

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL TAX PAYING MEMBERS OF MONTPELIER SQUARE  
HELD ON THE 3 FEBRUARY 1993 AT 6.30 p.m.  
AT NUMBER 2 MONTPELIER SQUARE**

The Chairman, Lesley MacDonagh, was unavoidably absent due to an urgent business commitment. Lord Barber took the chair.

**1. Garden Chairman's report:**

There was no major work done in 1992 following the completion of the railings, the restoration of the path and the installation of the sprinkler system which all took place in 1991. The subjects discussed were as follows:

**a) Sycamore tree opposite No. 19**

Lady Marshall reported that the sycamore tree facing number 19 had to undergo emergency surgery as it has recently been up-rooted by strong winds. As she thinks there is hope that it will re-root, her recommendation, which was approved by the assembly, was to keep it and plant a new tree nearby.

**b) Alianthus tree opposite No. 14**

This is a weak tree leaning dangerously towards the houses. The recommendation of the Gardener is that it has to be severely lopped at the top or to be felled as it is thought to be a potential danger to the railings, cars and possibly houses. The decision made by the assembly was to fell it and to plant another tree in the same area but not as close to the garden perimeter.

**c) Old Alianthus tree opposite No. 30**

The tree surgeon confirmed a previous opinion that this tree must be removed within two years.

**Note:** Lady Marshall commented that by law trees in a conservation area that are uprooted or felled must be replaced.

**d) Tall thin old cherry tree in the North West corner lawn**

The gardener has found fungus around the roots. It was decided by the meeting that we should plant a new cherry tree as close as possible to this site.

**e) Lime trees at the East side**

Lady Marshall reported that they needed light pruning.

Marie-Christine Deschamps suggested planting evergreen trees and a discussion followed about different varieties which might be considered for replacing uprooted trees which would have different blooming periods.

It was decided that Lady Marshall should choose which variety to plant in order to keep the garden in harmony.

The Chairman thanked Lady Marshall for the excellent work achieved in the garden.

**2. Financial Report:**

The accounts were presented orally by David Eckhardt. Mr Eckhardt noted that the capital expenditure had been completed i.e. relating to the railings, sprinkler system and paths. He repeated that it had been a policy of the committee to maintain reserve funds to finance routine maintenance work in the garden. On the 31 March he indicated there would be an accumulated reserve of about £10,000 which should be carried forward as an emergency fund. The biggest cost for 1993 would relate exclusively to the maintenance and routine expenses. It was planned by the committee that the precept should provide the £10,000 necessary to keep the reserve fund intact. That sum should be compared with the £15,000 budget for 1992. The committee believed that it was not necessary to increase the fund beyond £10,000. As a consequence the precept per household should be about £250. Mr Eckhardt proposed to create a sinking fund to finance the re-painting of the railings which should take place every four to five years. It was estimated that the cost of the painting may be around £3,000 - £4,000.

**3. Chairman's Report**

In the absence of Lesley MacDonagh, the Chairman, Lord Barber reviewed the main achievements for previous years and congratulated Lesley MacDonagh for an excellent job. Madame Deschamps stressed how the committee members had worked very well together as a team over the last years.

**4. Election of the Executive Committee Members:**

David Eckhardt, the Treasurer, asked to resign as Treasurer but said he would be happy to stay on the committee. Lord Barber proposed that Daniel Quirici be appointed Treasurer. There was one objection on the grounds that this would combine the roles of Treasurer and Secretary, but that objection was not upheld by the meeting.

All of the existing Committee Members were re-elected. Lesley MacDonagh, (Chairman); Lady Marshall, (Garden Chairman); Daniel Quirici, (Treasurer/Secretary); Lord Barber; David Eckhardt; Jeremy Mackay Lewis; Eileen O'Brien; Marie Christine Deschamps; Nicholas Davey Thornhill and Jill Slotover.

5. Other matters:

Lord Barber reported that the proposal to install barriers in front of the "George IV" pub to regulate traffic has been passed by Westminster last week.

At the end of the meeting the committee discussed the way accounts were audited. The new Treasurer asked if accounts were formally audited by a professional firm. David Eckhardt's response was that it was not formally done as accounts were prepared by his own accountant but he thought that we should use an independent accountancy firm which we would pay to do the job. This cost should be reasonable (less than £500) and should be borne by the funds.

The Chairman closed the meeting thanking all residents who had come to the AGM and the committee members (in total 18).

DANIEL QUIRICI