

EDEN ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION

Carrickfergus Town Hall 1st October 2008

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Myrtle Fraser (Chair)
Gary McCabe (Vice Chair)
Austin Herron (Secretary)
Maxine Law
Pauline Whittley
Phil Allen
Raymond Hanna
Richard Cochrane

1.1.08 Apologies

John Wann
Ivan Johnston (Treasurer)

1.2.08 – 1.3.08 Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Since this was the first meeting of the new committee there were no minutes of previous meetings or matters arising and Myrtle opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and particularly Philip: Raymond: and Richard who had not been involved with the interim committee.

1.4.08 Correspondence

The committee noted a letter from Sammy Wilson M.P. apologizing for being unable to attend the Associations open day.

1.5.08 Reports and Liaison with Council

There were no reports and three points were tabled for raising with the Council. These were:-

1. The leaking stand pipe beside plot B4
2. The holes in the fence alongside fields A and C and,
3. Possible availability of Council Polytunnels and other materials

Austin agreed to discuss these matters with Stephen Daye

Action AH

1.6.08 New Agenda Items

Three new Items were tabled by Phil – Seed Swaps; Shelter Belts; and Wildflower Areas and agreed to be added to the end of the agenda as new items 13; 14; and 15, respectively

1.7.08 Appointment of Professional Advisers

Myrtle indicated that one of the first tasks of the new committee would be to acquire profession services for the new Association such as a solicitor, accountant, insurance broker and most urgently the setting up of a bank account. Following some discussion it was agreed that the members should canvass wider views and come back with suggestions for the next meeting. On the question of banking services and following further discussion it was agreed to open an account with the Northern Bank in Carrickfergus and that the account signatories should be any two of the three officers – Chairperson (Myrtle Fraser); Treasurer (Ivan Johnston) and Secretary (Austin Herron) this was proposed by Gary McCabe and seconded by Pauline Whittlely and unanimously adopted by the meeting

Action – MF; IJ; AH

1.8.08 Administrative Items documentation

Austin agreed to provide the next meeting with examples of letterheads membership cards minute layouts etc to cover the day to day work of the committee and association

Action – AH

1.9.08 Work Programme for Year

It was felt that the committees activities could be m be better and more systematically organised if a number of longer term items were highlighted and prioritized for the group to focus on during the year, and members could bring suggestions to the next meeting.

1.10.08 Use of Field D

Austin explained that Stephen Daye had approached him regarding the opening up of Field D which is the one beside field C and above field A, for new plots. The Council is considering making it exclusively organic and would like the associations opinion on this approach. Following some discussion Austin was requested to get further information and clarification for discussion at the next meeting

Action – AH

1.11.08 Manure Offers and Transport

Austin indicated that he had been contacted by a number of people regarding offers of free manures, but a major difficulty was one of transport to the allotments site. Myrtle pointed out that there were some recent reports of dangers with some farmyard manures. Phil suggested that we should seek further clarification on this, possibly through the Council and also enquire about the supply of further compost.

1.12.08 Notice Board and Mailbox

There had been some discussion at the interim committee about the use of the notice board and following further discussion and clarification it was decided that apart from committee documents (notices; minutes; agendas etc) all other material should have prior approval by the committee. It was also agreed that Austin should research the provision of an onsite mailbox to allow us to move away from the Civic Centre care of address

Action – AH

1.13.08 Seed Swaps

Phil pointed out that many people were buying seeds for their plots which were more than they needed and felt that the committee might look at some way of organising swaps. Gary also felt that we should look at bulk buying and Myrtle said she had access to a number of catalogues which could be made available. Raymond felt we should look at some way to let members know about this and how to get them.

1.14.08 Shelter Belts

Phil thought that one area the committee could look at for longer range activity was tree and hedge planting to create shelter. If used properly the approach could also be used for security and cropping. Pauline felt this would be a very useful longer term item but would need to be properly thought out and planned systematically and comprehensively if it was to achieve full benefits and suggested approaching the Woodland Trust for advice. Raymond suggested that the Department of Agriculture also had some details on this and he would try to find out more.

1.15.08 Wildflowers

Phil said he had details on wildflowers including seed sources and creating wildflower areas could help us meet the Councils biodiversity requirements. Myrtle felt this could also be looked at for longer term action.

1.16.08 Any Other Business & Date & Place of Next Meeting

Raymond queried any information other members had on a local Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Group taking a plot for their members No one had and Austin agreed to raise this with the Council. Maxine raised the issue of a Christmas party and Gary agreed to see if Greenisland Cricket Club was available. The date of the next and subsequent meetings was set for the first Wednesday of the month (Nov 5th) at 7.30 p.m. in the same venue – Carrickfergus Town Hall Committee Room 2.