

**GLENOGLE COURT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8pm on WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2019
IN STOCKBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH, 7B SAXE COBURG STREET,
EDINBURGH**

The meet was agreed to be quorate on the basis of 20 members either present or represented by agreed proxy votes.

In attendance: Councillors Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell and Hal Osler (for the second part of the meeting, including 'items of business').

1. Welcome

As Jill Andrew, the GCRA Chair, could not attend the meeting, committee member Michelle O'Toole took the chair for the meeting and welcomed all attenders.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jill Andrew, Joyce and Jo Capek, and Sandra Smith. Jill Andrew was represented by a proxy vote given to Patrick Honeybone, and Jackie Sutherland and Graham Sutherland were represented by a proxy vote given to Sam Rennie.

3. Minutes of AGM of 12 November 2018 (circulated by email)

The minutes of last year's AGM were approved.

4. Chair's Report

As the Chair could not attend the meeting, there was no formal Chair's report.

5. Secretary's Report

Patrick Honeybone, one of the GCRA shared-role secretaries, spoke to let residents know that the GCRA has been ticking along. There were 3 committee meetings to carry out any necessary business (which largely involved managing the gardening contract, considering the payment of fees, managing communications, and arranging the AGM). There had been an

attempt to arrange the yearly picnic in June (although the weather thwarted this), and some of the benches on the estate have been painted (to protect them from the weather).

6. Treasurer's Report (accounts for 2018-2019 circulated by email)

Sam Rennie, the GCRA treasurer, reported that nine flats have outstanding fees to pay, with two of these having outstanding fees for two years. There was a brief discussion of how the Association might get these outstanding fees paid. The GCRA has **£1000** in its savings account, with **£2000** surplus. There is **£10500** in the current account, to be paid to the gardeners.

7. Appointment of Committee

James Gamgee has had to step down from looking after the GCRA website, and Joe Peach volunteered to take on this role. No-one else volunteered to join the committee and other committee member are happy to continue. This means that the GCRA committee now consists of:

Chair: Jill Andrew

Treasurer: Sam Rennie

Secretary (email): Carol Shaw

Secretary (resident database): Mor Kandlik Eltanani

Secretary (minutes): Patrick Honeybone

Committee member: Michelle O'Toole

Website: Joe Peach

8. Items of Business

A private facebook group for GCRA members has been set up. As a private group, residents need to ask to sign up. It can be used to pass on information about the estate.

Two successes were noted: double yellow lines on the bend of Glenogle Road have been painted. The GCRA has been campaigning for this for quite a while, and local councillors have been very helpful in piloting it through the council's processes.

Susan Bell reported that a recycling bin had disappeared from Ettrickdale Place, but, after reporting this to the council, it had just recently been replaced. This shows that it is worth contacting the council if there are problems with the bins. The councillors present at the meeting discussed the situation regarding bin collection. It was noted that there had been a three-week spell when bins were not emptied on the estate. Councillor Barrie spoke about some of the problems that there have been with a few bin crews (not properly collecting the bins). Bin crews are supposed to use discretion to pick up boxes that are next to recycling bins, but do not always do this. The councillors asked residents to contact them directly if

there are serious problems with bins not being collected. (Councillors' contact details are available here:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors?ward=10124>)

The committee had been discussing the possibility of getting the gardeners to grass over some of the disused flower beds (or to explore adding gravel if grass cannot grow in some areas), and of removing dead shrubs. The meeting discussed the options for this and agreed unanimously that the committee could use some money that has accumulated in the GCRA bank account from membership fees to pay for this. The committee will investigate what this would cost and will proceed if it is affordable. This should not affect those flower beds that residents are taking care of.

The committee had also been discussing the possibility of filling in the pot-holes in the two car parks on the estate (the car parks belong to residents, not the council, so the council will not fill in pot-holes in them). These will get worse if left and could damage cars or cause pedestrians to trip. The meeting agreed unanimously that the committee could also use some money that has accumulated in the GCRA bank account from membership fees to pay for this if it did not come to too much. The committee will investigate what this would cost and will proceed if it is affordable.

The flood-gate was discussed. Sam Rennie reported that the Water of Leith was close to flooding in April, but the flood-gate had not been closed. Residents were very worried and an attempt was made to both close the gate and to contact those responsible for closing the gate. The fire brigade attended after a while to offer assistance, reporting that the flood waters has risen faster than had been expected. The meeting discussed the situation and councillors Osler and Mitchell reported on a plan for the council to check the flood-gates along the river (and other aspects of the flood defences). The GCRA is not able to obtain a key to close the flood gate, so we should contact the flood authorities if we need to ensure that the gate is closed. It was discussed that there are warning systems that residents can sign up for to hear about potential flooding, including Floodline and twitter feeds.

The trees on the estate were discussed. It was agreed that, because the trees are the responsibility of individual blocks, that the GCRA cannot take action if the roots of any tree become a problem. Residents are encouraged to investigate if any of their trees need attention.

Parking on the estate was discussed. It was noted that some residents had taken the law into their own hands and had criticised people who had parked in visitors' parking spaces. Those affected, and the committee, are distressed by this and do not encourage it. All residents may invite visitors to use the visitors parking spaces (any space, in either Ettrickdale or Liddesdale), but residents should not use visitors' parking spaces instead of their own space. However, the GCRA cannot and does not enforce any parking restrictions on the estate.

The meeting discussed Airbnb. It was noted that more flats on the estate are being used for Airbnb. Councillor Barrie noted that the council is hoping to obtain powers to licence the use of Airbnb and to restrict it where necessary, but the councillors noted that it is difficult to currently control this. It costs the council around £30,000 to close down one problematic Airbnb. Many Airbnb flats are not a problem for their neighbours, but some are run as party flats, and this can be a major nuisance. If too many flats become Airbnb properties, a neighbourhood can seriously suffer. The meeting noted that many residents might rent out their flat for a few weeks unproblematically if they are away for a short while, and also that the GCRA cannot in any case take any action itself to limit the spread of Airbnb in the estate. The councillors pointed out that residents can phone 101 if there is a problem with anti-social noise, and could report an Airbnb flat to the planning team at the council if it becomes a problem.

9. Any Other Business

It was noted that some sections of brick have come off some bin areas on the estate. The GCRA cannot fix this as the bin areas are the responsibility of individual blocks.

The councillors were asked if there are any plans to resurface Arboretum Avenue, given that the road surface is not great there. The councillors admitted that this is unlikely in the short term, given that councils funds are being cut further. There is something of a backlog for dealing with resurfacing in any case, and it can be difficult to assess what needs to be done quickly and what can wait in terms of renovating roads. Only 15% of roads that require resurfacing in Edinburgh have been done.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM will take place in November 2020. The committee will organise this and tell residents in good time. The committee will also hold a few committee meetings between AGMs (and all residents are welcome to attend these – contact secretary.gcra@hotmail.co.uk for details).