



The Grange Association

Edinburgh

Scottish Charity No. SC025491

THIRTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 23rd February 2011 at 6:30 pm
at Marchmont St Giles' Church Hall, Kilgraston Road,
Edinburgh

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Adoption of Thirty-first AGM minutes
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Chair's report
- 6 Honorary Secretary's report.
- 7 Honorary Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts
- 8 Adoption of membership fees for 2012
- 9 Election of office bearers, committee members and Auditor's appointment
- 10 Question time
- 11 Conclusion

Following the AGM there will be a talk by
Jessica Morgado entitled:
'The Hermitage of Braid - Its History and Conservation'

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION

(Registered as a charity in Scotland number SC 025491)

MINUTES OF 31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in Marchmont St Giles Church, Edinburgh at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 24th February 2010

1 **Opening remarks and welcome**

The Secretary welcomed everyone to the meeting. Particular mention was made of the attendance of Mike Pringle, MSP and Councillor Gordon McKenzie; the considerable calls on their time made their presence especially welcome. Tony Harris, secretary of the Craigmillar Park Association, one of our 'sister' organisations, was also in attendance.

The meeting was invited to inspect some of the archive materials and the GEARS project material on display at the end of the evening.

2 **Attendance**

About 50 members, comfortably in excess of the quorum, were present.

3 **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Ian Perry, Dorothy Ryle, Kirstine Baxter, Jon Oberlander, Alistair Kilgour, Caroline Milne, Mrs Fortescue.

4 **Adoption of Minutes of Thirtieth AGM and matters arising**

There were no amendments proposed or matters arising

Minutes adopted by meeting.

Proposed: Judith Reeves

Seconded: John Duffus

5 **Chairman's report**

The circulated report was referred to.

In opening the chairman spoke of her earlier connection with the association, she had served as chairman before, and said it was good to be back. A brief mention of issues of concern to the association which might affect the area was made.

- 5.1 The number of planning applications was down on previous years, 84 on 13 of which we had commented. Only 2 of these applications were rejected by the planning department although they had seen fit to refuse a further 4 which we had not commented on. There was clearly still some difference in opinion between the planners and ourselves on the merits or otherwise of individual proposals. In August changes to planning procedure had taken place meaning that 7 letters of objection rather than the previous 3 were required to trigger a presentation to the planning sub-committee. This was felt to be a diminution of the role of the public in planning with further delegation of decisions to planning officers.

The association had commented on Council consultations on:

Parks Events Manifesto

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Open Space Audit

- 5.2 Parking issues remain a bone of contention in the area. Some benefits had come from the introduction of Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) S1 but resolution of the problems south of S1 remained to be achieved. We had added our comments to the many which had been sent to the Traffic Department and the situation remained fluid. Further proposal and discussions were anticipated and we hoped to be involved in those. What was evident was that everyone in the area has a particular view and providing a comprehensive universally acceptable solution to commuter, long term and displacement parking would not be easy.
- 5.3 During the last year we had been entertained by speakers on diverse topics. Following last year's AGM Roger Curtis, from Historic Scotland spoke on 'Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings'. In March Caroline McInnes spoke about the 'History of the Union Canal'. In the Autumn Dr Andy Kerr spoke about the 'Climate Change Act' then Hamish Coghill gave a talk on 'Lost Edinburgh'. Once again our thanks are due to Judith Reeves for organising our Plant Sale and the Garden Outing – this year to Kellie Castle in Fife.
- 5.4 Committee members had represented the association at several bodies within the city including the Civic Forum organized by the Cockburn Association, Local Environmental Fora and both Marchmont & Sciennes and Grange Prestonfield Community Councils. Occasional meetings between our local

councilors and representatives of local groups including the Craigmillar Park Association, The Blacket Association, The West Blacket Association, The Waverley Park Feuars and ourselves.

