

EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION
Monthly Committee Meeting
Carrickfergus Town Hall 11th March 2009

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Myrtle Fraser (Chair)
Gary McCabe (Vice Chair)
Austin Herron (Secretary)
Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)
John Wann
Maxine Law
Richard Cochrane
Pauline Whittley
Raymond Hanna

3.1.09 Apologies

Phil Allen

3.2.09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 4th February 2009 as presented were proposed as a true copy by John and seconded by Gary and adopted unanimously by the meeting

3.3.00 Matters Arising

It was agreed that the Secretary should write to Billy Ashe and thank him for attending. There were no other matters arising

3.4.09 Correspondence

Austin indicated that he had received email from Stephen Daye regarding the National Allotments Week in August and suggesting another Fun Day event and it was agreed that Stephen be invited to the next meeting to discuss this and other outstanding matters.

3.5.09 Reports and Liaison with Council

There were no meetings this month largely due to Stephen Daye being in holiday for some of the time and Austin also being away on business.

3.6.09 New Agenda Items

There were no new items requested

3.7.09 Work Programme Items

Pauline apologised for the fact that she and Ivan had again failed to meet and follow up on the procurement policy and other matters

3.8.09 Site Conditions – Drainage and Pathways

There has been considerable concern about the pathways and drainage on the site expressed verbally to various committee members and posted on the website forum. Austin indicated that as far as he understood the situation the Council had agreed to some form of upgrade but not a full-blown roadway. Gary felt that we should seek wider clarification of what the plot holders want and what the cost implications might be for the agreed solution. Maxine was concerned that people should be encouraged to walk as much as possible since part of the allotments pastime was to improve peoples health. She felt the site should be closed to motorised traffic from the top car park. There was further discussion on these approaches around access for deliveries; emergency vehicles and disability access. It was finally agreed that Steven Daye should be requested to provide the best solution to meet these objective for consideration by the membership and that Austin should post a discussion item on the web page forum for feedback from the membership.

3.9.09 Fun Day Accounts for Grant Application

Ivan presented an account for the costs of the Fun Day last year which the committee discussed and approved and it was agreed that Ivan and Myrtle should approach the council to get the grant paid relating to this expenditure.

3.10.09 Structures on Site

Austin indicated that with the loss of the application to the Northern Board he had located another possible source for some form of communal building through the Peace 111 shared space grants and it was agreed that he should proceed with an appropriate expression of interest on behalf of the Association. He also reported that he had been successful in getting support from the Ulster Allotments Trust for a deliver box at the entrance to the site.

3.11.09 Membership Fees & Payments

It was suggested that it might be useful to deal with this along with the next item and this was agreed

3.12.09 Field D and General Meeting

With the opening up of the new organics field and the expansion of field C there has been a considerable growth in plot holders and there have been some suggestions on the forum and elsewhere that it might be worthwhile to hold an early AGM or special general meeting to bring everyone up to speed about the history and nature of the Association. Following some detailed discussion where concerns were expressed about upsetting the working and financial year of the organisation and the costs and status of Association membership it was agreed to organise an General information meeting where these matters could be explored and carried forward to a formal general meeting if required.

3.13.09 Any Other Business

John suggested that it might be possible to secure some funding towards an exchange visit to Dublin and agreed to explore this and report back to a future meeting. Maxine also indicated that there was a rumour that B&Q in Newtownabbey might be closing and that if this was the case we might be able to seek materials for donation for general use on the site.

There was no further business and the meeting closed