

# Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 June 2005  
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

*Present:* David B Lewis in the Chair

Simon Abbott, Jean Barraclough, Denis Baron, Andrew Botterill, John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Carol Boulter, Terry Brooks, Derek Chandler, Francois Crompton-Roberts, Arnold Elliott, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, Richard Kemp, David Lewis (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Georgina Malcolm, Michael Rowley, Steve Morris, Gary Shaw, Léonie Stephen, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield (Hon Secretary).

*Visitors:* Joyce Littaur, Ken Murrell, Terry Rand

1 Apologies for Absence

Received from Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten. Alan Walker, Alan Brudney

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Question Time

The following should be added to the end of the first sentence of the eighth paragraph: 'and that the residents should familiarise themselves with local organisations and act jointly'

3 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Suburb Gallery

Richard Wakefield was disappointed that no Council member had attended the Jenny Dunn 'meet the artist' day at the Gallery on 8 May.

Suburb Centenary

The Chairman said that the Queen's programme for 2007 was not decided until Autumn 2006 and we would then know the position and be told the likely date if a royal visit was to be made.

Andrew Botterill asked whether Council had considered that the invitation to a member of the Royal family be made jointly with representatives from the other churches and synagogues on the suburb as well as St Judes.

Colin Gregory agreed that the invitation should reflect the multi-faith community of the suburb. It was pointed out that the proposed joint invitation from St Jude's was to mark the completion of the restoration of St Jude's Church and the beginning of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parish.

Telephone Box at Meadway Gate

Rosalind Josephs told Council that BT had said the lighting to this box would now not be restored on 17 June.

### Coffee Table Book

Richard Wakefield said that this was now unlikely to happen due to the amount of work involved and lack of funding.

### Parking charges on Hampstead Heath/Kenwood

Colin Gregory said that the consultation by the Corporation of London had ended and there had been only 16 responses, including two from local authorities and with only one objection to the whole scheme. The scheme will be recommended for acceptance at the next meeting of the Heath Committee.

English Heritage's formal consultation over charges at Kenwood had taken place.

### Question Time

The Chairman reported that the Trust had served notices on the three vagrants living on Sunshine Corner and they appear to have left the site. The Trust's gardeners have cleaned up the site, removed a bush and reseeded some grass.

Rosalind Josephs said that Tom O'Brian seems to spend time on the bench at the entrance to Grey Close and is causing problems for local children. This is now the responsibility of LB Barnet's street enforcement officer.

Eva Jacobs said that Council should consider how this result had been achieved. The RA seems to have acted as a conduit which has resulted in a solution and this is an example of what we can do to help residents. She said we should reflect on this.

#### 4 Approval of Grant of £2,500 for Street Trees for 2005-2006

Léonie Stephen proposed the motion that the RA make a grant £2,500 for street trees for 2005/6. This was seconded by Jean Barraclough and passed Nem. Con.

Steve Morris suggested that the RA have a budget and the Chairman agreed that the EC should discuss it at their next meeting.

DBL

Georgina Malcolm said that LB Barnet provide 30 trees each year and the RA 's contribution enables Barnet to double this amount.

Colin Gregory pointed out that previously the Trust's Grants Committee had contributed £1,000 but Léonie Stephen said that last year's contribution had not yet been paid by the Trust because it had not been invoiced by Barnet. There may be a problem this year as the Trust has indicated that it may reduce the amount available for grants by the Trust Grants Committee.

John Boulter did not have any further information about the legacy of £6,000 from Dr Joy Edelman for new trees in Kingsley Way but he will tell Council when the position has been clarified.

5 Question Time

Parking Restrictions in Wildwood Road

Joyce Littaur asked when these new restrictions will be introduced . The Chairman said that he understood that these were scheduled to take place this month but parts of the road are also due to be resurfaced by September. Gary Shaw said that Roads & Traffic had no further information about this.