- 5.5 The chairman outlined the background to the Grange Energy And Renewables Study (GEARS). The need to decrease carbon use and improve energy efficiency has become commonly accepted as desirable. Government policy requires a reduction of 40% in carbon dioxide production by 2020 and an ambitious reduction of 80% by 2050. Without participation at a local level these aims are unlikely to be met. With this in mind the study was set up with the aims of providing information to householders on energy reduction and efficiency, sustainability, stimulating community engagement and providing data for a further stage 2 study. A grant of £10,121 was approved by the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) for stage 1 which is now complete. An application for stage 2 has been lodged with the CCF and a decision on our application should be made in March. Thanks were made to the GEARS team for their efforts in particular Graham Dickson, Grigor Mitchell and Sue Tritton.

6 Honorary Treasurer's report

The treasurer spoke to the circulated accounts.

- 6.1 This year there had been good news and bad news. The association had received a generous bequest of £10,000 from a former member, Ronnie MacKenzie. The committee welcomes ideas from the membership on the use of this legacy and sheets have been distributed inviting such ideas. The bad news was that fraudulent withdrawals from our former bank account had required the opening of a new account. Although the bank had reimbursed the association the sum lost did not compensate for the work and materials involved in contacting members to arrange new standing orders. The treasurer thanked those who paid by standing order. We had made a loss this year, chiefly to funding materials for the start of the GEARS project. A donation for plants for the library garden had also been made. Gift Aid continued to be a useful contribution to our income; this year £297 was recovered this way. Thanks were expressed to our new independent inspector, Ken Robertson, for his help and advice. There were no questions from the meeting.

Adoption of report:

Proposed: Caroline McInnes

Seconded: John Duffus

6.2 GEARS account

The secretary spoke briefly to this matter explaining that the funding of the GEARS project was by payment on receipt which was relatively straightforward but to satisfy the grant donor and the office of the Scottish Regulator (OSCR) we had felt it appropriate to have the accounts independently inspected and further thanks were proffered to Ken Robertson for this. If required one of the GEARS group could speak to the matter.

There were no questions from the meeting.

Adoption of report

Proposed: Graham Dickson

Seconded: Doreen Allerton

7 Election of Office-bearers and new Committee members

- 7.1 The chairman thanked those standing down from the committee; Marion Cantley who had served as treasurer for 17 years, Caroline McInnes who had organised the newsletter distribution and social events for some time, Graham Dickson whose long connection with the association in various roles had been of great assistance, Andrew Bell, secretary for the past five years and Tom Cunningham, a committee member since 2007. The meeting acknowledged these contributions.
- 7.2 The secretary spoke of the structure of the committee explaining that requirements of the constitution had led to 3 office bearers standing down this year. Two resignations from the committee satisfied the rules on rotation of committee members but collectively this had made it very difficult to compile a full committee this year. It was pointed out that the post of secretary remained vacant. Without anyone in this post it would be very difficult to ensure the smooth running of the association, its activities would be diminished and we urgently required someone to serve in this capacity. Despite many efforts by the chairman to find a new secretary no one had been willing to take on this role. An existing member of the committee would be prepared to take on the role later in the year if there were still no one in post but this was not the preferred option. Every year the membership was invited to participate in the work of the committee and the secretary emphasized that this year we really would value such participation and asked if anyone from the floor would be willing to stand for the post of secretary, be willing to stand as a candidate as an ordinary member of the committee or even join initially as a co-optee.

7.3 The secretary presented the committee's proposals for the coming year's committee there being no nominations from the floor.

The proposed committee for 2010 was:

Chairman:	Sofia Leonard	Vice-chairman:	Doreen Allerton
Honorary treasurer:	Olga Franks	Honorary secretary:	Vacancy

Ordinary members re-elected: Kirstine Baxter, Richard Mowe, Dr John Duffus, Frank Rushbrook, Sue Tritton.

New members nominated by the committee: Grigor Mitchell, Tony Reeves, Daniel Cronin.

