

GCRA committee meeting

7th November 2023

In attendance:

Carol Fraser, Rachel Hinds, Patrick Honeybone, Anne McCarthy, Michelle O'Toole

1. Accounts

The year's accounts are still being checked by Michael, the independent examiner. The accounts will be distributed to members once they are ready. It was noted that previous practice (at in-person AGMs) was to hand out GCRA accounts at the AGM, but the committee thought it better to distribute them in advance.

2. AGM agenda

The items that had been submitted by members for the AGM agenda were considered. All of those that are within the GCRA remit, or may be, were added to the agenda (grouped into 6 items). The other items that had been submitted, but did not seem clearly to be part of the GCRA remit, were listed under AOB.

3. Other AGM issues

The committee discussed the fee and agreed that no rise in the fee is necessary for next year, given that all members' fees had been collected this year again and there is no shortage of money in the bank account. The committee will propose no rise for next year at the AGM. It was recognised again that new committee members would be needed for next year, so it was agreed to ask members in advance of the AGM if they would like to stand for the committee. It was recognised that there were differing views on the committee as to whether GCRA members who are on the committee should propose candidates for committee positions. All those present at the meeting felt that it would be sensible to propose one of the current committee members for chair next year, to help with continuity, but it was recognised that there is no doubt the members decide the committee make-up at the AGM. PH and CF agreed to come up with a summary of the gardening consultation results for the AGM. 43 members/flats had responded to the survey and a range of opinions were expressed. Most members are happy with things as they are (the mean average response to "On a scale of 1 (= worst) to 10 (= best), how satisfied are you with the gardening?" is 6.1, the median is 7, and the mode is 8), but several members are not happy with things currently, and are clearly keen to discuss the gardening contract. It was again agreed that it would be a major undertaking to change gardeners, and a working group should be set up if the AGM decides to seriously consider changing gardeners.

4. Bench

Members have asked for a bench on the riverbank to be removed because it is broken. It was agreed that a council uplift for this would be arranged.

5. Zoom payment

The decision to continue paying for a Zoom licence was revisited as it was agreed that it was likely no longer necessary, given that free alternatives could work for committee meetings and it seems likely that the majority of members would prefer an in-person AGM in future. It was agreed to cancel the licence from the renewal was due in November.