

## Huntly Gardens Proprietors' Association

### Annual General Meeting

24.02.2025

**Location:** Kelvinside Hillhead Parish Church, Belmont Room

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Attending:** Lawrence Weaver\* Ch (4), Hilary Barclay\* Gdns (6), Stewart Curren\* NS Rd (3), Joyce Laville\* Sec (2), Ronnie Kyle\* (2), Joss Reid\* (9), Mo Gillespie\* Treas (10), Dorothy Gillespie\* (23), Andy Whillance\* Co opt IT (9), Jane Daly (13), Alison Dorrian (13), Paddy Dorrian (13), Bill Daly (13), Graham Sanders (15), Paul Barclay (6), Maureen Curren (3), John Miller (8), Rosemary Lever (12), Robert Bell (3), Ronald Inglis (15), Rhona Lindsay (6A), Barbara Miles (16).

\*Denotes current committee member

#### Minute of Meeting

1. Lawrence, as Chair, **welcomed** all to the meeting,
2. **Apologies from:** Iain Friar (25) Jane and Paul McDonald (17), Lynda Cochrane (8), Derek and Jane Wooff. No further apologies were offered.
3. The **Minutes of the AGM 2024** were noted and accepted.
4. **Communal Gardens Report and Accounts:** Hilary presented the Gardens Report. She commended GardenWise for their continued 'top quality yet affordable, friendly and flexible service'. She went on to highlight three major projects carried out during the last year – extensive tree work on the south side of the garden, enlarging the central rose-beds and more extensive tree work on the east side of the garden where dead trees and others damaging the fence were taken out. This work had cost £2,040 and £2,635 when the ongoing cost of ivy cutting was included.

Hilary then explained that GardensWise would be organizing the repair of the edging to the north side grass verge, costing £585. This would be offset by a donation of £300 from Lawrence, our chair, who had been paid this by a film company using his house. Lawrence was thanked by the meeting for this donation. The remaining £285 will come from garden funds.

Hilary went on to mention the issue raised with the committee of letting more light into basement flats. Discussions on this had included the suggestion of 'topping' the trees. Hilary had discussed this with Brian, our gardener, who in turn referenced the advice of the arborist. Neither recommended topping, but suggested alternative ways of allowing more light through at lower levels. The chair suggested we discuss this further under item 6, The Treasurer's Report.

5. **North side road Report and Accounts:** Stewart presented the road report, focusing on the lighting renewal which was now complete. The meeting gave applause for his work in completing this project.

He went on to report on liaison with the Kew Residents Association, encouraging more HG residents to attend the Lane clean-up days. The feeling of those

participating at the last event was that there was less rubbish, and that the lane was improving. He stressed the importance of putting bags **in bins with the lid closed**, to avoid them being ripped open by wildlife and subsequently having to be cleaned up by owners.

He finished by reporting that there is no need for financial collection this year as current funds are adequate.

6. **Treasurers Report and Setting of Fees:** Hilary had ended her report by suggesting that we can keep the annual garden maintenance charge as it is and recommended that the remaining £4,961 in the account could be focused on enhancing light for lower floor dwellers. She reminded the meeting how the charges had risen in recent years – set at £96 through 2019,20 and 21, and raised to £108 in 2022, to £120 in 2013 and £132 in 2024. There was a counter suggestion from Joss who had been researching local charges, that we should raise to similar levels of other gardens in the area and build up a contingency fund. It was also suggested that we should commission a formal arborist report on our trees. Mo had costed this at £1,500. Hilary pointed out that this had already happened with a verbal report. This led to much discussion with members reluctant to pay such a large amount for information they already had and asked for the verbal report to be formalized. There was then a series of questions and suggestions from the floor:

Q. How much money is coming in from residents adjacent to, but not in HG?

A. Not many and not making a big difference to overall income.

Q. How many people pay their garden fee?

A. Most do, but still few consistently not paying. However, numbers paying has improved dramatically since Hilary started collecting fees in 2015.

- It was pointed out that we would need all member agreement to hold a contingency fund.
- It was also suggested that access to keys be restricted, to which Hilary responded that she does request their return when people leave the garden.
- There was a further suggestion that additional garden funds could be requested as needed, as Stewart has been able to do on the road since the Roads Sub-committee was set up.

The feeling of the meeting was that the Garden fees should remain at £132 for this year, and no annual collection for the NS road this year.

7. **Election of new committee members:** There were three members of the committee who wished to be re-elected. Stewart was forwarded by Bill Daly and seconded by Paddy Dorian, Dorothy was forwarded by Mo Gillespie and seconded by Joss Reid, and Lawrence was forwarded by Maureen Curren and seconded by Paddy Dorian. Andy Whillance had been co-opted by the committee and now agreed to be elected. He was forwarded by Joss Reid and seconded by Paul Barclay. All were elected by the meeting.
8. **AOCB:** Andy introduced **the new website** to the meeting, describing the Welcome page and items he had already put in – the HGPA Constitution and all minutes from 2019. There is a Forum and Gallery which will require a log-in and a suggestion that any one new would be restricted to one post per day. We could also add

recommendations for traders, events and swapping or borrowing equipment. It could also be used for official polls and voting. Andy concluded by saying he would welcome feedback. The meeting gave a vote of thanks to Andy for his work on this.

**Two ongoing issues** for the HGPA were raised, (though neither is directly the responsibility of the association) as both have been recently taken up by individual members with Glasgow City Council:

One resident has been pursuing the matter of **Immobile vehicles** with the council and gave an update of progress to date. The **Railings at No 11** had also been raised as an ongoing safety issue with the council by another resident who also outlined progress. Both members were invited to be co-opted to the committee, but both declined. It was agreed that the committee would fully back their individual efforts in this process, and they were invited to the next committee meeting in March to discuss progress and how the committee might support them.

**Lawrence** then gave a special **vote of thanks** to Hilary who was resigning as Gardens Coordinator and had been doing the job since 2015. He described 'an enormous debt of gratitude' to her for her complete devotion to the garden over the years and was applauded by the meeting.

Lawrence went on to thank the two other committee members standing down – myself (Joyce) as secretary – first for the Roads sub-committee from 2015 and subsequently for the HGPA from 2019 and to Ronnie Kyle who also had been part of the Roads sub-committee from 2015 and subsequently on the joint group. Ronnie assured the meeting he would continue to 'monitor' in an unofficial capacity! The meeting applauded all as a vote of thanks.

9. **Date of next meeting:** The meeting agreed to continue to hold the AGM at the end of February 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm, with thanks to the chair and to all for attending.