

Huntly Gardens
Proprietors Association
(HGPA)
Annual General Meeting
22.02.2022

Location: Kelvinside Hillhead Parish Church – Belmont Room

Time: 6.30pm

Attending: P. Barclay (6), D. Gillespie (23), Alan Ramsay (19), Emma Thomson (19), Simon Naylor (30), D. Ferguson (19), G. Hamilton (6), C. Dooley (22), Bill Daley (13), J. Daley (13), A. Dorrian (13), N. Davidson (20), Lawrence Eckhart (33), M. Murphy (1), I. Mackinnon (2), Ronald Inglis (15), Iain Teaz (15), Rhona Lindsay (6A), Joss Reid (9), Stewart Curren (3), Brendan Murphy (1), Hilary Barclay (6), Lawrence Weaver (4), Ronnie Kyle (2), Joyce Laville (2).

Apologies: submitted to Hilary Barclay from – Kersti Berge & Gregor Irwin (5), Gabriella Samson (34), Doreen Quinn (3), Jemima Curran (22), Brian & Linda McCafferty (16), Bev Shroot (24), Ruth Stocks (5A), Angelica Montagnini (24), Graham Sanders (15).

Minute of Meeting

Welcome: Hilary, as garden co-ordinator, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Lawrence Weaver who had been invited to chair the AGM, as it was the first bringing the original Garden and North Side Road committees together again.

Lawrence began by introducing the committee members and gave an explanation as to how what had become two groups were brought back together and how the proposed structure was designed to represent both sides of the garden. Existing committee members also felt that it was a good opportunity to review the original HGPA Constitution of 1964 and revise it for modern use.

Adoption of Constitution: Lawrence began by emphasizing the two original key objectives of the constitution and how the committee decided to work within its existing structure and modify, taking account of changing legal and practical matters. Lawrence asked for any issues to be raised regarding the proposed constitution.

Issues raised:

- Are minutes being taken? Yes, Joyce (secretary) was currently taking minutes.
- A question was asked about whether the constitution could be amended to include an agreed amount beyond which all members should be consulted before spending on individual items – the new garden gate was given as an example of what raised the query.
- A further input suggested we have a system which allows all members to vote on 'large' spends? A member volunteered to do this for committee.
- This led to a much wider discussion including the fact that the North Side Roads Group had already adopted this process, but for very large amounts, eg £60,000 +.
- The point was made that votes cannot just be by e-mail, so a difficult job being done by volunteers becomes harder and would slow routine work down considerably.

- Issues of practicality were raised with many members saying they did not want their mailboxes swamped with voting choices and that the point of the AGM was to put trust in the committee to carry out agreed tasks.
- Many expressed that they are happy with the way gardens are run and that £8 per month was good value for such a beautiful and well-maintained garden.
- It was also pointed out that the constitution already did say 'significant decisions' should be put to a member vote.
- This was widely accepted and when put to the vote, the constitution as presented, was adopted by a clear majority.

Communal Gardens Report: Hilary read from the report earlier circulated to all members focusing on the aim for a naturalized hedge with seasonal planting and 'windows' allowing both privacy and ability for owners to see into garden. The wild area hadn't worked but spring bulbs had now been planted in that area. The report also incorporated a section highlighting future plans.

Issues raised:

- The continued use of Round-up as a weedkiller. Hilary referred to an earlier response to a member which gave a full explanation of why this was necessary and restricted to paths only. Following wide ranging discussion, it was agreed that those who raised the issue would do a proposal for alternatives.
- Hilary gave further explanation of the garden gate costs, explaining that the gate was made to measure and involved extensive work digging out the old one before fitting.
- A further question was asked about whether tendering was used for any work. Hilary replied that she regularly researched gardening costs and that Garden-Wise continued to give best value for the work they do.
- A committee member reminded the meeting that the committee were all volunteers who already devoted considerable time to the road and garden maintenance/ development.
- There was a request for more garden furniture. Hilary, while acknowledging that not all members wanted an increase in furniture provision, did say that this could be done in the coming year.
- Some members would like to increase childrens' use of the garden. It was agreed that children should be encouraged to learn about gardening and Hilary said that there were empty pots behind the shed which families could use for their planting.

North side road report: Stewart read from the also circulated road report and focused on the on-going lighting situation and how he had tried to resolve this with the involvement of a conservation architect. Despite this, it was proving difficult to get anyone to undertake the job and also likely to be very expensive, but it was felt we had to persevere as the ongoing plan was to keep what we have rather than replace. The ongoing work on this would continue until a resolution could be found. This and other ongoing matters formed future plans for the coming year.

Issues raised:

- There was a query as to whether owners were responsible for the garden-side pavement path on south side of garden. After some discussion it was thought that we probably were, and that Stewart would seek to clarify the situation. *
- Problems were reported about both lack of parking enforcement and speeding on the North side road. Both these matters are not the responsibility of the HGPA and members were advised they should be taken up with the council.
- A further question was raised about improving speed bumps which was rejected. It was emphasized that larger bumps would cause surrounding road surface damage when vehicles "bounce" over them. This damage can be seen clearly around the bumps installed on Horselethill Road.

Treasurer's report and setting of fees: Brendan talked through both sets of accounts which were accepted.

Issues arising:

- North side Road: Stewart pointed out that no further money had been requested for the North Side Road since the major road improvement spend and suggested that there was currently no need to request road fees until we knew the potential cost of the lighting repairs.
- Garden: Hilary pointed out that the garden fees had been held at £96 for four years and we could just about manage with the same again. However, if raised to £108, it would allow more flexibility in providing some of the things requested. It was put to the vote and those present voted by 13/11 to raise the garden fees to £108 for the coming year.

Nomination of new committee members: Lawrence pointed out that there were three vacancies on the committee and ideally, we needed more representation from the south side and for continuity purposes - younger people. Hilary nominated Dorothy Gillespie who has already been very involved as a garden helper and who accepted. No other nominations had been received or were put forward at the meeting.

Date of next AGM: It was agreed for the first Tuesday after Valentine's Day. The date would be 21st February 2023.

AOCB:

- Hilary wanted to point out that although she had referred to herself earlier as 'a one-man band' a vote of thanks should be given to her husband, Paul who had provided technical and moral support throughout her time managing garden matters. The meeting gave generous applause.
- Stewart gave information about Glasgow City Council 'Lane Toolkit'. This gave a grant of between £1000 and £20000 for work to improve rear lanes. The kit does not specify the work and it's assumed it could be used for skip hire, bin housing, painting and general tidying up. He thought it would be difficult for anyone to do the extensive paperwork to make the March 11 deadline, but thought we should keep it in mind for future years. All members could Google for more information
- A member suggested that someone living at the corner of Athol Lane and Bowmont Gardens might be able to help locate funding and he would make contact.
- Lawrence raised the issue of the railings at No 14 with Hazel who is one of the owners. It was agreed that Lawrence would personally take up the matter with her brother who also resides there.

Lawrence thanked all who attended and in turn was thanked as chair.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Minute prepared by Joyce Laville, Secretary, (No2)

February 2022

* Since the meeting, Stewart has been able to clarify that the pavement on the south side of the garden has been adopted by Glasgow City Council and as such, is not the responsibility of the HGPA.

