

MINUTES for GCRA Committee Meeting

Tuesday 20th October 7pm - The Orchard Pub

Present: Gus McNulty (Secretary), Jane Norie, Jackie & Graham Sutherland, Sam Rennie, Jill & Neil Andrews.

Gus opened the meeting by giving apologies for those unable to attend. Then he went onto give an explanation of the main functions of the GCRA for the benefit of Sam who is a new resident.

Gus then said that the AGM for 2015 had been arranged for Monday 30th November 2105 at Stockbridge Library between 6.30 and 7.45pm.

There was no Chair Report due to the GCRA still not having a chairperson. Also, there was no Treasurer Report as Michael was unable to make this meeting. Gus said that in recent communication with Michael it had been discussed the need to keep an eye on our outgoings in the upcoming year as we have spent a lot this year and that we should be concentrating on core spending. It was also discussed among those at the meeting the planned proposal for the annual subscription to be increased to £100 PA for the year 2016-2017. The fees have not increased for a number of years and that if we are to continue to be able to maintain the grounds and carry out extra work then the fees should reflect this.

The meeting also discussed a proposal from Gus that the GCRA should take back on the maintenance of the estates trees. Gus said that the current arrangement is that the trees on each block are the responsibility of that individual block. Gus said that in his opinion he does not see much maintaining of trees going on, with a couple of exceptions. Some blocks have a disproportionate amount of trees to maintain compared to others and in his opinion this is unfair. For there to be an organised and thought out plan for the trees, they should be maintained by the GCRA and to cover the cost of this we should propose to add an extra amount to the fees for the maintenance of said trees. This work could be carried out in a rolling program with a budget set each year. It was discussed that one of the main reasons given previously to move to the current set up was that the GCRA could be held liable for any injuries caused by or damage done by the trees. It was pointed out at the meeting that the trees would remain the responsibility of the blocks whose ground they stand on and that the residents in these blocks would be liable, however the GCRA could maintain the trees on behalf of the residents with no liability. It was agreed that Gus would try and get some costs for this and that we could propose it to the AGM in November.

The Secretary's Report from Gus was brief, he said that he had been answering the usual emails and queries from residents as and when they came in. Also, that he has still been liaising with Jonathan James at the council regarding the riverbank. This is due to it being unclear what work has been carried out here by The Council's contractors. Gus said he has not had a clear reply yet. Also, the benches that were promised still have not materialised and that he is still reminding Jonathan about this from time to time.

In regard to committee membership, the committee members present all said that they could stay on for the upcoming year. However, they would also be happy to step aside if others wished to take their place. Linked to this this, it was discussed who was going to chair the AGM as we have been operating without a Chairperson since Mark stood down last year. Jill said that if she could attend the AGM then she would be able to stand in to chair the meeting as a one off, but does not want to become a committee member again. Gus also said that if need be he would chair the AGM if Denise took the minutes. Sam said that she would be happy to get involved with the committee in general and in relation to the AGM could take minutes. Nothing was decided and we will sort it out at the start of the AGM.

It was discussed if we should have guest speakers at the AGM again. It was agreed that we could invite the Police again. Gus suggested that we could invite someone from Friends of Rocheid Path who could maybe give a short talk about what they do. It was agreed that we should invite our councillors again and that this year Gus should invite all four of them.

At the meeting Jill and Neil discussed the councils plans to increase the scope of the controlled parking zone in the New Town, Eyre Place and Henderson Row to 9.30pm and to include Saturdays and Sundays. This will have the effect that we will be the first free parking available putting extra pressure on our private spaces. Jill said that this is still at consultation and that there is still time to put in objections. Gus said that if Jill emailed him the full details he would ask Rik to put it up on the website and that it could be discussed at the AGM, where hopefully if Councillor Hinds in particular is present we might be able to raise any concerns with the right person.

Meeting closed.