

MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN

Minutes of the Extraordinary Committee Meeting held at 27
Montpelier Square, London on Monday January 30th 1989 to
discuss Garden Contractors.

PRESENT: Mr J Mackay-Lewis (Chairman)
Mr B Deschamps (Treasurer)
Mrs M Willett (Secretary)
Lord Barber
Mrs O'Brien
Mrs L Belton
Mr D Eckhardt
Mrs C Mackay-Lewis
Lady J Marshall
Mr N Thornhill
Sir A Swann

Before the meeting commenced, general discussion took place regarding the number of people serving on the committee and those co-opted onto the committee. Mrs Belton offered to work further on this matter. Lord Barber and Sir Anthony Swann thanked Mrs Belton for her work in this area.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2 Minutes

Not approved. Mr Eckhardt wished to make various amendments. Lord Barber suggested amendments be discussed between the Chairman and Mr Eckhardt.

3. Financial Report

Mr B Deschamps talked through the Report. Discussion regarding raising the precept took place. It was agreed that the rise should be discussed at the A.G.M. The Chairman reported a cheque for £75 had been received for the damage suffered in the 1987 storm. Copies of the Royal Insurance cover were distributed - approval was proposed by Sir A Swann, seconded by Mrs C Mackay-Lewis.

4. Garden Contractors

Doorn Landscapes were adopted as gardeners approved by committee. Lady Marshall stated that the 'crisis' charge should not be related to maintenance charges and that increases in costs would be in line with inflation. It was agreed that Lady Marshall would supervise Doorn and she requested that decisions come to her directly.

5. Garden Improvements

Discussion took place regarding further expenditure. Lady Marshall reported on her meeting with Mr Akers the Arboricultural Officer from Westminster City Council, and stressed the importance of early attention to the trees. Mr Eckhardt suggested square railings and trees should be discussed concurrently. General discussion followed regarding raising funds for garden railings - doubling the precept, a supplementary precept, possible grant, canvassing all houses. Mrs Belton suggested a letter be sent to all residents stating that the saving on the Poll Tax might encourage spending on garden railings and improvements. Mr Eckhardt requested this be done before the A.G.M. The committee agreed raising the precept to 20 pence - carried unanimously. Lord Barber suggested a 'fall back' position of 15 pence.

6. Garden Furniture

Chairman suggested Lady Marshall use extra money for repairs - the position of the swing was generally considered unsatisfactory. Mrs Belton stated she did not wish the square to resemble a playground.

7. Perimeter Fencing

This would be delayed in view of proposed railings. Lady Marshall suggested the mended fencing should be painted.

8. Garden Sprinkler - Working

9. Garden Rules

Mr Eckhardt asked that young children playing with soft balls be permissible. Lady Marshall asked that a letter be sent to residents requesting their co-operation in care of the square.

10. City Treasurer's view on garden precept - discussed.

11. Liability Insurance

Mr Eckhardt requested an increase. Mrs Belton suggested seeking further advice.

12. Any Other Business

(a) Lord Barber thanked Mrs Willett for her work as Secretary. Her resignation was accepted. Lord Barber proposed Lady Marshall as Secretary. She agreed, on a temporary basis.

(b) Mr Thornhill suggested an underground car park in the Square. Sir A Swan stated the area was too small and the cost astronomical.

(c) Mrs L Belton gave information about the Poll Tax.

(d) Mr Eckhardt wished to discuss constitution of committee and persons able to vote at A.G.M. Mrs Belton and the Chairman agreed to gather further information.

DATE OF A.G.M. - Monday, 6th March 1989.