

MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Date and Time: 9 February 2015, 6:30pm

Venue: 26 Montpelier Square

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr Christopher Didizian

Mr Daniel Quirici

Mr Neil Carthy

Mrs Avril Cox

Lady Janet Marshall

Mr Ali Malek

Mrs Jane Bradbury

APOLOGIES

Mr Davie-Thornhill

1. Mr Quirici was appointed meeting chairman.
2. The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17th March 2015 were formally proposed, seconded and approved. It was noted that the written report on the trees would be available later in 2016.
3. Lady Marshall presented the Committee with a report on the state of the garden and her future plans:
 - a. In the annual Garden Squares competition we came third, a highly commendable result. Hyde Park Square took the gold medal, with Gledhow Gardens second.
 - b. New chairs and tables for the paved area had been purchased. The intention is to have an area for solitary visitors of the garden, a quiet place to read and contemplate.
 - c. Tim George continues to do excellent tree work for the garden. This year's rota of work will cost about £2000 and more if we receive permission to fell the Ailanthus.
 - d. Plans for 2016
 - i. The central border will be cleared out and re-worked
 - ii. Manure will be brought in for the grass and to replenish the soil. A day or two of odour is possible.
 - iii. The urn in the paved area is to be moved to the central border and replaced with a white multi-stemmed birch. Following discussion it was agreed to propose this to the AGM.
 - iv. The gardeners work area near the shed can be a little unsightly so plans have been made to improve its appearance. We will obtain a quote for new hardwood gates to screen the area from those inside the garden. We will also be rebuilding the compost units and converting one of the three units to a storage facility so that storage bags, hoses etc. can be put out of sight.
 - e. Giles Townsend, who maintained our irrigation system and was a thoroughly nice person, passed away last summer. We have yet to appoint a replacement although the gardeners can perform routine irrigation tasks as required.

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- f. The neighbourhood policeman has changed and the key to the gate has been passed to the new officer. They inspect the square 2-3 times a week at night-time.
 - g. We have an excellent working relationship with Robert Player and his team at Garden Associates and he will be attending our AGM next month.
4. The chairman and committee thanked Lady Marshall for all her efforts in the past year.
5. A financial report and draft accounts for the nine months to 31st December 2015 were presented by Mr Carthy.
 - a. Income exceeded expenditure for the nine month period by £6,000. This is expected as the large annual expenditures typically come in the months January – March.
 - b. The Committee has reserves in excess of one year's expenditure. The committee will recommend to the AGM that the precept will remain at £32,500.
6. Mrs Bradbury reported that the date for this year's Christmas Carols party had already been fixed with the Salvation Army band as December 14th.
7. A draft agenda for the upcoming AGM on March 23rd was presented to the committee by Mr Carthy. It was approved for distribution. We will be inviting residents to put their names forward to join the committee at the same time as we distribute the agenda.
8. The German Church was given permission to hold their children's Easter egg hunt in the garden again this year.
9. The meeting closed at 7:30pm.

Montpelier Square Judges' Comments

Visual Impact:

Exquisite small square. The quality and general condition of planting is outstanding. A pure delight to stroll along a well maintained gravel path with rope edging and admire the shrubs and tasteful planting of perennials and herbaceous.

Cultivation and Maintenance

Excellent Plantings healthy and vibrant. Shrubs and trees well managed. Borders and beds mulched (all produced on site). Lawns are immaculate clear of debris and edged. Plants and grass to encourage wildlife.

Horticultural Content/Special Features

Quality shrubs and a number of small interesting trees. Tasteful seating area. Container and a sundial. Rope edged gravel path and some wonderful Plane trees A small woodland garden with path- a meadow area.

Site Difficulties

Deep shade

Comments which could help the entrant improve

A very high quality well maintained square making good use of plants for a variety of situations, Maintain the high standard.