



# GROSVENOR

## Minutes

**Belgrave Square Garden Committee  
15 September 2009 - 5.00pm  
Seaford House, 37 Belgrave Square, London**

**Present:**

Committee: Lord Ballyedmond (EB)  
Amanda Bond-Elliott (ABE)  
Jenny Cleaver (JC)  
Andrew Gordon-Lennox (AGL)  
Helen Oratore (HO)  
Mary Regnier-Leigh (Chair) (MRL)  
Julie Wetherell (JW)

Grosvenor: Nigel Hughes (NAH)  
Jose Redondo (JR)  
Stephen Smith (SS)  
Fran Giles (sec) (FJG)

**Apologies:** Lawton Fage  
Caroline Lister (CL)  
Kate Raw

**Minutes copied to:** All attendees and apologies  
Belgrave Square Gardens website  
Belgrave Square Garden noticeboard

**Action**

**1.0 Position of Chair**

- 1.1 NAH welcomed all present to the meeting, and invited Lord Ballyedmond, as a new committee member, to ask any questions as the meeting progressed. NAH also advised that Karen McDougall had now left Grosvenor and any garden queries were being dealt with by Frances Collins in the Gardens Department.
- 1.2 NAH reminded the committee that MRL taking the Chair needed to be confirmed, as John Bolsover had had to resign from the post between meetings. The proposal for MRL to take the Chair was accepted and agreed by all present at the meeting, and by CL by proxy vote through JC.

**2.0 Minutes of previous meeting**

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

**3.0 Chairman's Report**

- 3.1 MRL visited the garden with SS and JR. Points noted included:
- The gate with the self-closer works well as long as it is less than 45° open
  - Many dogs did not have tags at the time MRL visited to keep an eye on the situation.

- However, after the new registration period, almost every dog had new blue tags
- The dog waiting list was cleared and is closed as agreed at previous meetings

#### 4.0 Landscape Manager's Report

- 4.1
- Holly hedge was cut in July / August and looks better for it
  - The rotting surround of the sandpit has been replaced
  - The surround of the playground needs replacing
  - Pruning has started in the garden
  - Estimate obtained for repairing shelters - £2,500 + VAT. The committee need to decide whether to do this work in 2009 or 2010
  - A quote is being prepared for a report to check the structures for soundness
  - Open day was a great success - comments received were very good - the comments are available on the website  
(<http://www.grosvenor-gardens.co.uk/BelgraveSquareGarden/OpenDayComments.htm>)
  - The problem with the gate by the sandpit should be fixed soon
  - The hornbeam hedge by the tennis court is to be trimmed during September, down to the height of the chainlink fence

4.2 JC asked if planting could be put into the gaps in the hedge behind the Bolívar statue and SS/JR agreed to action this. SS/JR

4.3 MRL asked if the committee thought the gazebos needed painting and the general consensus was that they did not.

#### 5.0 Landscape Agency - Report

5.1 SS advised that in 2002 the Landscape Agency carried out a review of the garden and create a 5 year management plan. This has been reviewed this year - a copy of the report is available at:  
<http://www.grosvenor-gardens.co.uk/BelgraveSquareGarden/Bel-Sq-Gdn-Review.htm>

The main points were as follows:

- More robust planting at entrances - SS advised this is being incorporated, including suggestions from JC and MRL
- Trees - cyclical pruning of trees has taken place - a management plan for the trees is currently being done by Chris Yarrow's successor. The report noted lots of shade cast in the garden by the trees, making difficult growing conditions for shrubs and other plants
- Plan recommends felling some trees, some due to damage and some to create more light. Planning permission has been gained to remove a cherry that has lost half its crown. MRL asked if planning permission has been obtained for the other trees to be felled. SS advised that is has not at the current time. The planning permission applications will go in at the end of the year, with the work planned for Feb/March.

AGL commented the report referred to the Hornbeam hedge as Beech.

There was discussion about action to be taken regarding the Hornbeam hedge, to accommodate both aesthetics and tennis court user preferences. It was agreed that there would be a trial of windows being cut into the hedge - 3 squares to start with. NAH suggested testing the size/placing of the windows with a piece of tarpaulin first. This was all agreed by the committee.

