

## AGM 2012

Minutes of the 2012 AGM of the Arundel and Elgin Garden  
Held at 7pm on the 12th November 2012 at Charlie's Cafe, 59 Portobello Road,  
London W11 3DB

**Committee:** Robert Sargent (Chairman) Nathalie Faure Beaulieu (Treasurer), Calum MacInnes (Secretary), Sarah Edwards (Keys), Guy Nixon (Trees), Nick Bellet (Website, Dogs and Gardeners) and Tassy Barham (Dogs and Gardeners).

Abs: Jane Barclay who has now left the Garden and therefore the committee.

The meeting was chaired by Robert Sargent.

Minutes from last year's AGM were approved.

Pat Morton requested that Minutes are made available on the Garden Notice Board as well as the Website.

### **Chairman's Report**

RS started the meeting by introducing the committee and their roles and announcing that Jane Barclay had left the garden, and therefore the committee.

RS then stated that it has been a quiet year in the garden, and a harmonious one within the committee. He thanked the gardeners Chris and Anna for their continued hard work keeping the garden looking beautiful despite difficult conditions – a hot and dry early Spring and then very wet summer.

### **Finance Report**

NFB presented the budget for last year.

The original budget to Sept '12 was to have a cash balance of £27,185. The final figure is £40,743. The difference being the money that has not been spent on the changeover from keys to fobs and the repair to the railings.

£10,500 is budgeted for fobs and railings, which is still in the budget.

The budget also includes £2,000 for emergencies.

The budget for the year to Sept '13 and to March '14 were also presented which showed cash balances of £36,640 and £19,622 respectively, again including sums for the renewal of the keys and repair of the railings.

The committee recommended we keep the precept at £30,000 which was unanimously agreed by vote.

### **Trees**

GN started by reminding the residents that the Gleditsia was taken down, as per last year's meeting. The replacement tulip tree was not planted, so in light of the Diamond Jubilee he proposed we planted an Oak tree instead. It provides good habitat for wild life and will be of a height to replace the London Plane tree when it dies back. Life. A

vote was taken on the oak and this was passed unanimously.

Barbara raised the question whether we would need to plant another plane tree when this one died?

The Paulonia has died – GN recommended replacing it with an Autumn Blaze Maple tree or a Robinia. The Autumn Blaze would have a show of colour in the Autumn. It went to the vote and 8 votes approved the Maple.

GN also asked for permission for the Hazel tree to be coppiced, as requested by the Gardeners. This was also approved by a unanimous vote.

### **Garden Report**

TB started her report by thanking Chris and Anna for their hard work, and thoughtful planting in the garden, and for their efforts building the fire at the Firework party. Chris Fleming Brown asked if they could refrain from lighting it again, the following day, to burn off old leaves etc.

Many people commented on the delicious paella at the Firework party and excellent fireworks.

TB reported that work the gardeners have revamped a number of beds, replaced the Ceanothus on the Elgin side, replaced the frost-bitten Hebe near the pagoda, planted several azaleas – by the swing and in the SE corner of the garden, and generally invested a lot of time and thought as to how best improve the garden, bed by bed. TB thanked the donor (not present) of the large camellias which have been planted on the Arundel side, near the Cherry trees.

In 2013 we will see more beds being tended to, benches oiled.

The residents voted in favour of replenishing the bark under the swings (rather than use a matting), to maintain the low-key, natural look of the garden. It was suggested a deeper trench be built to help keep the bark in situ longer.

TB requested that parents continued to be mindful of how their children used the garden, with a greater respect for the plants and trees.

Also for resident to be mindful of the trees – several of which had been damaged, by (it is suspected) a dog.

### **Security**

In light of last year's meeting SE reported on her research into the implications – cost and otherwise – of installing a FOB system.

The main points to consider were that the system itself would cost in the region of £10,000 in addition to which we would need to factor in the cost of electricity being brought to each gate (and in a special channel underneath the length of the garden), and the fact that it would require a member of the garden committee to continually monitor the system.

Banhams came to quote for making the garden secure and recommended replacing the locks (£4,500 incl vat) over and above using a FOB system as the latter would be subject to the weather which has proven to be damaging to this kind of system, as well as all the other difficulties inherent in running the FOBs.

Importantly we heard from other gardens that have moved to the fob system that it has proved very unsatisfactory with gates often out of action for long periods of time.

It went to a vote and it was unanimously agreed to replace the locks rather than go with the FOB.

A resident asked if we would be getting another quote before installing. The Committee agreed it would, but as raised by a resident, it was agreed that using a reputable firm was preferable with a good after sales service would be a price worth paying over and above a cheaper quote.

The question of a second key per flat was raised. It was proposed that the first key would continue as it is now – a deposit of £25 - and a second key would be made available at a higher deposit. The residents agreed by vote that the committee could establish the level of the deposit in the region of £30.

### **Dogs**

NB reported that with greater vigilance of dog owners there hadn't been much of a poo problem this year.

The issue of dangerous dogs in the garden seems to have diminished, so less need to worry about the limited action open to the committee to combat this problem.

NB however stressed that a dogs should not be in the garden after dark, and for dog owners to be mindful of this bye-law.

At this point in the evening the Committee resigned. Two new members were voted in, Rebecca Van Dal and Kit Davis. The residents voted for the committee to continue.

### **AOB**

Parties in the garden. RS reminded everyone that parties are not allowed in the garden.

Barbara enquired after the appearance of paint in the central garden and the rhododendrons. No answer came forth; a mystery.

Chris Fleming Brown commented on the success of the pedestrian crossing

Calum MacInnes.  
Secretary.

