

GCRA 2014 AGM minutes

Monday 24th November 2014 @ Stockbridge library

Present:

Chair – Mark Westwood

Treasurer – Michael Sharp

Secretaries – Gus & Denise McNulty

Committee Members – Susan Currie, Jackie Sutherland and Jane Norie

Graham Sutherland, Chris Brannan, Jan McNee, Robert Williamson, Doreen Boyle, Sandra Connor, Rik Hart, Robert Murray, Billy Shaw, Carol Notman, Anne McCarthy, Jill Andrew, Mark Cowper, Katrina Balmer, Michael Young, Mary Gray, Rachel Hinds, Councillor Lesley Hinds, Councillor Nigel Bagshaw and PC Carl Medlock.

Apologies – Lindsay Kenrick-Smith, Jo & Joyce Capek, Stephen Hunter, Gillian Bertram, Anji & Olivia Rae

CHAIR REPORT

Mark opened the meeting. He asked if there were any matters arising from last year's minutes to which there was no response from the floor. He then moved onto the chair report where he stated that he has very little to report back apart from saying that he has signed cheques for the gardening contract and for the new parking signs.

SECRETARIES REPORT

Gus introduced Councillors Lesley Hinds and Nigel Bagshaw and PC Carl Medlock and thanked them for their attendance. He then moved onto the secretaries report where he stated that there was not too much to report back this year. He said that he has answered correspondence from members and latterly in the year liaised with the council regarding the reinstatement of the riverbank and grounds.

TREASURERS REPORT

Michael said that we have moved to a different format for the accounts which is a more orthodox and up to date way of managing the accounts. This method includes showing the number of debtors at the end of the year and how much they are in arrears; it does not name the debtors. Michael also said that we have caught up with the monies due from last year. Also for the new subscriptions that were sent out at the beginning of November 2014, 77 flats have already paid, this representing about two thirds of the flats on the estate.

Michael went onto state that there is a hardcore of 7 flats that haven't paid last year's subs, some of which are now in arrears by multiple years. However, one flat which was a number of years behind has paid a substantial amount of arrears recently.

Michael also said that the subscription fee covers the ground maintenance contract with Greenscape with a little to spare. However any surplus per annum equates to roughly the monies outstanding from debtors, just under £1000. When asked from the floor why the accounts show a surplus of over £4000, Michael explained that this is due to monies that have been collected from arrears from the last year.

Michael then moved on and explained the layout of the new balance sheet, also saying that the gardening costs have remained the same and as such there is no need at this time to increase the subscription.

GROUNDS & RIVERBANK RE-INSTATEMENT

Gus started this point on the agenda by saying that at the last committee meeting it had been discussed the possibility of restarting a previous programme of replacing old shrubs, bushes and greenery through the estate. That he is contacting Greenscape with a view to obtaining a quote for this and then, if agreed, spreading the cost over a period of time using the annual surplus to pay for this.

Digressing slightly, Gus then said that new NO PARKING signs are being put up around the estate and that Jackie and Graeme Sutherland and then Jane Norie had moved this action along.

Gus then said that on the re-instatement of the grounds and riverbank that Councillors Bagshaw and Hinds had met with Chris Brannan and Jan McNee in January where a plan had been put in place to cover this work. Gus then said that due to John Wharrie (CEC) moving onto a new job during the

year, it appears that not all the information had been passed onto his replacement leading to a long delay. However, Gus has made contact with Jonathan James (CEC) fairly recently and we are now at the stage where a contractor has been appointed by the council and that Gus has been told that work should commence before the end of the year.

Gus was asked from the floor what this work would entail. He said that stone picking along the riverbank would be followed by the top soil being taken back initially. That a fence is to be erected at the red bridge end to stop persons using the riverbank as a short cut with a hedge of some description being planted in front of the fence. Once the hedge has bedded in and grown the fence could be removed. Also that something similar is to be erected at the Bells bridge area of riverbank. Work should then continue in the springtime where new grass seed should be laid.

Katrina Balmer then asked if we could have a new private sign for the riverbank. Gus said this could be looked into.

Councillor Hinds said that work should have been completed by October 2014. Councillors Hinds and Bagshaw said that if work isn't carried out to contact them directly. Councillor Hinds also said that she thought we were getting a permanent fence with prickly plants at both ends. Gus will chase this up and clarify with Jonathan James.

COMMUNITY POLICING

PC Carl Medlock from the Community Policing Team at Drylaw Police Station gave a presentation on local crime trends and figures. He stated that the number of crimes committed in the area as a whole has dropped from 740 last year to 639 this year and that this pattern is replicated in Glenogle Road as well with only 11 crimes reported this year. Also that the type of crime in the area is a combination of break ins to vehicles, theft of bicycles and motorbikes and vandalisms.

MOTION – OPENESS AND TRANSPARENCY OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Rik Hart brought forward this motion to the meeting. He said that there is a lack of communication between the committee and the members where the members have to wait a year at a time to be given updates and to propose items for the agenda.

Rik proposed that the committee hold more meetings through the course of the year which should be open to all members. That the agenda for meetings could be posted on the new website. This would allow more engagement from the members. Also, that the meetings could be held on a quarterly basis.

The motion for the committee to consider this was seconded and voted on and carried by those present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mark stated that he was standing down as Chair and asked for any volunteers from the floor to replace him in this role. There were no volunteers. The committee then presented Mark with a bottle of whisky in recognition of 17 years almost uninterrupted service to the GCRA as a committee member, secretary and latterly the chair.

Gus and Michael both said they would continue in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. There were no objections from the floor.

Councillor Hinds said that normal practice would be for a new Chair to be elected from within the committee.

SOCIAL CONVENER

Denise proposed that we should encourage more social events on the estate. The website could be used to advertise any events to the residents.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Membership fees were brought up. The Treasurer's view is that the subscription should cover the cost of grounds maintenance. If the gardening fees go up then the membership fee should go up.

Rik Hart said that the car parking spaces need repainted. He had estimated that there are 150 spaces and said that he had obtained a quote of £2418 to repaint every bay and that this could be funded from the surplus funds held by the GCRA. It would cost the equivalent of £19 per flat (inclusive of VAT) if we were to fund this by raising new funds.

Chris Brannan said that he has an email from John Wharrie saying that the council would be repainting the car parking bays in the Liddesdale Place car park.

A vote was then taken on using the surplus funds held by the association to pay for the repainting and the majority of those present were in favour. However, it was pointed out from the floor that the car parking spaces belong to each flat and their maintenance should not be a cost to the collective.

During the meeting the new website www.glenoglecourt.com was discussed. This website has kindly been created by Rik Hart and has been live for a few weeks. The main aim of the site is to encourage better communication between the residents and the committee and vice versa, hopefully leading to more engagement.

Mark then closed the meeting.

Gus McNulty

GCRA Secretary

26/11/14

www.glenoglecourt.com

secretary.gcra@hotmail.co.uk

treasurer.gcra@hotmail.co.uk