- The report suggested the planting of 8 cherries around the inner circle. After discussion, SS was requested to provide some suggestions for an alternative tree to a Cherry, as these trees only flower for a few weeks.
- The report mentioned irrigation - the drip irrigation had not been successful when tried SS

	previously. There are currently three water points around the garden. Landscape Agency report suggests fitting standpipes but there could be a problem with low pressure. The committee requested SS obtain a quote for fitting standpipes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report suggested add pots around the gazebos. SS commented that these could end up being used as football goals</li> <li>• The report suggested setting benches back into borders, to save them cluttering the paths</li> </ul>	SS
	The ramp into the playground needs to be addressed - John Bolsover had suggested cutting it off in line with the circle. The committee agreed - SS to action.	SS
	SS suggested putting in a smaller bow-top fence to prevent children running through the border next to the playground, thereby damaging plants. The committee agreed - SS to action.	SS
	AGL commented the report contained suggestions to remove trees around the edge of the garden but doesn't seem to take into the account the noise abatement effect that they have.	
	EB suggested that rhododendrons could be used in place of some of the laurels. SS advised that rhododendrons have not done well in Belgrave Square Garden in the past, but could be considered.	
	SS to put together a budget for the next meeting.	SS
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rules</b>	
6.1	MRL commented that SS had provided a copy of the minutes from 1843 which showed that they faced the same problems that the current committee do with regard to garden user behaviour etc.	
	Some decisions were made at the last meeting regarding the rules. MRL to include these decisions and provide draft of rules at next meeting. AGL commented the rules should be simple and clear and that, if necessary, a structure needs to be put in place to enforce the rules.	MRL
6.2	Item outstanding from previous minutes - provision of an area for ball games. SS/AGL to liaise on this.	SS / AGL
	Rules to be amended to read "Ball games to be played only in designated area", once the area for ball games has been created.	SS/FG
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
7.1	NAH advised the TfL have obtained planning permission for a cycle hire station to be built opposite 40 Belgrave Square. This is one of 6 or 7 proposed for Belgravia.	
7.2	NAH advised that Planning Policy Statement changes meant that two pieces of legislation are being merged into one and the result is that controls over the garden will be increased and enhanced. Therefore, it may be sensible to consider works that need to be done to the garden before this change takes place.	
7.3	FJG gave out printouts of how the proposed online tennis court booking site would look. The committee asked for confirmation on who would pay for the system installation / ongoing maintenance. FJG to find out and pass information to committee.	FJG
7.4	ABE asked what had become of the ID badges. AGL confirmed the badges had been left at reception of 37 Belgrave Square and had been collected by someone from Grosvenor. FJG to find out who collected them and the whereabouts of the badges.	FJG

**Post meeting note:** The badges have been located in the reception of 37 Belgrave Square. They will be distributed at the next committee meeting.

- 7.5 ABE asked for confirmation of the amount the dog registration fee was to increase by and when this would take effect. FJG to confirm amount and date. FJG

**Post meeting note:** it had been agreed that the fee would increase to £25 and that this was implemented in the renewals that were done in May 2009.

- 7.6 SS commented that a date needed to be agreed for planting to be done by the committee. It was agreed that SS would suggest a date (a Saturday) for FJG to circulate to the committee and that those who were able to attend would do so. JC suggested that bulbs could be planted as well as shrubs. SS/FJG

- 7.7 ABE advised that following a meeting with Karen McDougall and NAH, it was decided that insisting on dog owners providing photographs before issuing dog tags was not practical.

- 7.8 SS advised a complaint had been received about a party which had included Punch and Judy, balloons, pergolas for approximately 20 children. The complainant had felt excluded from that part of the garden.

SS advised that there were also 6 bags of rubbish left behind after the party.

JC suggested parties be limited to 1 gazebo instead of 2.

SS / NAH to write to the party organiser. SS/NAH

- 7.9 The committee requested the following items be added to the agenda for the December meeting: FJG
- Suggestion of a cocktail party for keyholders (ABE)
  - Dates of 2010 meetings

## 8.0 **Reminder of dates of next meetings**

- 8.1 Wed 16 December - 8.30am  
Tue 26 January - 5.00pm