

GCRA 2013 AGM minutes

Monday 25th November 2013 @ St. Bernard's Bar, Raeburn Place.

Present:

Chair – Mark Westwood

Secretaries – Gus & Denise McNulty

Committee Member – Susan Currie

Kris Stuart, Rik Hart, Katrina Balmer, Carolyn Millbank, Jill Fraser, Debbie Waterson, Colin Dempster, Michael Young, Jill Andrew, Patrick Honeybone, Graeme Sutherland, Graeme Cockburn, Chris Brannan, Jan McNee, Rachel Hinds, Doreen Boyle, Susan Bell, Anne McCarthy, Jane Norie, Cadien Reid, Zoe Johnston, Irena Loughton, Billy & Jennifer Shaw, Olivia & Anji Rae, Ciara Forde, Rosie Jenner, Moira Gray and Michael Sharp.

Councillor Lesley Hinds (Labour), Councillor Nigel Bagshaw (Greens), PC Carl Medlock (Police Scotland) & Matt McKenna (Lagan).

Apologies:

Isobel Millar, Peter Millar, Francis Hider, Jo Capek, Robert Williamson, Andrew Watson, Lynsey Kenrick Smith, Graeme Dunbar & Jackie Sutherland.

Proxy votes were held for:

Gemma Statham, Dave & Val Smart, Andrew Watson, Peter Millar, Gillian Bertram, Rory Mackenzie, Isobel Millar, Jo Capek, Lynne Connolly, Robert Williamson, Barry Doyle, Ewan Foreman, Malcolm & Heather Wright & Lynsey Kenrick-Smith. All were in favour of a motion to further investigate the move to factoring by gathering a full costed proposal and moving to an EGM.

The Chair, Mark Westwood welcomed residents/members to the AGM and introduced the agenda for the evening. He also welcomed and introduced the guest speakers, PC Medlock, Matt McKenna from Lagan and Councillors Lesley Hinds and Nigel Bagshaw.

CHAIR REPORT

Mark then carried out the chair report where he spoke about the lack of a treasurer during the last year and that this appears to indicate a general lack of interest from members in getting involved.

SECRETARY REPORT

Gus McNulty (Joint Secretary) then moved on and carried out the secretaries' report. He informed the meeting that he had been co-opted back onto the committee as joint treasurer at the 1st committee meeting of the year following the 2012 AGM where Denise McNulty had succeeded Lynsey Kenrick Smith as Secretary. The secretaries role for the year had been mainly centred on answering general correspondence from residents as well as attempting to secure a new treasurer following the departure of Tim Daintree and Beth Crix in April/May of 2013. He told the meeting that there had been a lack of interest from the membership with no one coming forward to fill the treasurer role. He also said that this has resulted in no one following up the collecting of subscriptions from 2012. He went onto say that Jane Norie, former treasurer had kindly agreed to look over the books and that only around 60% of subscriptions had been collected and that this had left the association with a shortage of funds. Gus then went onto say that the secretary role had also included liaising with Lagan to try and address concerns regarding the re-instatement of the grounds.

FLOOD PREVENTION WORKS – GROUND REINSTATEMENT

This led onto Mark introducing the next point on the agenda, the re-instatement of the grounds following the flood defence works and introduced Matt McKenna from Lagan. It was highlighted to Matt that the resident's were under the impression that the grounds were to be reinstated as to how Lagan found them prior to work commencing and that this had not occurred on the riverbank. Matt McKenna stated that the plan included the planting of grass seeds and that this had been agreed between the landscaper and the council and that they could not deviate from the plan.

Councillor Hinds agreed with residents that the riverbank had not been re-instated and that this should be looked at next spring. She told the meeting that John Wharrie (CEC) who has responsibility for the flood defence scheme has been off work sick for a few months. However Councillors Hinds and Bagshaw agreed to meet with committee members with a view to meeting designers and John Wharrie & have a walk around the estate prior to Christmas. This will lead to Councillors Hinds and Bagshaw assisting by liaising with Lagan to ensure that the riverbank is properly re-instated.

