

Montpelier Square Garden

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Date 29 January 2007
Held at 8 Montpelier Square

Committee members present Lady Marshall, Garden Chairman
Mr Daniel Quirici, Treasurer
Mrs Avril Cox
Mr David Eckhardt
Mr Nicholas Davy-Thornhill
Mrs Jean Fletcher, Secretary

Apologies for absence:
Mr Bernard Asher, Chairman

1. To Consider the Minutes and Matters Arising

Mr Daniel Quirici (Acting Chairman) asked members of the Committee to read and approve the Minutes of the Garden Committee Meeting of 30th November 2006. Mr Quirici proposed they be accepted and the Committee unanimously accepted them.

2. Garden Report

Lady Marshall remarked that the recent gale had not affected our trees, showing that they had been receiving excellent maintenance.

Plans for this year with its prospect of further water restrictions, are not likely to involve great expenditure, but we must expect to lose one or two shrubs which are dying of old age.

Lady Marshall suggested that installing a few R.S.P.B. nesting boxes for small birds would enhance the garden and the Committee agreed .

Mr Quirici proposed that, during any hosepipe ban the automatic watering system might be switched on briefly at regular intervals, so that disuse does not damage it. Lady Marshall said she would look into this.

3. Financial Report

Tree surgery, painting the railings, re-planting and hand-watering involved costs beyond the average in 2006, amounting to nearly £10,000, and bringing the reserve fund down to £14,665. (It was £20,379 at the end of 2005.) But the Committee believes that the current reserve is enough to sustain any foreseeable expense in 2007, so it has decided to keep the precept unchanged at £20,000.

4 .A Donation

Mr Edward Davies-Gilbert, the Committee's recently retired Secretary, has, with his wife Ariane, given the Committee an extremely generous gift of £1000 to be spent on the garden. On behalf of the Committee Lady Marshall and Mr Quirici will thank the Davies-Gilberts. How best to spend the bequest will be discussed by the Committee.

5. Committee Archives

Mrs Fletcher handed Mr Davy-Thornhill, the Committee's Archivist, a file of Minutes, Notices etc for the years 1992-2000. also a computer file for 2001-2006. (Copies were kept by the Secretary for general reference)..Mr Eckhart said that the archives included a Minute-book dating back to 1837, so the Archive now has 170 years of recorded history.

6. Police Meeting

The Police have asked whether they might hold a small public meeting in the garden in February (on the subject of security).The Committee's view was that the lawn was far too wet and vulnerable at this time of year and that there was not enough paved space for a meeting, however small. The Police are most welcome to use the garden in the Summer when the ground is firmer.

7. Any Other Business

It was proposed by several Members that Mr Yoshi Nishio should be invited to join the Committee and this was agreed unanimously.

Signed
