

## **EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION**

Monthly Committee Meeting  
Carrickfergus Town Hall  
Wednesday 4th November 2009

### **Minutes of Meeting**

Present

Ronnie Allen (Chairperson)  
Melanie Brown (Vice – Chair)  
Austin Herron (Secretary)  
Pauline Whittlely  
Myrtle Fraser  
Andrew Gault  
Stephen Kinnon  
Freddie Blair  
Bill Dick  
Brenda Cameron  
Phil Allen

In Attendance

Jenny Harbourne  
Richard Williamson

#### **11.1.09 Apologies**

Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)  
Maxine Law

#### **11.2.09 Minutes**

The minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 were proposed as a true record by Andrew Gault and seconded by Stephen Kinnon and adopted as a true record by the meeting

#### **11.3.09 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered by agenda items

#### **11.4.09 Correspondence**

The Secretary presented four items of correspondence – A letter from Google regarding our web site; a letter from the TV licensing authority; a memo from Stephen Daye regarding items left on the edges of the plot fields and a letter from the Inland Revenue regarding our Associations possible charitable status. It was decided that the first items should be passed on to Stephen Daye the second needed no further action, the third item was noted for the record and the last item should be put on as an agenda item for further discussion at the next meeting.

### **11.5.09 Liaison with Council**

The Chair reported on his meeting with Stephen Daye where he had discussed the matters of disposal of diseased plant material by burning and the calendar he had provided for events for the coming year till the AGM in May. He said that while Stephen could not give official approval to site incinerators he did not feel small scale burning would be a problem so long as common sense was applied. He also agreed the events calendar and agreed to list the items in the Digit magazine.

### **11.6.09 Reports from Sub-Committees**

Phil began by giving an update on the Bio-diversity proposals and said he had worked up a plan for enhancing the hedgerows through the activities around National Tree Week he also suggested that we should approach the Council to encourage the removal of as much briar as possible. Following some discussion on appropriate it was proposed by Andrew that we ask for sixty trees as specified by Phil for planting on 5<sup>th</sup> December as indicated on a map he will provide and this was seconded by Ronnie and agreed by the committee

Mel reported on the fundraising sub-committee and said that they were presently looking at three areas. Firstly there was a seeding grant of £75 available from the Council which she proposed we should apply for, and Phil seconded this and the committee agreed. Secondly the Health Board have opened up a suicide prevention awards scheme and she thought we might wish to look at this in conjunction with some local schools and the use of a communal plot though Stephen felt we might consider a two plot size. Following some further discussion, Bill proposed we apply for this and Ronnie seconded and it was agreed by the rest of the committee. Thirdly she indicated that she felt there was a possibility of one of the Lottery Grants being applicable for the acquisition of a communal building and some tools and equipment and Bill proposed that we apply for this funding and Pauline seconded his proposal and the committee agreed.

With respect to the external relations sub-committee Myrtle reported that she had had further discussions with the Garden Society on vegetable prizes next year and would try to work these into the new agreed calendar of activities. They had also raised a contact enquiry they have had from a group in South Carolina USA and will bring further information on this to future meetings as it becomes available.

### **11.7.09 Fun Day Finances**

The financial breakdown for the annual Fun Day is now complete and has again shown to be a great success with a welcome addition to the Associations resources. It was felt that everyone who made the effort to make this happen was to be congratulated and it was proposed by Austin and seconded by Bill that these details with a full income and expenditure breakdown be posted on the Association notice board and the web page forum and this was agreed by the committee.

### **11.8.09 Ruda Slaska Follow-Up**

Austin explained that he had put this item on the agenda to get some form of direction on how proceed. Following some discussion it was agreed that the committee itself was not interested in taking things any further but if any group or individuals were interested then they would be supported in their endeavours and it was further agreed to make all contact details etc. available through appropriate channels

### **11.9.09 Dogs and Dog Warden**

Austin reported that he had been in touch with staff in the dig pound at Milebush discussing some allotment holders concerns about dog fouling and associated health issues on the site. There was also some concerns expressed about the confused signage on the site and following some brief discussion it was decided to keep the matter under review

### **11.10.09 Conservation Volunteers Lottery Bid**

Concern was expressed by all members about the lack of consultation around our association's non consultation and misleading support information regarding the Conservation Volunteers Lottery bid for work on the site. Following some discussion it was decided to seek further clarification on the matter at the next liaison meeting with Stephen Daye.

### **11.11.09 Committee Members Expenditure & Expenses**

It was noted for the record that the Treasurer had produced a form to cover members claims for reimbursement of out of pocket expenses and that this would be put in a more detailed procedural context in due course as part of a broader cash handling policy.

### **11.12.09 Communal Procurement**

Ronnie pointed out that since we had now established a calendar of events that we might wish to revisit the question of jointly purchasing seeds for the New Year. Austin provided the meeting with copies of the Which Magazine research on seed suppliers and following some further general discussion it was decided to put the matter on next months agenda, for further discussion..

### **11.13.09 Any Other Business & Date of Next Meeting**

There were some concerns raised over the fences issues' regarding safety matters and it was agreed raise this at the next liaison meeting

Next meeting confirmed as agreed would be the pre Christmas Meeting  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 – 7.00 p.m.  
Carrickfergus Town Hall – Committee Room 2.

There was no further business and the meeting closed.