

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
Council Tax Paying Members
of
MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN ASSOCIATION

HELD ON 25th JANUARY 1999 AT 6.30PM
AT 3 MONTPELIER SQUARE

There were 14 members of the Square present. Mr J Mackay-Lewis was in the chair.

1) Minutes of the AGM held on 26th January, 1998 were distributed. Mr Bernard Asher proposed they be accepted, Mr Daniel Quirici seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. They were signed by the Chairman.

2) Lady Marshall (Garden's Chairman) presented her written Garden Report. A copy is attached to the minutes. A copy had been distributed to all the houses before the meeting. She emphasised it is now 10 years since the garden was bought into good repair and considerable expensive maintenance will have to take place over the coming years. A priority task is to prune the trees. Bowards Tree Surgery Ltd have quoted £2850.00 plus VAT to carry out the necessary works and she proposed it be accepted. Mr Bernard Asher seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. Lady Marshall also noted that the paths will need attention next year.

3) Renewal of the Gardener's Contract. Mr Spike Jackson, the garden contractor, continues to give excellent service. His three year contract comes up for renewal in April. He has increased his price by 9% over the previous contract but he has agreed to maintain his hourly rate for any additional work. Lady Marshall recommended the AGM accept to renew the Gardener's contract. The motion was proposed by Mr Halim and seconded by Mrs Bradbury. It was carried unanimously.

4) Treasurer's Report. Mr D.Quirici, Treasurer, presented the Accounts. Copies of the Treasurer's Report, the Income & Expenditure Accounts & the Balance Sheet were distributed and are attached to the minutes. He pointed out that Westminster City Council, as requested, now send two cheques per annum, the first in June and the second in December. As anticipated, this has alleviated a cash flow problem towards the end of the year. He went on to say the balances are in good order and despite extra maintenance work to be carried out this year he recommends we do not raise the precept.

A general discussion followed. Mrs Davies-Gilbert proposed

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the accounts be accepted and the Precept remain the same. Mr Asher seconded the motion. It was carried unanimously.

5) Key Deposits & Garden Rules. Mr Mackay-Lewis reported that he has organised the replacement key fobs at a cost of £22.60 plus VAT per fob. Mr Davies-Gilbert, on behalf of Mrs Cox, the Key Holder's Secretary, pointed out the difficulties Mrs Cox has had in getting keys returned by tenants when leaving the Square. It is both time consuming and expensive. He recommended that tenants requiring a key should leave a deposit that is refunded on return of the key. The deposit should be equivalent to one years precept. A discussion followed and Miss Didizian proposed the motion, seconded by Mrs Mackay-Lewis and it was carried unanimously.

Lady Marshall reported that the rules needed to be made clearer and a proposed draft was circulated. A discussion took place. Mr Eckhardt noted that, under the London Squares Act, any changes to the rules would have to be seen by a solicitor and endorsed by a Magistrate. Lady Marshall also went on to say the signs in the garden are difficult to see and need renewing. She recommended a full set of rules be placed by the benches and a sign on both the gates reading -No Ball Games- Cycling- Dogs. A discussion followed. Mrs Davies-Gilbert proposed the rules be changed and to erect new signs. Mr Quirici seconded the motion. The motion was carried. It was also recommended a letter, outlining the rules, be sent to every house at the beginning of the Summer.

6) Election of the Committee. Mr Eckhardt recommended Miss Didizian join the Committee. Mrs Bradbury proposed the Committee be re-elected with the inclusion of Miss Marle Didizian. Mr Halim seconded the motion which was put to the meeting and declared to be carried.

7) The next A G M is set for Monday, 31st January, 2000. The Christmas Carols to be in either the 2nd or 3rd week of December.

8) Security- The Roll of the Garden Committee. Mr Eckhardt felt it was the statutory duty of the Committee to protect the Square outside the garden area. Several members disagreed and discussions took place. Mr Asher put forward that the Sub Committee needed to look into the following-

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- a) The legal position.
- b) To identify the nature and extent of security problems in the Square.
- c) To find out what type of security systems might be required.
- e) The total cost. Both capital cost and annual service charge.
- e) To get the Council to improve the street lighting.
- f) After the sub committee has collated all the information to report its findings back to the Committee & to all residents and to identify how the Garden Committee might assist.

It was resolved to:

Set up a small sub committee to look into possible Security arrangements for the Square, answering points a) - f).

Mr Daniel Quirici felt that some form of decorative lighting in the Square might help with Security.

9) Any Other Business.

Mr J Mackay-Lewis proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Marshall for all her work in looking after the garden during the past year.

Mr Quirici thanked both Mrs Mackay-Lewis for decorating the Christmas Tree and Mr Mackay-Lewis for organising the refreshments for the Carols.



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Square Chairman

31.1.00

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Date.