

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1st February 2005
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Georgina Malcolm - in the Chair

Jean Barraclough, Carol Boulter, Rosemary Goldstein, Eva Jacobs, Leonie Stephen
Simon Abbott, Denis Baron, Douglas Blausten, John Boulter,
Derek Chandler, Francois Crompton-Roberts, David Lewis, Colin Gregory,
David B Lewis, David Littaur, David Rapson, Michael Rowley,
Steve Morris, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield

Visitors included Joyce Littaur, Mrs B Bliss and Mr E Sakhei

1 Apologies for Absence

Received from Peter Beesley, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Rosalind Josephs,
Richard Kemp, Siddiek Meer, Gary Shaw, Alan Walker.

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

St Jude's Proms

The words 'in principle' should be added to the end of the second sentence.

The third sentence should be read

'Council agree that the RA's application form for a grant should be completed'

Any Other Business

New Year's Eve

The second sentence should read

'The Council noted that the sum of £652.72 collected on the evening had been
donated to the Tsunami Disaster Fund'

Council agreed that only the corrected minutes should be displayed on the Suburb
Web site although this would mean a month's delay. The Agenda for the next
meeting would be displayed in advance.

SM

3 Matters Arising

St Jude's Church Rooms

It was reported that Mr Myerson had written to Mervyn Mandell claiming that
Mervyn Mandell had guaranteed, on behalf of the Trust, that any new owner of the
St Jude's Church Rooms would make the building available to the wider
community. Although Mervyn Mandell had not made any guarantee to this effect
Eva Jacobs thought that the RA should consider this matter. Many Council members
agreed, although David B Lewis said that as yet there are no firm proposals for this
sale. Georgina Malcolm will write to the Trust to say that the RA continues to hope

GM

the property will be available for community use. Douglas Blausten said that any restrictive covenant would devalue the property.

Corporation of London

The Trees & Open Spaces Committee had discussed the Corporation's funding difficulties and Colin Gregory had drafted a letter to the Corporation of London. The Committee considered that the Corporation should move more slowly and take more time for consultation. Catherine McGuinness had contacted Colin Gregory to discuss the matter and said that she welcomed this letter.

Street Lighting

Derek Chandler said that Siddiek Meer had written to LB Barnet confirming that they had agreed to consult road by road. A letter had been received about the PFI, which suggested that LB Barnet would not take the special circumstances of Conservation areas into consideration.

4

North Square Site

David B Lewis reported that the Trust had received an application from EDF Energy to build a two-storey house on this corner site between the Tea House and the Friends Meeting House, currently used for an electricity sub-station. The application uses the same plans originally commissioned by the Trust itself in 199. Planning permission was granted by LB Barnet in 1990 for a two-storey house as a result of an application by HGS Trust which owns the freehold. The permission has since been renewed twice and will expire in 2008. David B Lewis said he thought the Trust would find it difficult to resist the application given the history and the fact that it itself had commissioned the original plans. The Trust will receive half the proceeds of the sale of the site to a developer and therefore has a financial interest in the application which has been submitted to it.

The local residents have been consulted and there have been at least 22 objections. Many residents consider that there should not be any development on the site. David B Lewis thought that the Trust could say that the existing proposals are no longer good enough and they should be to the same standard required of a private developer.

Carol Boulter said that the planning application was for a particular building and it is being sold as a package. There are two issues: whether residents are against the development of the site in principle or against the actual building proposed. She said that this is a small open space with 4 mature trees and any building will damage the tree roots; that the proposed house covers two thirds of the site and the garden would be minimal; that the design is not similar to other buildings in Central Square and it does not fit in; that the proposal is overlarge and would dominate the corner; that the exit of the proposed garage might create a traffic jam.

Simon Abbott thought that the Trust should have an overall plan for Central Square. The RA had previously set up a working party for a Community Centre on the site and a plan had been drawn up for the Trust to use the site with an Archive Centre. Eva Jacobs said that the Trust's concern that the duty of a charity is to make as much money as possible is not true and does not override their duty to enhance the Suburb.

Carol Boulter pointed out that in 1995 Eddie Caplin had said that the Trust had

no intention of building a house on this site and gave an undertaking that they would not build without wide consultation. Richard Wakefield noted that at the 1995 AGM Eddie Caplin had said that there would be no building without wide consensus from residents and with an emphasis on community use. There will be an article in the next Suburb News about this. David B Lewis said that at the PPC, the best we could expect was for the Trust to accept the application in principle and ask for better plans which was the normal procedure for applications of this type. Michael Rowley said that the trust have no intention of building on the site. It was decided that the Chairman should draft a letter to the Trust setting out the RA's concerns and drawing attention to previous undertakings, particularly those made at the 1995 AGM. .

