

EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION
Monthly Committee Meeting
Carrickfergus Town Hall

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 13th January 2010

Present:

Melanie Brown (Vice Chair)
Austin Herron (Secretary)
Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)
Muriel Phillips
Myrtle Fraser
Maxine Law
Freddie Blair
Stephen Kinnon
Pauline Whittley
Brenda Cameron
Phil Allen

In Attendance

Richard Williamson
Clive Kavanagh
John Wann
Desi Frazer

1.1.10 Apologies

Ronnie Allen (Chair)
Andrew Gault
Bill Dick

1.2.10 Minutes

Mel felt that the wording of the minute in 12.5.09 did not properly reflect what was said regarding her involvement in the meeting with Alderman Ashe and following a brief discussion it was agreed to amend the minutes to include the wording "Mel stated that she had called a meeting with Billy Ashe" as the second sentence in the item. The minutes as amended were then proposed by Ivan Johnston and seconded by Pauline Whittley and adopted, by the meeting as a true record

1.3.00 Matters Arising

Brenda asked about the Storage container (item 12.9.08) and it was decided to leave discussion on this until later in the meeting since it was down as an agenda item. Austin reported under (12.8.09) that he had been proceeding with further legal advice and the committee again confirmed their support for the charitable group and request to be kept informed

1.4.10 Correspondence

Austin reported that he had correspondence from the Carrickfergus Forum regarding child protection training. Brenda stated that she might be interested and would possibly attend if the course was suitable and it was agreed to follow up on the details. There was also correspondence received from some members requesting an Extraordinary General Meeting and it was agreed that this should be dealt with more fully under agenda item 7.

1.5.10 Reports and Liaison with Council

There were no further matters to report on this matter

1.6.10 Reports from Sub Committees & Working Groups

The Biodiversity report reply is still outstanding from the council and some of the hedgerow saplings still need planted out.

Regarding the outside liaison sub group Myrtle reported that the Garden Society were willing to sponsor a prize for allotment cultivators and the Northern Ireland Vegetable Growers were also eager to accept entries. Anyone with any interest should contact her. There were no further reports for this meeting.

1.7.10 Requests for Extraordinary General Meeting

Austin reported on the correspondence previously referred to and explained that as secretary he had received a request for an extraordinary meeting and having clarified some matters regarding the members concerned and the agenda for the meeting was now in apposition to proceed following a number of items being cleared up at the current meeting. These concerned Timing: Motions; Proxies and Organisational/Cost matters. With respect to timing he said that with the correspondence over the holiday period and the time delay this involved he felt it would now be impracticable to stick to a 30 day schedule from receipt of the first letter for calling the meeting. Following some discussion including Ricky as one of the request signatories it was agreed that the meeting be called for Wednesday 17th February. Desi asked who should attend and it was felt that all ploholders should be invited though some people felt that only Association members should be allowed to attend.

Austin felt this also fed into the other matters which needed resolved.. He felt the meeting would be better focused if the people concerned could frame their business in the form of a motion or proposition but they were unwilling to do this. Maxine asked for clarification from Rickey but he stated he was unwilling to expand any further on the background to his views. Given that the background seemed to be related in some way with the committee Austin proposed and Ivan seconded a motion of confidence in the committee for proposal at the meeting. He felt that this would give the committee the chance to take collective responsibility, and resign on block if it was not upheld by the membership. Ivan also felt that if this was the case then it would be inappropriate for any of the current committee to seek reelection as it was a group entity from which people were able to resign at any earlier stage if they disagreed with their fellow members activities. The motion was agreed for submission on the EGM agenda.

He further suggested that given the seriousness of the issue that the meetings of this committee be suspended until the EGM was held following discussion vote was then held which was in favor of holding the next meeting, based of the Chairs casting vote.

The issue of Proxy voting forms was also discussed since there was no direction on this matter on way or the other in the constitution. It was pointed out that there could be some problems arising under disability legislation if it was not allowed. John asked if we could not simply have postal voting but it was pointed out that this could only work where there was a clear fixed agenda with specific proposals. Following further discussion it was agreed to provide proxy forms along with the meeting notices. Finally on organisation and costs, Austin pointed out that there would be costs to carrying forward these arrangements particularly if it was to be carried forward on a number of occasions during the year. Muriel stated that she would help with the administration and Ivan said he would make monies available from the Associations account for postage etc.

1.8.10 Storage Container etc.

Due to the ongoing relationship problems with the Council it had been difficult to get further clarification of the insurance issues surrounding the use of the Container. Mel agreed to ring Norman Huston and clarify who could meet with Stephen Daye in order to move this forward.

1.10.10 Any Other Business & Date of Next Meeting

Ricky said that there was a possibility of him securing an eight berth caravan for use on the site. Mel welcomed this offer as chair of the meeting and suggested it be explored further.

Next meeting confirmed as agreed
Carrickfergus Town Hall - 3rd February 2010
Committee Room 2 - 7.00.p.m.

There was no further business and the meeting closed