

Montpelier Square Garden

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Date 14 Jan 2010
(brought forward 4 days)

Held at 8 Montpelier Square

Committee members present Lady Marshall, Garden Chairman
Mr Daniel Quirici, Chairman
Mr David Eckhardt
Mrs Avril Cox
Mr Yoshi Nishio
Mrs Jean Fletcher, Secretary

Apologies for absence:

Mr Nicholas Davie-Thornhill
Mr Roger Hayward

1. To Consider the Minutes and Matters Arising

Mr Quirici asked members of the Committee to approve the Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 16 Dec 08. Mr Quirici proposed they be accepted and Mr Nishio seconded this.

2. Garden Report

Lady Marshall reported that two outstanding plans for the garden were completed during the year. Under-tree lighting was installed at one of the best specimen trees, illuminating a particularly dark corner of the Square. And a Wildlife Area was created to support endangered species (butterflies, bees, ladybirds etc) and to complement the birds' nesting boxes installed last year which were well-used, resulting in several new families. Bird-feeding continues during the Winter months.

We came 4th in the Greater London Gardens Competition, down from 3rd in 2008 because the lawn had not recovered from remedial treatment when the judging took place. The Westminster Competition was not held this year.

The new sub-contractors had proved unreliable so the contractor and a Kew-trained assistant have taken over. The hut has been repaired. Electricity

cost hardly any more this year than before the installation of tree lights and no large expenses are expected this year. Lady Marshall was congratulated and thanked for her devoted work. Mr Davie-Thornhill had also sent his compliments.

3. The Precept

Mr Nishio confirmed that the precept this year is, as agreed, **950**, raising £35,000. We should ask for this to be given to us entire, not in instalments. We hope to establish a sinking fund of £25,000.

4. The Swing

Mr Eckhardt expressed his concern that the swing, so long a feature of the garden, had not been replaced. Mrs Fletcher said that she had discovered that regulations nowadays require a very large soft area around swings, inappropriate for the space available. Mr Eckhardt replied that Mrs Fletcher was wrongly informed and it was agreed that he submit a proposal at the AGM.

5. The Accounts

Mr Eckhardt inspected the Profit and Loss Account and said it was inadequately analysed. In particular the £1741.00 for Stationery and Sundries reflected a misleading position. Mr Eckhardt will re-draft the accounts on behalf of the Committee and give copies of these drafts to the Treasurer.

6. Legal Expertise on the Committee

Mr Eckhardt continued his revue of our statutes by telling the Committee that its Bye-laws were not valid as they had not been verified by a Court Order since February 1959. He remarked that we should not miss the opportunity of enrolling an eminent young lawyer who would be applying for membership at the AGM.

7. The AGM

As usual the committee will resign at the AGM and may then seek re-election.

Signed Daniel Quirici