

MINUTES for GCRA Committee Meeting - Tuesday 17/2/15

Present:

Gus & Denise - Secretary

Michael - Treasurer

Jackie & Graham Sutherland

Graeme Dunbar

Jane Norie

Susan Currie

Robert Williamson

Rik Hart

The meeting was opened by Gus who asked if there was anything to be raised regarding the minutes from the AGM. The meeting had no issues with the minutes.

Gus then moved onto the Secretary report where he said that all points he had to discuss were on the agenda and would be discussed in due course.

Michael provided an update as Treasurer. He said that he has still to chase up non-payers and that the amount of debtors remained the same as at the AGM, bar one new fee being paid. He also said that the majority of the debtors are due over a year's payment each and currently there are around eight properties that don't pay for various reasons and that there are debtors who are due 4 or 5 years worth of fees.

The meeting thanked Michael for the amount of work and effort he has put into managing our accounts and that the new system he has introduced has made payment much easier for the residents

The meeting then moved on to discuss the re-painting of the parking bays which had been agreed at the AGM. Gus said that the council had arranged and carried out the re-painting of twelve bays in the Liddesdale car park where Lagan had their yard and that work to repair two damaged walls in Liddesdale Place was in hand and would be completed soon.

Gus then said that he had been back in touch with Fast Lane to get an updated quote to the one sourced by Rik and that a quote for repainting the remaining 126 bays has been provided totalling £1575 plus VAT. This did not include painting PRIVATE at either the entrances to both Liddesdale and Etrickdale or at the entrances to both car parks. Rik said that this would not have cost much extra, however Gus said that this would end up with just something else to maintain and that there is not anywhere that this would be suitable to paint anyway. Graeme had sourced an alternative quote, however this was for £1950 plus VAT for the same work and Graeme also said that there did not appear to be any other companies in Scotland that would carry out this type of work. Michael said that there are sufficient funds in the account to cover the cost for this work. The meeting agreed to go ahead with the new quote from Fast Lane. Gus is to progress this.

The meeting then discussed the recently discovered damaged wall outside of 6 Glenogle Road. It was agreed that this would need to be repaired and that the association would need to cover the cost for this. Nobody knew how this had occurred. Gus said that he would see if any vehicle accidents had been reported before we start looking into paying for this.

The meeting then moved onto discussing improvements to the estate. Gus said that he had recently met with Hall from Greenscape and had a walk around the estate identifying areas which could be improved:

Rear of 5/2 Liddesdale Place – This area has become overgrown due to the owner who planted this area emigrating. Greenscape can take over the maintenance of this area. Also cut back the two NZ flax that are currently higher than the ground floor windows to a quarter of their size and use cuttings elsewhere in more appropriate places on the estate that Greenscape will maintain.

4 Liddesdale Place – The pine at the rear corner and the Castonesta at the front corner are way past their best and could be removed and replaced with something more appropriate. Also small grass area to the side could be removed and replaced with a flower bed. The turf to the right hand side of the rear door could also be dug up and prepared for a flower bed to be maintained by residents or alternatively other plants from around the estate could be moved to here.

Front of 5 Etrickdale Place – replace old laurel with something more appropriate.

Front right hand side of 5 EP and front of 4 EP – remove old hedge and replace with something more appropriate.

Car Park Etrickdale Place, to rear of 4 EP – The laurels are too big and could be replaced.

Rear of 1 Ettrickdale Place – Hedge is old and worn looking, could be replaced.

Right hand entrance to Ettrickdale Place, behind the hedge there is an area of Escalonia (probably incorrect spelling) which is old and could be replaced with a flower bed.

Front of 4 Glenogle Road – Old and tired looking Pine and conifer could be replaced.

Front right hand side of 5 Glenogle Road – hedge here is very old and oddly shaped, this could be replaced.

Greenscape will eventually take over the maintenance of the riverbank as they previously did.

A price of £1000 - £1200 plus an extra £500 -£800 for replanting a new flower bed in Ettrickdale Place has been provided. If this work is completed then around 75% of the estates shrubs will have been replaced and improved by the GCRA.

Michael stated that if Greenscape maintain the cost of this within the current contract then we could go ahead and do this work in one go as we have sufficient funds to cover this as now is the time of year to remove the old shrubs. He did though ask Gus to clarify with Hall if there are any plans to increase our gardening fees.

Michael also suggested that if the association is carrying out this amount of work then the fees may need to increase by £10 next year.

The meeting also discussed the request raised by Katrina Balmer at the AGM to place a PRIVATE sign on the entrance gate to the riverbank. It was agreed that the association will progress this. Rik has volunteered to action this.

The names of signatories currently listed on the association's bank account were also discussed. This needs to be updated. Michael is going to look into this.

Jane spoke of 2 Ettrickdale Place having their common stair re-painted and by Paint Right Decorators who have done a good job and suggested that their details could be added to the website.

The meeting also discussed an Information sheet previously prepared by Lindsay Kenrick-Smith which Gus had asked Rik to add to the website, however Rik felt it was too negative and not specific to our estate. Gus and others at the meeting said that the sheet contained information that could be helpful especially to those new to the estate and want this added to the site.

Jane has offered to look at the wording on the sheet to see if it can be improved or updated.

Denise said that other committee members should be able to add too and update items on the website. Rik said that this was not possible as the site is operated by a programme on his computer and that this contains other sites that he maintains.

It was also discussed that Gus had asked for an item to be added to the site advertising the current vacancy for the Chair position on the committee. Rik has refused to do this as he feels it is not in the constitution. It was suggested by the meeting that we look into arranging a system and possibly amending the constitution so we could have an email vote to elect new office bearers.

Meeting closed.