Complaint to the Ombudsman

Ken Murrell told Council that he had received a letter from the Local Authorities Ombudsman to say that it has started to look into his complaint again. The RA has not received a similar notification about its own complaint. The Ombudsman had been notified of the new contacts at the RA.

6 Report from Roads & Traffic on Meeting with LB Barnet regarding East Finchley CPZ and the proposed Temple Fortune CPZ

Gary Shaw reported on a meeting between representatives from Roads & Traffic and Cllrs Naghar and Harris. The consultation had shown that whilst most residents do not wish to have a blanket CPZ, there are specific areas with special problems: Asmunds Hill, Meadway Gate, parts of Meadway and parts of Temple Fortune Hill, where the majority of residents would like to have a CPZ. LB Barnet's proposal contains no non-resident parking bays and this is of concern for Temple Fortune shops although Barnet have said that they do not wish to do anything which may hurt the shopping centre.

The other main concern is the displacement of traffic that this would cause to the adjacent streets. Gary Shaw said that Roads & Traffic cannot take this matter further without help from the RA Council.

Richard Kemp said that Barnet is reconsidering increasing the maximum stay at the pay and display bays in Temple Fortune from 1 ½ hours to 2 hours. It is also considering the extent of the parking allowed in Hoop Lane by the Crematorium, as at present it is used by commuters who are able to park all day after 9.30am and take the H2 to Golders Green Station. By reducing parking places available under the proposed CPZ the speed of traffic would increase. There is also the question of schools and safety around the schools. There had been a proposal for a one way system around Willifield Way.

The Chairman said that Roads & Traffic should discuss the question of speed on the Suburb and the Council should have a general discussion on Traffic at a future meeting.

Derek Chandler said that one consequence of a CPZ would be that the Suburb would become cluttered with signs. LB Barnet must take a view of the Suburb as a whole. Gary Shaw said that the overwhelming majority of Suburb residents do not wish to have a CPZ . He suggested that we inform

Barnet that if they go ahead with their proposals and if residents subsequently wish to increase the extent of the scheme, due to displaced traffic, the answer is to remove the original scheme and not to extend it. The Chairman suggested that the RA's response could be that we only wish to have one CPZ in Asmunds Place plus the other Closes in the Suburb Ward but outside *The Suburb*.

Gary Shaw said that Barnet is proposing to implement the scheme in the Autumn. He agreed that there is a problem with parking between Meadway Gate and Meadway but he did not know the answer.

Eva Jacobs said that the object of the exercise should be to stop commuter parking but she thought that residents should be able to park close to the shops in Temple Fortune.

Derek Chandler considered that Barnet is trying to introduce a single solution to different problems.

The Chairman suggested that Roads & Traffic formulate a motion which should be proposed at the July meeting.

Gary Shaw pointed out that there are local elections in May 2006 and perhaps the RA should put forward an independent candidate. Jean Barraclough supported this and said that the local shopkeepers and the staff are concerned about the effect of these proposals. Gary Shaw said that if the RA decides to support independent candidates, it would be best to nominate three candidates. At present the RA does not have a clear issue on which we have a policy. In addition any candidates must be broadly based.

Carol Boulter suggested a public meeting and David Littaur said that the Events Committee could organise this before the July Council Meeting. As the next issue of Suburb News is due to be published on July, it was agreed that it should contain an article about the CPZ proposals and the public meeting would be held in September.

A motion will be proposed at the July RA Council meeting which should be circulated in advance and the wording could be altered in the light of comments before it is brought to RA Council.

Simon Abbott thought that it was worth considering supporting an independent candidate and we should concentrate on a variety of parking measures and not on a blanket CPZ.

It was agreed that Gary Shaw should write a strong letter to LB Barnet explaining what the RA's policy is. It could also be issued as a press release.

#### 7 Henrietta Barnett's Grave

The Chairman reported that pupils at the Henrietta Barnett school had raised money to set up a fund to maintain this grave. The RA sent its best

wishes and thanks to the School for this.

