

EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION
Monthly Committee Meeting
Carrickfergus Town Hall

Minutes of Meeting 2nd September 2009

Present:

Ronnie Allen (Chairperson)
Melanie Brown (Vice - Chair)
Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)
Muriel Phillips
Myrtle Fraser
Stephen Kinnon
Pauline Whittley
Freddy Blair
Brenda Cameron
Phil Allen
Thomas Howells
Maxine Law

9.1.09 Apologies

Austin Herron (Secretary)
Andrew Gault
Bill Dick

9.2.09 Minutes

The minutes of 5th August 2009 were proposed by Phil Allen and seconded by Myrtle Fraser and adopted as a true record by the meeting

9.3.09 Matters Arising

Under item 8.11.09 Phil thought that the Councils proposal to look at our bio-diversity report in a working group should be part of a five year rolling plan and this was agreed in principle to be raised when the sub-committee meets with Stephen Daye. It was also agreed in this context that Phil would re-supply copies to all members of the committee..

9.4.09 Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted by the committee

Letter from Stephen Daye on Fences

Letter from Stephen Daye on Autumn Clean Up; Tree Week; Biodiversity; and the Dig-it Newsletter submissions

Letter from Dublin Group Thanking committee for hospitality on Fun Day

It was agreed that the Fences matter should be dealt with under Sub Committee Reports (9.6.09) ; the newsletter items referred to Austin. Work on Biodiversity will b progressed by Phil as discussed in 9.3.09 above; Austin and Myrtle will find out more about Tree Week and companion planting; and Ronnie will get further information on

the Autumn Clean up. When these matters are clarified a formal response can be made.

In the context of the letter from the Dublin group which was noted with gratitude the gift of the bowl was also considered and it was agreed that this should be used as a competition trophy in forthcoming years and that Ronnie should have care of it in the meantime. Muriel agreed to look into the acquisition of an appropriate stand for this and report back to the committee

9.5.09 Reports and Liaison with Council

Apart from the items below (9.6.09) there was nothing to report

9.6.09 Reports from Sub Committees & Working Groups

Ronnie reported that the fences sub-committee met with Stephen Daye on 17th August. After looking at a number of fences, screens, windbreaks. It was proposed from the committee that a permanent fence 1 meter high leaving one side of the plot open would be a possible solution This was not acceptable to Stephen. After further clarification on height restrictions for temporary structures for temporary seasonal vegetables the meeting broke up. Stephen to follow up with a more detailed document containing proposed new guidelines/rules in regard to screens, temporary and permanent fencing, hedges etc. These details are now available to all members of the committee in Stephens letter of 15th August detailed above (9.4.09). Following a full discussion by the committee it was decided that any plot holder seeking further clarification on where they stood regarding fences should contact Stephen Daye through his office

Myrtle reported that with regards to external liaison she had had a brief meeting with a group who were looking at the benefits of forming some type of greater Belfast allotments and community gardens forum. At present this was simply an initial exploratory meeting which might meet again when people have had time to report back to their respective groups. It was agreed that she should continue with such contacts and keep the committee informed of any further developments

Mel reported on the work of the Fundraising Sub Committee which had been looking at a Big Lottery bid for some form of communal building such as a portacabin. Tommy informed the committee on his follow up on structures like this available in England and on being put off on the prohibitive delivery costs. Mel said that she had been following up on the haulage containers in the Council courtyard and in discussions with Norman Huston he had asked if we had any finances to offer towards this item. Tommy pointed out that Lottery Funding could not be used for this as it would only cover new items. Tommy thought we might need to go back to the drawing board and perhaps apply for equipment rather than a building. Mel also indicated that as far as immediate meeting space was concerned she had been offered use of rooms at the Green Spaces Garden Centre at Milebush and would provide more information at the next meeting

9.7.09 Fun Day Issues

Ivan reported that he had a present balance of funds of £1344 but not all bills had been paid. There was some confusion regarding the meal in the Joymount Arms and the Bouncy Castle. Pauline said she would try to clarify the Joymount Arms matter and Myrtle indicated that there was also a question of scones provided at the allotments tied up in this and requested clarification. Ivan agreed to provide a financial update for the next meeting.

9.8.09 Allotments Watch

It was noted that Ian Keatley had agreed to act as co-ordinator and that following his police clearance that he would be invited to the appropriate committee meeting to discuss the development of the initiative

9.9.09 Meeting with Ruda Slaska Group

It was noted that the officers of the committee had met with a delegation from Carrickfergus twinned town in Poland and that one of them as Chair of a large local allotments group had expressed an interest in exploring further contacts and possible organisational twinning. Following further discussion it was agreed that Austin should make these details known to the wider membership to ascertain if any members are interested in exploring this further.

9.10.09 New Agreed Agenda Items

There were no new agenda items

9.10.09 Any Other Business & Date of Next Meeting

Some concerns were voiced regarding dog fouling and the activities (or lack of) by the dog warden and it was agreed to include this matter as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Next meeting confirmed as agreed – Town Hall - 7.00 p.m. – 7th October 2009

There was no further business and the meeting closed