

Montpelier Square Garden

# **MINUTES**

## **OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Date** 29 March 2010

**Held at** 8 Montpelier Square

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

### **Apologies for absence:**

Mr Nicholas Davie-Thornhill  
Mr Howard Covington  
Mr Simon Davenport  
Mr Christopher Didizian

### **1. To Consider the Minutes and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 18th January were approved by all. Mr Quirici said that the Minutes of the AGM need not be approved until the next AGM. Mrs Fletcher pointed out that our AGM minutes were customarily distributed to all residents in Spring to inform them of the year's Precept. It was decided that this was not necessary although any resident who asked for them could be given a copy clearly marked DRAFT.

### **2. Communications**

Mr Quirici suggested that Mrs Fletcher should make a list of all Committee Members' telephone numbers & e-mail addresses, also a list of Residents' names and house numbers. Several of the Committee said they could help with this.

### **3. Garden Project**

Mr Quirici explained that the word 'project' was meant to describe the garden's usage and residents' requirements of it. Mrs Bradbury responded that she had asked all the mothers of young children in the Square to a lunch at which they discussed possible play-things for children. The loss of the

old swing was regretted by some but it was decided that no new swing was needed. Mrs Bradbury's notes are attached. They will be discussed at another meeting.

### **4. The Constitution and Bye-Laws**

Mr Malek, QC, had studied the archives and remarked that: a/ The Committee should not have more than nine Members and b/ The garden's 1960 Byelaws were the only legal ones, as alterations made since then have not been approved in a Court of Law. But, Mr Malek said, as only eight Members were present, point a/ could be resolved later and point b/ was easily met by using words like 'Regulations' instead of 'Byelaws'.

Mr Malek added that what was perceived as the general opinion in the Square mattered more than written rules. Mrs Bradbury, agreeing, offered to canvass neighbours' opinions at a summer party which she would arrange in the Garden, in addition to her Christmas party. This idea was welcomed enthusiastically and September was suggested as weather is usually better then.

Mr Nishio wondered whether, as the only legally sanctioned Garden Byelaws permitted croquet and dogs on strings, perhaps we might think about getting new Byelaws approved in court. Mr Malek offered to draft some and find out what the legal procedure was.

Lady Marshall said that, for the past twenty-plus years, considerable money and effort had gone into restoring the garden, making it the valuable amenity it is today. Every effort should now be made to ensure that it is available to be enjoyed by all residents.

The Byelaw or Rule banning balls was discussed at length and it was agreed that infants' soft balls should be permitted in the garden.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Mr Nishio said that that the year's precept, 950, would give an income of £35,000 to the Square. He hoped that we will get the total sum, without having to wait for instalments, but the arrival of a new Financial Director at Westminster Council made this unpredictable.

Signed