5 Street Name Signs

David B Lewis reported that around 80 signs have been replaced with a traditional new design and 150 will be changed in all. 50 will be cast in aluminium. All the signs with turquoise and with LB Barnet's logo will be replaced. English Heritage had agreed to give the sum of £7,500, the Trust £6,000 and the RA £1,000. David B Lewis asked whether the RA would be prepared to give a further sum of £1,000. John Boulter agreed that there were sufficient funds available for this and Council gave their approval. Colin Gregory congratulated everyone involved with this and said that he was delighted with the new signs. David B Lewis said that there are plans to hold an opening ceremony.

6 Street Trees

Georgina Malcolm requested £2,500 to purchase 30 street trees for the Suburb for 2004/05. Each year the Trust pays for 10 new trees and LB Barnet provides 30. Georgina explained that by 2007 the RA would have paid for 300 new street trees and David B Lewis thought that the RA should market this to residents. Simon Abbott suggested that we could incorporate information on the new backing poster for the Notice Boards. The Council expressed their thanks to Georgina Malcolm for all her work.

7 CPZ

Gary Shaw is negotiating with Cllr. Harris to hold a public meeting. Possible dates being considered are 8th and 15th March. Kingsley Close will be mentioned for inclusion in a CPZ scheme.

8 New Year's Eve

The Council agreed that £100 should be sent to St Jude's in appreciation of the use of the Church for this event. DL

9 AGM - 21st March

Richard Wakefield showed the Council a mock-up of the Annual Report which they thought was excellent. John Boulter stated that he was happy with the accounts but pointed out that in 2002 there was a deficit of £7,000, in 2003 there was a deficit of £1,000 and this year there was a deficit of £4,000. Our reserves now amount to £12,000, although there are also reserves of £5,000 for the Greening the Suburb Fund and £5,000 for the Lamp Post fund. It was unclear whether these are still required. Derek Chandler said

that the lamppost fund was to enable the continuation of the lamppost replacement. However, LB Barnet ran out of money and the project was put on hold. It was pointed out that the new PFI provisions would provide alternative funding. Simon Abbott thought that the RA should keep minimum reserves of £10,000. Colin Gregory considered that the RA should be cautious in its expenditure next year and Steve Morris thought that the RA should have a financial framework. Douglas Blausten suggested investing the reserves. John Boulter said that that some research should be carried out to ascertain the facts about these funds. Possibly they could be shown differently in the accounts next year

David Rapson reminded Council of the Falldon Way Fighting Fund. The trustees were Lord Soper, who has died, and Clement Halfon, who had resigned from the Fund. Richard Wakefield will look into what had happened about the appointment of new Trustees.

RW

Chairman/Vice Chairman

Georgina Malcolm was delighted to inform Council that David B Lewis had agreed to be nominated as Chairman with David Lewis as vice-Chairman. Richard Wakefield has agreed to be nominated as Hon Secretary.

10 RA Constitution

Michael Rowley had circulated a further draft of the revised Constitution. Colin Gregory had pointed out some small anomalies. Michael Rowley drew these to Council's attention. The affected clauses were 2.4, 9.3, 9.4, 9.8, and 10.3. Council agreed to these alterations and Michael Rowley will circulate a final draft to Council members.

MR

11 Suburb Centenary

Georgina Malcolm told Council that Eddie Caplin had met with a representative from the Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss the proposals for redeveloping Central Square. As time is running out for putting in an application the Centenary Committee was considering employing a firm of consultants recommended by English Heritage. This would cost about £20,000. It had been suggested that the RA and the Trust share the cost of this, although as the RA did not have sufficient funds the Trust might be prepared to make up the difference. Colin Gregory said that the RA must not rush this and it would be more sensible to prepare plans with a view to launching an appeal in 2007. David Littaur thought that the Centenary of the Suburb is an important event and we should try to do something important. David B Lewis could see no real affordable project. The Square is owned by LB Barnet and perhaps the Trust could put in a bid for buy it. Carol Boulter thought that there was no motivation for the Central Square project. Colin Gregory said that the RA must do something to show how important the Suburb is and perhaps the previous proposals could be looked at again. Simon Abbott suggested that all the existing Suburb organisations be asked to prepare a special event through the Events Committee. Georgina Malcolm will talk to Eddie Caplin about obtaining a possible new design for the development of Central Square together with costings.

GM

12 Any Other Business

Queens Court

The residents of Queens Court had managed to get these flats listed Grade 2.

Georgina Malcolm will write to congratulate them.

GM

Membership

Steve Morris said that the Membership Committee is 5-6 ward organisers short and urgently needs more volunteers.

Mobile Phone Masts

David B Lewis said that he had written to LB Barnet about the most recent application. All previous applications had been turned down except one which was not proceeded with.

13 Date and Venue for Next Meeting

This will be held on March 1st at 8.00pm at Fellowship House