

EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION
Monthly Committee Meeting
Carrickfergus Town Hall

Minutes of Meeting (May 2009)

Present:

Myrtle Fraser (Chair)
Austin Herron (Secretary)
Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)
John Wann
Phil Allen
Pauline Whittley
Raymond Hanna
Andrew Gault
Brian Kelly

Before beginning the meeting Myrtle welcomed the two new co-opted members Andrew and Brian and introduced them to the rest of the committee. Austin reported that due to holidays and other commitments he had been unable to make direct contact with Tony Leopold but hoped to get fuller contact details for the next meeting.

5.1.09 Apologies

Gary McCabe (Vice Chair)
Richard Cochrane

5.2.09 Minutes

Matters of accuracy were raised on point 4.5.09 where the contact name should read Johnston not Gibson and on 4.7.09 where it was pointed out that the report concerned primarily biodiversity in the hedgerows and 4.9.09 where there had been discussion on the necessary seasonal nature of the work. It was agreed to incorporate changes to reflect these points and the minutes so amended were then passed for posting on the Forum
Austin

5.3.00 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not covered by agenda items

5.4.09 Correspondence

The committee noted an email from Gary McCabe indicating his intention to stand down from the committee and as Vice-Chair at the next AGM due to work commitments. It was agreed to record an expression of thanks in the record for Gary's contribution to the work of the Association and Austin was requested to draft a letter for Myrtle to sign on behalf of the committee. Austin also reported letters from Newtownabbey Council rejecting our Peace 3 application, Ronnie Allen about membership and the AGM., and Carrick Community Forum These would be dealt with where appropriate under other agenda items,

5.5.09 Reports and Liaison with Council

Myrtle reported that she had met with Stephen Daye and submitted an events funding application for a Fun Day during National Allotments Week in August, when it is possible Allotments Regeneration Trust members will visit. It is hoped that this will be bigger and better than last year and it would be important to begin as soon as possible to look at activities in detail. Myrtle felt we should try to increase the involvement of other groups such as the East Antrim Bee Keepers, and possibly individuals with craft stalls. Andrew thought it would be worthwhile if the Association itself had a stall to possibly sell veggie-boxes to help our funds, and Phil thought plant swaps could be included in this also. Ivan raised concerns about the reduced room for things with the expansion of plots on the site and Brian felt this might also cause parking problems.

Following further discussion it was proposed by Pauline and seconded by Phil that a Sub Committee be established to co-ordinate the organisation of the event and this should include Myrtle, Andrew and Raymond and possibly Tony if willing and this was agreed by the Committee. Myrtle also reported that the Council are going to fund the Garden Society to provide an Allotments prize and that Steven Daye will send details out with the next mailing. The possible visit by the Dublin Allotments group had been raised with the Council and John reported that there might be problems about the July date and he would keep the Committee informed. Andrew asked about more nearby local groups and Austin indicated that he has been trying to build up local contacts for information exchange. Myrtle reported that she had been contacted by an RNIB group in Londonderry who are trying to develop specialist allotments provision and Austin agreed to follow this up and give any advice or support available.

There is to be a site spring clean up on Saturday and Sunday eleventh and twelfth between 11.00 a.m, and 2.00p.m. and everyone is asked to attend and help if available. Finally termination notices have been issued to eleven ploholders who have not paid this year's fee.

With respect to queries to be raised Brian felt it would be useful if we could get some form of ethnic breakdown of site usage to help us with fundraising, Phil felt we need further clarification on membership fees, an improved notice board when/if more compost will be provided, fuller details on the hedgerow planting scheme, and he stressed the issue of clean toilets which had been raised at the information evening. Finally Brian requested that the timing of the installation of the water taps in Field be raised again, and Austin reported that he understood from Stephen Daye that there was a works order sitting with the Councils buildings section but would raise this as a matter of urgency for the next meeting

Austin

5.6.09 New Agenda Items

There were no new agenda items

5.7.09 Work Programme Items

The main outstanding item was the hedgerows biodiversity report by John, Phil, and Raymond and it was agreed that this be tabled for full discussion at the next meeting

5.8.09 Site conditions – Drainage and Pathways

The water tap situation had already been noted and Myrtle reported that new Pathways were to be in by the summer. Brian felt that the site drainage needed fuller investigation.

Austin

5.5.09 Fun Day Accounts and New Grant Application

As already reported a new grant had been lodged for the forthcoming Fun Day in August, and Ivan reported that he had been in touch with the Council and expected the £600 residue from last year to be lodged within the next ten days. *Ivan*

5.10.09 Annual General Meeting

Austin indicated that he had had a number of queries both written and verbal regarding an Annual General Meeting some pointing out that the Associations current constitution required this to happen before the end of May. Myrtle and others felt that this would not be possible at this time. Andrew felt that most people would not be overly concerned if there was a little slippage so long as the event happened sooner rather than later. Following some discussion it was decided to try for the end of June and a provisional date of Thursday 25th was agreed. Austin was requested to make the appropriate arrangements for this date. There was also some discussion regarding the venue and Myrtle felt we might want to consider the Church Hall used by the Garden Society in Eden and agreed to look into this possibility. *Myrtle Austin*

5.11.09 Items from Information Evening Meeting

Myrtle felt that the information meeting had not been particularly successful there had been a lot of bad feeling and misunderstanding. Phil agreed and thought that the way the sound system was used and the seating plan had not helped. Pauline thought that people had not taken the opportunity to fully inform themselves on the issues, and Andrew thought the main problem was a lack of overall communication. Some of the main issues noted were request for more free compost paid for by the council or committee; rejection of any sort of communal building such as a portacabin; proper toilet facilities with adequate hand washing facilities; water taps for field D; some basic communications on the nature of the Association perhaps by pinning a note on each plot holders sign, and the consideration of a general usage skip for the site. Following some further discussion it was agreed that where appropriate these issues would be raised with the Council and discussed at the next meeting for incorporating into a report for the AGM *Austin*

5.12.09 Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting closed.