Co-optees: Andrew Bell, Marion Cantley, Graham Dickson, Richard Groom, Gordon Liddle, Derek Lyddon, Jon Oberlander, Judith Reeves, Dorothy Ryle.

7.4 The proposed committee was elected unanimously by the meeting.

7.5 The secretary repeated that we had been fortunate that Ken Robertson had volunteered his services as external examiner for our accounts and that he had offered to do so again next year. This offer was met with universal approval by the meeting.

8 Any other business

The Chairman invited folk to attend our forthcoming events - a talk by Joanne Lamb on 'Dalrymple Crescent' on Wednesday 24th March and our Plant Sale and Garden Outing. Judith Reeves gave details of these events. The Plant Sale would take place on the afternoon of Saturday 8th May and the Garden Visit this year would be to Clunie and Bolfracks Gardens near Aberfeldy. This would take place on Sunday 30th May and anyone interested in going along should speak to JR.

Graham Dickson recalled one instance where someone had presented himself as a candidate from the floor, Ian McNeil, McNeil of Barra. His death had recently been announced and GD wondered if the committee had written to express their condolences. It had not, but would do so as a result of this suggestion.

Sue Tritton mentioned that she had brought along electricity energy monitors, part of the GEARS project, which demonstrated domestic energy use current and cumulative readings could inspire people to reduce their electricity consumption. These were available for folk to borrow.

There being no further business the chairman brought the AGM to a close.

Before introducing the speaker Tony Reeves, the new events coordinator, invited suggestions from the members on what sort of events they would favour. Social, musical and educational events were all possibilities and they need not necessarily take place in weekday evenings.

Following the AGM Dr Graeme Cruikshank gave a talk entitled:
'A Capital Story: Edinburgh's History in a Nutshell'

Chair's report

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests.

The work of the Committee is not the work of individuals but rather of a well orchestrated team in which each of its members contributes with great dedication and generosity. This they offer, from their own abilities and experience, for the greater benefit of the Grange resident community, and for the protection of the Grange's character of great architectural and historic value that we all cherish.

This has been a year of great change and renewal in your Committee. Senior members who have been officers for many years, like Marion Cantley and Jon Oberlander, stood down as officers last year, to comply with our new Charity Constitution. But they have very kindly continued until now as co-opted members to ensure the necessary continuity. Many thanks to both for their invaluable help.

I have to offer especial thanks, however, to Andrew Bell, who beyond the call of duty, carried on as Secretary until last Summer and as Convenor of the Planning Committee until now. Andrew has been the backbone of our Association for many years and he deserves our special appreciation. Our thanks also to Sue Tritton for stepping in as Secretary since August, despite her many commitments elsewhere, and to Olga Franks for her dedicated work last year as our Treasurer.

Thus we have been able to consolidate our future with the almost entirely new Committee which will be presented to you for election later tonight.

In the past year, the Grange Association Newsletter and Website have been renewed by our new editor Richard Mowe. Richard has done sterling work on redesigning and improving our newsletter and website, as indeed you will have noticed. Our revamped Newsletter has appeared over the last two issues in a new design with full colour, and has been met with considerable approval in most quarters. It carries advertising for the first time, to help off-set the increased production costs. Plans are afoot to produce a bumper issue for the next number, which will be the 100th edition.

Our Website also has been reworked in tandem with the Newsletter and is now much more user-friendly. Again the feedback from most internet users has been positive and it is hoped to build on the new website and increase its use in the future.

Our Newsletter continues to be distributed to all households in the Grange Conservation Area. This is only possible due to the dedicated effort of Daniel Cronin, our distribution organiser, and his 50 or so equally dedicated volunteers. I am bound to say that we may need perhaps more volunteers for some areas where previous deliverers have had to stand down. Please contact Dan Cronin after the meeting if you feel you could contribute.

In the past year the Committee organised a long overdue reward party for the Newsletter distributors in grateful recognition of their essential work in support of our Association over the years.

