

Jeremy Murray  
hems

Ex - Chairman's resignation.

MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN AGM

Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 6th March 1989, at 27  
Montpelier Square, London SW7 at 6.30 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Mr J Mackay-Lewis (Chairman)  
Mrs C Mackay-Lewis Mrs L Macdonagh  
Lady Marshall Lord Barber  
Mr D Eckhardt Mr S Macdonagh  
Mrs J Bredenkamp Mr N Davie-Thornhill  
Mrs Deschamps Mr Goletka  
Mr Anley Mrs O'Brien  
Mr Kolker-Fordund Mrs Slotover  
Mr O'Brien Mr Mann-Quirici  
Mr Siegh

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr and Mrs Willett,  
Sir Anthony Swann, Mrs Denton, Mr Bradley, Mrs Didizian,  
Mr Ibrahim El Tayeb, Mr O'Edin and Mr Waterhouse.

**Minutes of the AGM held 22/6/88**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 22nd June 1988 were approved, and  
signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**Chairman's Report**

Following the AGM on 22nd June 1988, intensive work was carried  
out by Lady Marshall and her sub committee in interviewing  
gardeners, so that a comparative analysis could be made before  
the new garden contract was placed.

The committee met on 7th December and discussed the implication  
of the new poll tax and investigations into gardening  
contractors. It was apparent by then that there was a  
considerable amount of work to be done to the garden, which would  
necessitate the precept being increased. Tree surgery was also  
required and Lady Marshall said she would get in touch with the  
Westminster City Council in this respect. Insurance for third  
party public liability was increased from £250,000 to £500,000,  
covering any number of claims arising out of one cause.  
Corporation tax was being investigated by Mr David Eckhardt.

The committee met on 30th January 1989 to discuss Lady Marshall's  
report of the Montpelier Square sub committee. Following which  
the committee decided to place the gardening contract with Doorn  
Landscapes. The precept was further discussed and it was agreed  
to circulate all members of the Square with the committee's  
recommendation to raise the precept to 20p in the £ in order that  
they might have time to vote on this on a house by house basis  
prior to the AGM. The matter of railings was discussed and it  
was agreed to postpone this until the outcome of the current  
precept discussion. The papers concerning the railings were

passed to Mr Davie-Thornhill.

The Chairman spoke to the City Treasurer and warned him that the residents wished to increase the precept and he is awaiting the outcome of today's meeting. The committee, through Lesley Belton, considered the rating position of the Square under the new local government Finance Act 1988, the ownership of the Square and the liability aspects.

Mr Akers, the Principal Arboricultural Officer of Westminster City Council carried out a survey of the garden and reported on 27th February, copies of which are available.

### Financial Report

Concern was expressed about the presentation of the Financial Report. It was suggested that Lord Barber, Mr Eckhardt and Sir Colin Marshall form a sub committee with Mr Deschamps to revise the accounts. This motion was proposed by No. 3 and seconded by No. 11

### Garden Precept

The Chairman spoke about the work required to improve the state of the garden, and the need to obtain additional funds to carry out this work. The result of the circular sent to each household, requesting confirmation on whether the precept should be increased to 20p in the £ was disclosed. Only one household did not agree to this increase.

Lady Marshall spoke about the garden work that required to be carried out, and a report from the City of Westminster Tree Surgeon was circulated amongst those present. Various quotations have been received by Lady Marshall, and these were compared and discussed. The sub committee will decide which tree surgeon to appoint. It was also agreed that the majority of the proposed tree surgery would be carried out this year, however the decision on the fate of the large plane tree will be deferred until all the other work has been completed.

### Change of the Garden Contractor

The Committee took it upon themselves to obtain tenders for carrying out the garden maintenance, and Doorn Landscapes were subsequently appointed. The Chairman asked if there were any objections to this decision, and none were received.

### Planting

Lady Marshall spoke about the suggestions made by the garden contractors with regard to pruning and planting. It was felt prudent to carry out all pruning and repair initially, before deciding on what planting was necessary. The garden furniture requires attention, and Lady Marshall has received a quotation for repairs to be carried out. However, more quotations will be obtained, and names of carpenters should be forwarded to Lady Marshall. The incidents of people trespassing in the garden was discussed. It was suggested that a sign saying "Private Garden" be erected. This suggestion was unanimously agreed. The type and location of the sign was discussed, and it was felt that bold

black lettering on a white background would be appropriate. Bolting this on to the gate would probably be the best solution, although a survey on the method neighbouring gardens adopt would be carried out before a final decision was made. The importance of key holders locking the gates after using the garden was emphasised. The subject of improving the gates was discussed, making them larger and more secure. This suggestion was agreed.

### Railings

Mr Davie-Thornhill had acquired some details on the subject of railings. However, he first spoke about the information he had gathered on the building of an underground carpark in the square. The Chairman steered the discussion back to the agenda item, and asked if all were in favour of the principle of the garden having railings. All agreed with this proposal.

