

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF  
COUNCIL TAX PAYING MEMBERS  
OF  
MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN ASSOCIATION**

**Held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2000 at 6.30 PM  
At 3 Montpelier Square.**

There were 14 members of the Square present. Mr Bernard Asher was in the Chair. Mr Mackay-Lewis, Mrs Cox, Mr Eckhardt, Mr Davy-Thornhill and Miss Didizian, (Committee Members) sent their regrets as they were unable to be present.

- 1) The Minutes of the AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1999 were distributed. Mr Bernard Asher (Chairman) proposed they be accepted, Lady Marshall Seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The Chairman signed them.
- 2) Chairmanship. Mr Asher reported that the Committee, on the resignation of Mr Jeremy Mackay-Lewis had appointed him Chairman. He was delighted that Mr Mackay-Lewis was continuing as a Committee Member and he proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Mackay-Lewis for all the time and work he has put in as Chairman. It was approved unanimously.
- 3) The Treasurer's Report. The 1999 Accounts were distributed. It was explained that while the daily maintenance costs remained in line with the budget there were 3 main items that had increased the running costs- the tree pruning, the path renovations and the key tags. The costs were partly borne by the reserve fund and although there is no major expenditure planned for the coming year the Precept should rise in order to restore the fund to an acceptable level. The Treasurer proposed that the Precept be increased by £50.00. The Chairman put the proposal to the Meeting and declared it carried unanimously.
- 4) Garden Report. Lady Marshall (Garden's Chairman) gave a verbal report on the Garden. She told the Meeting that it was now in good repair following the tree pruning & path renewal and confirmed there's no major expenditure planned for the coming year. The perimeter hedge, which has become very thin in places and requires attention, will have young hedge planted in the bald patches. Lady Marshall warned that the neighborhood fox appears to be back and it's essential to keep rubbish off the street especially on refuse collection days.
- 5) Security. Mr Asher gave a résumé on the sub-committee set up by Mr David Eckhardt. He pointed out that the Garden Committee was only able to look after the Garden and had no jurisdiction beyond the Garden railings. Mr Eckhardt had investigated the possibility of installing CCTV and came to the conclusion that cameras are unsightly, expensive to install and would have a high annual maintenance cost. It was put to the Meeting that a

possible solution might be to improve the lighting around the Square. This could be achieved by either lighting the trees within the Garden or installing Victorian style lamps around the perimeter of the Garden. There followed a discussion and it was resolved to send a letter with two possible schemes and a questionnaire to all residents asking them to comment on a preference. Once the replies had been returned they could be assessed and the most acceptable scheme costed. In the meantime, the Council might be persuaded to improve the lighting still further and Cllr Cox said he would be pleased to help. Mr Asher thanked both Lady Marshall and Mrs Davies-Gilbert for having a meeting last year with Mr Palmer of the lighting dept at Westminster City Council.

- 6) AGM 2001. It was agreed that the date for the next AGM would be Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2001.
- 7) Any Other Business. The Chairman regretted that there wasn't a Christmas Carol party last year but it hadn't been possible to get the Salvation Army Band to come and play. It was resolved that we should contact the Salvation Army and to see if they would like to make a date for the second week in December.  
Mr Asher went on to inquire if it were possible to hold a Summer Party. There was a general discussion and it was resolved to have a party on 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. The Committee would arrange to provide wine, soft drinks and glasses but each household would be asked to bring some suitable eats such as canapés, quiche or sausages. Invitations will be sent out at the end of April. Spike Jackson would be asked to provide a table and have someone on hand to clear the debris away after the party.

Cllr Cox gave a vote of thanks to the Committee in particular Lady Marshall for looking after the Garden and Mr Asher for taking on the Chairmanship and for the use of his house for the Meeting.