We have also had a varied and interesting programme of events, organised with great enthusiasm by Tony Reeves. They included illustrated talks, such as 'Made in the Grange - from Concept to Creation', by Tony Franks, on the links between geology, landscape and ceramics. An illustrated talk entitled 'From Plagues to Aids' by Dr Jim Gray, our local expert in tropical medicine, was an eye opener about the close relationship of our area with health and sanitation issues since the time of the Plagues. A lecture on the history of one of our streets, Dalrymple Crescent, and its residents, by Joanna Lamb, has now been published as a book with the help of an award from the Grange Association.

We also had a variety performance or 'Winter Warmer', replacing the Christmas concert which had to be cancelled because of the extreme weather in December. Our thanks to all who organised and performed in this very enjoyable evening.

Last, but not least, we held our usual plant sale in May. And a coach trip, also in the spring, took us to visit several very interesting and beautiful gardens in Fife, including Bolfracks. Both these events were organised by Judith Reeves.

On the other hand I have to say, sadly, that just before Christmas, one of our most dedicated and longstanding Committee members, the Architect Graham Dickson, passed away. His expertise was invaluable in examining and assessing planning applications. As well as acting as convenor of the Planning group, Graham carried out the role of Secretary for five years. He also organised guided walks in the Grange and lately put great enthusiasm and effort into the 'Grange Energy and Renewables Study'. Graham will be missed by all of us. We envisage a special Memorial Lecture for him in the Autumn, on an Architectural theme.

Finally, I would like to say how great an honour and privilege it has been for me to lead the Grange Association Committee for the past two years. But now, I have to announce that I will be standing down tonight as Chair. I do so with regret, but had accepted the post for at most two years due to family commitments.

I am however delighted to be able to announce tonight that John Graham, former Chief Executive of Historic Scotland and long resident in the Grange, has agreed to put his name forward as our new Chair. I am sure that you will give him your full support to lead the Association in the coming years.

I offer my grateful thanks to all members of the Committee for the continuous support and encouragement that I have enjoyed during my time in office. I think that we in the Grange are indeed privileged to be able to count on a great and varied expertise among residents and on their willingness to offer their services to our Association.

Thank you very much.

Sofia Leonard
23 February 2011

Secretary's Report to 2011 AGM

I took over as secretary from Andrew Bell in the autumn of 2010 and we have shared the duties since then. I suspect that I will not be anything like as efficient, or organised, as Andrew who, having combined the role with that of Planning Convenor, will be very much missed. Thank you, Andrew, for all your hard work for the Association over the past several years.

Traffic and Parking in our area: As many residents will be aware, there have been considerable parking problems in the southern part of the area since the introduction of CPZ S1 in 2006. Various schemes have been suggested and it now seems likely that a "Residents Priority Parking" scheme will be introduced in the fairly near future. This is intended to reduce commuter parking by introducing some residents parking bays which will only operate for 1-2 hours in the middle of the day. The annual permit cost for these bays will be around £20-30. At the same time, there has been further introduction of 9 hour bays in the S1 zone in areas where there is now very little daytime parking. The Association has commented on these proposals.

There are two proposals at present being considered by the City Council which will affect us. One is to for a pilot 20mph limit in most streets with only major roads remaining at 30mph. The second is to create a "Quality Bike Corridor" from KB to George Square along Mayfield Road, Ratcliffe Terrace etc. Again, the Association has commented on these proposals.

Community Council Liaison: Dorothy Ryle has attended meeting of the Marchmont Sciennes CC on behalf of the Association and reports back at committee meetings. Alison Bramley has just been appointed as a member of the Grange Prestonfield CC but has yet to attend a meeting.