The Chairman suggested a railings sub-committee be formed, and this was agreed. The members of the committee will be Mr Mann-Quirici, Mr Davie-Thornhill and Mr Mackay-Lewis.

### Garden Precept

In conclusion of the discussions so far, Sir Colin Marshall proposed the approval of the precept to 20p in the £, tree surgery is commenced, while there is acceptance of all the other works to be carried out in the garden, that should be held pending the determination of the accounts position, including the cash flow.

A discussion commenced on the order in which the remedial work should be carried out. It was proposed that the improvement to the gates should be included in the work package being organised by Lady Marshall and the gardening sub committee. This proposal was agreed.

### Election of Members of the Committee

Mr Eckhardt voiced his disapproval at the way the committee had carried out its duty of the management of the square, and proposed an entirely new committee be elected. Some of those present supported this statement, but it was not a unanimous feeling. Lord Barber proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for the work he had done over the past eleven years. The following members were voted onto the new committee by the AGM:-

Mr Eckhardt  
Mr Mann-Quirici  
Lady Marshall  
Mrs Deschamps  
Mrs Macdonagh  
Lord Barber  
Mr Davie-Thornhill  
Mr Mackay-Lewis  
Mrs Slotover

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged on Monday 13th March to elect the officers of the new committee.

MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Rate paying residents of Montpelier Square, held at 6.30.p.m. on Monday 6 March 1989 at 27 Montpelier Square, London. S.W.7.

Present: Please see note (1).

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:- see note (2).

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES of Annual General Meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 June 1988 be approved see note (3)

3) CHAIRMANS REPORT:

The Chairman reported on the developments which had taken place in the Square during the year, and in particular to the change in the Garden contractors and the extensive work which had been undertaken by the Garden Committee, under the chairmanship of Lady Marshall. see note (4).

4) APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS:

IT WAS RESOLVED that a sub-committee be appointed to review the accounts, and Lord Barber, Sir Colin Marshall and David Eckhardt were so appointed. They would report back to the committee. see note (5).

5) APPROVAL OF GARDEN PRECEPT:

IT WAS RESOLVED unanimously that the Garden Precept be increased from 5.6p in the £, to 20p in the £, and the Chairman undertook to advise Westminster Rating Authorities of this Resolution.

6) CHANGE OF GARDEN CONTRACTORS:

IT WAS RESOLVED that the change of Garden Contractors from Messrs.-----to-----be approved. see note (6).

7) TREE SURGERY and 8) PLANTING

Lady Marshall extensively advised the meeting as to the proposed remedial and improvement plans for the Garden. see note (6)

Contd:-

IT WAS RESOLVED unanimously that Lady Marshall had the mandate of the residents.

9) RAILINGS.

IT WAS RESOLVED unanimously that all residents wanted to re-instate the railings. This matter would have to be reviewed by the Committee to assess:-

- a) Cash flow priorities, when our exact income had been determined.
- b) Re-introducing the original style gates to match the proposed new railings.
- c) The availability of obtaining a Grant to assist with the re-introduction of railings.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee would appoint a sub-committee to report on the above matters.

10) ELECTION OF MEMBERS of the COMMITTEE.

In accordance with procedure, all Committee Members stood down, and after lively debate the following Committee Members were appointed. see note (8).

In alphabetical order:-

Lord Barber.  
Mrs. L. Belton-MacDonagh.  
Mrs. Deschamps.  
Mr. D. Eckhardt.  
Mr. Mackay-Lewis.  
Lady Marshall.  
Mrs. O'Brian.  
Mr. Mann-Quirici.  
Mrs. Slotover.  
Mr. N. Thornhill.

Sir Colin Marshall suggested that the Committee should annually appoint its officers, and it was so resolved. Lord Barber thanked the previous committee and its Chairman for services on behalf of the Square.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Mr. Mackay-Lewis should be acting Chairman until the new committee had arranged its first meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the first committee meeting would take place on Monday, 13 March 1989 at 6.30.p.m. at 29 Montpelier Square, S.W.7.

NOTES ON DRAFT MINUTES.

- Note No. (1) Jeremy arranged that the attendance sheets be signed and he will have the relevant list.
- No. (2) Could you please ask Jeremy for this list, I think that Mr. Deschamps should be formally included.
- No. (3) Perhaps you would want to include who proposed and seconded the adoption of the previous minutes. I somehow doubt whether this is necessary.
- No. (4) Perhaps you can discuss this precis with Jeremy, to see if he is in accord.
- No. (5) Perhaps an alternative way of dealing with this item would be 'IT WAS RESOLVED to postpone the approval of the Accounts, in view of the unavoidable absence of the Treasurer.
- No. (6) I don't have the full corporate names of the past and present contractors, perhaps Lady Marshall could fill in the gaps.
- No. (7) Could you please cover these points with Lady Marshall, to see if there are any errors and/or omissions.
- No. (8) I hope that the points are acceptable to everyone.