye

6.1.09 Apologies

None

6.2.09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th May 2009 were proposed by Andrew and seconded by John and adopted as a true record by the meeting

6.3.00 Matters Arising

Under 5.5.09 on the matter of the site clean up Phil reported that there had been a good turn out and things went well but that there was some concern about bulkier items near the car parking area. Maxine stated that these were left for recycling and Richard thought that though this was a good idea it should be more formally arranged. Raymond understood that there was supposed to be an area for this between fields C and D and it was agreed that this should be investigated further. *Austin*

Phil also reported that he had completed the larger communal notice board which had required £50 of material costs etc. and had passed it on to the Council for erection on the site. It was agreed to reimburse Phil for his expenditure and he will meet with Ivan to sort out the appropriate paperwork. *Phil/Ivan*

6.4.09 Correspondence

Myrtle reported that she had received confirmation from the Council for the funding of the Fun Day on the 8th August and it was agreed that this should be incorporated into the budgets being used by the working group in planning the event. *Myrtle*

6.5.09 Reports and Liaison with Council

Since Stephen Daye was present it was agreed that this item would be dealt with verbally at the meeting. Myrtle as chair then again welcomed Stephen and he began by informing the committee that Gail Kelly would be working with him in helping with the Allotments Week activities in August. He was particularly interested in arranging a meeting with the Fun Day Sub Committee and Myrtle said that she would chase this up as soon as practicable

Myrtle

There then followed some discussion on the inclusion of commercial services such as food and craft stalls and Steven indicated that these would need Council approval but that any money raised in the form of sponsorship or other charges could be retained by the Association, and that the details of these matters could be dealt with by the sub committee.

The matter of plowholders fences was then raised and Stephen stated that as well as aesthetic and access issues the rules developed and implemented in the Councils lease document were mainly due to planning constraints coming from the DoE Planning Service. Following some further prolonged discussion on this it was agreed that Stephen would attend the coming AGM to clarify the Councils position. On the question of roads and drainage he indicated that the road/pathway improvements were currently out to tender and that the overall site drainage was still under review. With regard to further supplies of Council compost he stated that he hoped to make some of this available in the year if the site budget allowed. Finally he reported that he received correspondence about heart and stroke emergency training for site volunteers and would pass this on to the committee.

Also he and Alderman Beattie had attended an event in the Model Primary School where there had been an interest expressed in some pupil involvement with the site Raymond pointed out that those involved from out end would need police vetting and Pauline; Austin and; Maxine stated that they had passed the appropriate vetting procedures and it was agreed that Pauline would follow this up further. *Pauline*

6.6.09 New Agenda Items

There were no new agenda items at this meeting

6.7.09 Work Programme Items

Myrtle welcomed the very worthwhile Hedgerows Biodiversity Report from its working group comprising John Phil and Raymond, and John mentioned that since he was also currently professionally carrying out a hedgerow survey in Donegal he could give a series of talks on these issues and any monies raised could go to the Association. Austin also welcomed the report and hoped it would remain a living document to be expanded and added to in the future particularly with respect to shelter and permacultural matters. It was agreed that the report should be forwarded to the Council for comment and action. *Austin*

6.8.09 Site Conditions – Drainage and Pathways

It was agreed that this item had been dealt with in 6.5.09

6.9.09 Fun Day Accounts & New Grant Application

It was agreed that this item had been dealt with in 6.4.09 and noted that last years monies was now in the Associations bank account.

6.10.09 Annual General Meeting

Austin stated that there were a number of items needing resolved with respect to the AGM specifically the matters of invited guests; a possible guest speaker and the preparation of the Annual Report and Accounts. Following some discussion it was decided that no guests or guest speaker be invited and a sub-committee comprising of Richard; Pauline; Austin; and Ivan was formed to prepare and arrange the publication of the Annual Report.

6.11.09 New Items

As indicated in 6.6.09 there were no new items and Myrtle took the opportunity since this was the last meeting of the committee to thank everyone for their hard work during the year. Raymond also proposed a vote of thanks to Myrtle for her work as Chairperson particularly with respect to liaison with other local bodies such as the Garden Society and the Community Forum and this was supported unanimously by the rest of the committee.

6.12.09 Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

There was no further business and it was decided that the arrangements for forthcoming meetings should be left to the new committee elected at the AGM

The meeting closed.