GEARS (Grange Energy and Renewables Study): The first part of this project (GEARS 1), funded by a grant from the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF), was completed in early 2010 and the final report should be available at this meeting. Considerable thanks for this go to the late Graham Dickson who was the inspiration behind the project and Grigor Mitchell for enormous amount of work he has done in compiling the report. A further application to the CCF to complete the original project unfortunately failed to get any funding. The Association has recently provided a letter of support to a new application to CCF from Transition Edinburgh South and, if that is successful, the GEARS Group will be working with them to try to reduce carbon emissions in our area – the main aim behind the original GEARS project.

City Council Meetings and Consultations: The Association has commented on various consultation documents sent out by CEC. These include consultations on the "Open Space Strategy" and "Sustainable Buildings" documents. Members of the Association have regularly attended meetings of the Civic Forum, the Environmental Forum and other meetings to which invitations have been sent by CEC.

Other Local Associations: We continue to work closely with members of other local associations, especially over planning issues. These include the Craigmillar Park Association and the Blasket and West Blasket Associations.

Sue Tritton

Grange Association

Planning report for 2011 AGM

During the calendar year 2010 there have been a total of 79 planning applications in the Grange area. We chose to comment on 19 of these, not always recommending refusal but sometimes suggesting amendments which would 'improve' the proposals in our eyes. In only 2 cases did the planning department agree with our view that aspects of proposed development were undesirable though they did refuse one application which we regarded as non contentious. We are grateful to Cllr Perry who spoke before the council's Planning Committee supporting our submission against one application, though to no avail. There continues to be a considerable difference in opinion between ourselves and the authorities on what is acceptable within the conservation area and what is not. We objected to 7 cases where off street parking in front gardens was proposed and in only one case did the planners agree with our objection.

Although not within the Grange Conservation area we have commented on the scale of development and design of a further proposal for the corner of Whitehouse Loan and Newbattle Terrace. Many applications have been lodged for this site over the years and we await the outcome of the latest application. Residents close to this site would welcome resolution of the matter and the removal of derelict cottages which are an eyesore.

One other future major development, again just outside our area of interest, is the Sick Kids Hospital. Plans have been prepared for a new Children's Hospital to be built next to the New Royal Infirmary and it is suggested that the move will take place in 2013. The estimated cost of the new hospital is £148m and the existing site will be sold off to contribute to that cost. We should examine any proposals for the Sciennes Road site carefully.

It is perhaps inevitable that the introduction of controlled parking zone S1 and the problems of displacement parking into the area south of this should have made people keen to have their own off street parking but the association has always regretted the loss of garden space and the cumulative and permanent effect such alterations have on the appearance of the area. We were particularly surprised to be given the advice from the planning department that creation of off street parking in front of a B-listed building where there existed a drive-in alongside the dwelling did not require any further permission despite the previous use of this area as garden.

Applications which have been approved may be subject to 'amendment' which the planners do not consider needs re-advertisement and sometimes this results in an even less satisfactory outcome. In other cases after an initial refusal plans are re-submitted in an amended form following discussion between planning officials and the developer. It might be useful if we were asked for our opinions before resubmission as well! Although rare, there are occasions where the association is invited to comment on proposals before they move to the formal application stage and we do thank the owners of such properties and their architects for that opportunity. Sometimes changes can be made to the plans which remove concerns we have and both sides are happy with the outcome.

Whilst accepting that a degree of subjectivity must exist in determining the outcome of planning applications we are still greatly concerned about the number of developments approved which, in our view, do not enhance the area and in some cases are actually detrimental to it.

The Grange has been awarded Conservation Area status and we regret that our views, in many instances, do not seem to accord with those of the officials who make the decisions.

It is worth repeating, as we do every year, that our members are our eyes and ears. If members believe development has occurred without proper approval then the planning department has an enforcement division who will investigate possible breaches in procedure. If you do not want to raise the issue yourself we would welcome being made aware of your concerns and to discuss the matter with you.

The association invites those who have an interest in planning matters to make themselves known to the committee; your input would be welcomed.

{Finally I wish my successor, Graham Bell (no relation) good luck in the role of planning convenor for the association. }

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