

Montpelier Square Garden Committee
MINUTES
OF ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING 2010

Date Monday, 25 January
Held at Deutsche Kirche, Montpelier Place

Committee members present Mr Daniel Quirici, Chairman
Lady Marshall, Garden Chairman
Mr Yoshi Nishio, Treasurer
Mrs Avril Cox, Keys Secretary
Mr David Eckhardt
Mr Nicholas Davie-Thornhill
Mrs Jean Fletcher, Secretary
Mr Roger Hayward, Accountant

Members of the Association present were: Mrs Batya Asher, Mrs Jane Bradbury, Mrs Vivien Eckhardt, Mrs Diane Kordas, Lord Marshall, Mr & Mrs Ali Malek, Mr Simon Davenport, Mr Christopher Didizian, Mr Winston Fletcher and Mr Charles Willis.

To Consider the Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 23 February 2009 were approved by Lord Marshall seconded by Mr Nishio and signed by Mr Quirici.

2. Garden Report

Our Spring bulb display was excellent last year and, although a wet Summer followed, garden improvements went ahead, with re-pointing of the seating area and 'scarifying' aeration of the lawn, which needs to be done every 10 years. This treatment makes the lawn look damaged at first and unfortunately this caused us to drop from 3rd to 4th place in the London Squares Garden Competition. Bird boxes installed last year produced several families which were a pleasure to watch learning to fly. Further encouragement was given to wildlife by the installation of a bed in the north-east corner dedicated to butterflies, bees and ladybirds, all endangered. Low log-and-branch fences in concentric rings reflect the design of the box hedge maze planted last year to replace worn-out bluebells.. Fresh bluebells and various insect-friendly flowers have been planted in the new wildlife area. The garden has now been wholly renovated as planned.

Financial Report and Precept

Mr Nishio complimented Lady Marshall on her garden improvements, costing £2,000 less than last year, which she achieved despite a spell in hospital.

This year's higher **Precept, 950**, roughly equals what other squares in the vicinity pay for their gardens and represents less than an additional £1 per day per household. At present we have £8,700 in reserve and we aim to increase this to £20,000-£25,000. Mrs Cox asked how our reserves became so depleted and was told by Mr Eckhardt and Lady Marshall that the money was spent after disasters such as a tree falling and the spread of Honey Fungus disease through much of the garden.

It was agreed that no decisions would be made about next year's Precept until the Committee had determined the future direction of the garden and its amenities.

What do Residents Want?

Mr Eckhardt suggested that we should find out what residents of the Square thought about the garden. Whether, for instance they would like amenities for children. Mrs Bradbury offered to ask everyone in the Square what they wanted of the garden.

Mr Fletcher warned that an amateur survey would be a waste of time as the design of questionnaires is skilled work, only successfully accomplished by professionals and at great expense. Mr Davenport emphasised that the only purposes of any committee should be to ascertain and comply with the wishes of the people they served.

Mr Eckhardt confirmed that Mr Quirici had suggested 3 Sub-Committees should be formed:

1. To draw up a draft Constitution for the square.
2. To control Accounts and Expenditure.
3. To run the Garden and its Contractors.

Mrs Jane Bradbury, Mr Simon Davenport, Mr Christopher Didizian, Mr Ali Malek and Mr Howard Covington (the latter not present) were unanimously elected as Members, making a Committee of 12. Mr Hayward leaves the Committee but remains our accountant.

A meeting of the Committee will be called in the near future to set up Sub-Committees.

Signed