8 Kenwood Landscape Forum

As Colin Gregory is involved with aspects of the work of English Heritage relevant to Kenwood, he has resigned as a member of Kenwood Landscape Forum. The EC had recommended that Eva Jacobs should take over. This was proposed by Georgina Malcolm and seconded by Simon Abbott and passed Nem Con.

9 Approval of Draft Standard Paragraph for correspondence to outside organisations sent on behalf of the RA

The Council discussed the wording of this paragraph and agreed the following:

'The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association is the representative body for the residents of Hampstead Garden Suburb. The Association has 2,300 households in Membership. It is believed to be the largest such association in the UK'

It was agreed that the position of the paragraph in the letter should be left to the discretion of the writer of the letter. It was also agreed that where there was more than one letter sent to the same organisation on the same matter, it need only be included on the first letter.

Simon Abbott suggested that the RA find out whether it is the largest residents association and the Chairman will ask a member of the EC to check this.

The motion to accept this paragraph was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Vice Chairman and passed Nem. Con.

10 Approval of other minor decisions described in the EC minutes

Correction to RA Council Minutes

Eva Jacobs raised the question of the circulation of minutes and that they should only be circulated once they have been approved by Council. It was agreed that in future minutes are sent out only after being approved by Council and the EC's recommendation is rejected.

Although the press are not sent the minutes until they have been approved, the minutes had been circulated to others on the circulation list after approval by the EC. Colin Gregory said that the press should be encouraged to attend Council Meetings but the Chairman said that the Council may be unable to speak freely when they are present. The press know when meetings are held and the meetings are open to the public. Both Derek Chandler and Richard Wakefield thought that they should be invited to attend and Simon Abbott said that sometimes the RA Council would prefer that they are present, they used to regularly attend RA Council meetings. Andrew Boterill understood why it could be awkward if they were present when certain items are discussed. Eva Jacobs thought that press should be invited to all meetings and be told if there is anything of

particular interest to be discussed. Someone could be responsible for sending information on relevant items to the press.

Steve Morris told the Council that Cllr Andrew Harper has indicated that he wishes to join the RA as an associate member.

11 How can or should the RA canvass the opinions of residents on different issues

Andrew Botterill said that there are two considerations: how we discuss and how we deal with issues. We must try to identify what the issues are. Is enough effort put into what exercises residents and how are the issues brought forward. He considered that the membership representatives and the Suburb News distributors could be asked to help more. There are 120 approx. of each although there are many residents who do both jobs, and they should be asked to get a list of priorities from the residents on their patch.

Colin Gregory said that the Suburb News is distributed four times a year and residents could be invited to attend Council meetings if they have any concerns. Residents tend to be apathetic unless they have a particular issue. The Chairman said he would prefer to characterise the apparent lack of interest as 'contentment' rather than 'apathy'. The RA usually finds out what is happening on the Suburb. It would be useful to periodically have some kind of feedback for residents concerns. The RA had in the past set up focus groups to identify residents concerns and expectations. There are ways to keep in touch with residents and we must not get complacent.

Carol Boulter said that we have Suburb News to get information across and this had been used to highlight many issues. Steve Morris said that it is difficult to find out the major issues on residents mind and it is becoming more difficult to get membership representatives to knock on doors. David Littaur reminded Council that we now have the HGS Discussion Group.

Simon Abbott said that society had changed and there is no longer the same community involvement. We must make maximum use of contacts and the Events Committee had a role to play in this. He suggested a 'surgery' for residents with particular problems. The Chairman pointed out that the RA would need extended insurance cover if advice was being given and also volunteers to assist.

Steve Morris said that Membership Committee are considering including a short questionnaire with the membership renewal form.

12 Date and venue of future meetings

This will be held on Tuesday July 5 at Fellowship House at 8pm  
The October Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th October at 8pm (instead of Tuesday 4 October) at Fellowship House.