On this subject it was also mentioned from the floor that the riverbank should be closed off at each end to discourage people using it as a short cut or gaining access to the estate.

The chair asked for volunteers from the membership to act as a contact point between the councillors and the committee to progress this area and Chris Brannan and Jan McNee kindly agreed to assist with this.

Also on this point of the agenda Jill Andrew raised concerns that Lagan had been responsible for damaging a wall in the Liddesdale Place car park as well as causing a pot hole in the same car park caused by the heavy flow of heavy vehicles during the flood defence works.

Debbie Waterson also raised concerns that the flood defence works and the piling in particular had been responsible for the front step to 4 Liddesdale Place to be cracked. She also raised her concerns about the possibility of damage to the foundations of the building caused by the flood works.

In response to this Matt McKenna stated that there is a 12 month defect period commencing from now.

The councillors also told the meeting that if anyone has concerns about the flood prevention work they can contact the councillors to discuss or meet Councillor Hinds at her surgery in Wednesday evenings at Stockbridge library or a meeting with Councillor Bagshaw can be arranged via appointment.

COMMUNITY POLICING

PC Carl Medlock our community Police Officer from Police Scotland then spoke to the meeting about current crime trends in the area and asked for questions from the floor. This raised a question regarding disruptive neighbours. Advice was given that the Police along with partner agencies could assist with anti-social behaviour.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP / PROPOSAL TO MOVE TO FACTORING

The chair then moved the meeting onto the next point on the agenda, committee membership, which in turn led onto the lack of a treasurer and therefore the lack of a treasurer report this year.

The chair then discussed the proposal to move to a property management company to take over the role of treasurer with the view that such a company would carry out the same work we do at the moment, manage the common amenity of the grounds.

Jane Norie, a former treasurer told the meeting that she had had a quick look at the books for this year and only around 60-65% of subscriptions had been collected. Also that this was due to the treasurers Tim Daintree and Beth Crix relocating back to England and that this had resulted in no one doing a follow up to chase non payers.

Rik Hart from the floor proposed that stair reps could collect subs from their neighbours. The chair intimated that this would still need a focal point and someone to pass the money onto, a treasurer.

It was also suggested from the floor that the association offer an honorarium to a treasurer. The chair stated that this had been discussed; however it was felt that the association had been down this road previously and that there was no evidence that it encouraged volunteers to fill the office bearer roles.

Then from the floor of the meeting, Michael Sharp volunteered to step in and fill the treasurer position. This was accepted by the meeting. This had the result that with a full committee back in place, there would be no need, at this time, to progress the involvement of a property manager.

The chair announced his intention to stand down at the next AGM.

The chair proposed that with the committee continuing as normal that when subscriptions are collected for the year they should remain at £90 per annum. This would allow the new treasurer to settle in and this could be reviewed if necessary in 2014.

AOB

Any Other Business resulted in questions regarding the lack of signage in the estate and car parks marking it as private property. Questions were also asked regarding private parking poles on individual bays as well as the state of the paintwork on the parking bays. Denise McNulty suggested that we could have a subcommittee to arrange neighbourhood events such as a BBQ in the summer if we get the river bank properly reinstated.

The chair closed the meeting and thanked the guest speakers for their time.

Actions to come out of the meeting:

Look into new signage. Once subscriptions are collected look at cost for repainting parking bays, however this should only be carried out if Lagan refuse to pay for the wear and tear they have

caused. Councillors Hinds and Bagshaw will assist by bringing this up with Lagan as part of the reinstatement of the grounds. Chris Brannan and Jan McNee to assist with liaising with councillors over ground reinstatement. Subscriptions to be sent out in new year.

Also the committee for the next year will be: Mark Westwood – Chair

Gus & Denise McNulty – Joint Secretaries Michael Sharp – Treasurer

Jackie Sutherland, Susan Currie & Graeme Dunbar – Committee Members

As stated previously the committee will be supplemented by Chris Brannan and Jan McNee assisting in liaising with councillors Hinds and Bagshaw and Lagan to work on the reinstatement of the grounds / riverbank.

Gus McNulty

Secretary

01/12/13.