

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6th September 2005 at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David Lewis (Vice-chairman) in the Chair
Simon Abbott, Jean Barraclough, Denis Baron, Douglas Blausten, Andrew Botterill, John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Carol Boulter, Alan Brudney, Derek Chandler, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Richard Kemp, Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Steve Morris, Michael Rowley, Gary Shaw, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield (Hon Secretary),

Visitors: Cllr Andrew Harper, Katie Davies (Ham & High)

1 Apologies for Absence

Received from Peter Beesley, Terry Brooks, Francois Crompton-Roberts, Colin Gregory, Arnold Elliott, David B Lewis, Georgina Malcolm, Lonnie Stephen, Alan Walker.

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

3 Matters arising not on the Agenda

There were none.

4 Question Time

There were no questions.

5 The Institute

Fay Naylor had written to say that as negotiations are at a difficult stage it would be inappropriate for her to attend the RA Council Meeting.

Alan Brudney reported that work on the access road to the Neurological Hospital site had commenced and should be completed by December when work on the new building will start. This work will take approximately 18 months. Plans are being agreed for a smaller building on the site due to costs and lack of funds.

The lease of Park House expired on 31st August and negotiations are taking place for the possible purchase of the building.

The Institute are also looking into the possibility of leasing part of the MacDonalds building.

Jean Barraclough added that the delay by Octagon in starting building work had contributed to the problems. Due to the lack of large classrooms only small classes are being held at present so it is difficult for the Institute to make profits. As the plans are continually being revised and the building will be smaller than the previous one agreed she thought that there would probably be no need for the RA to appoint a working group to consider the plans and make representations to Barnet.

Alan Brudney said that the smaller building would be less obtrusive and pointed out that the Learning and Skills Council had stopped their funding in the middle of the academic year. Eventually he thought that the Institute will operate satisfactorily.

6 Report by Gary Shaw on the CPZ

Gary Shaw said that as the Roads & Traffic Committee's meeting had been delayed there was nothing to report at this stage. He said that there are contacts with LB Barnet which may be worthwhile.

Simon Abbott noted that the wording on the press release was significantly different from that on the Motion passed by Council because of the substituting of the word "fielding" for the word "supporting" candidates.

7 Treasurer's Report

John Boulter said that as at the end of August the Subscriptions are £22 higher than at the same period last year. There will be a deficit but it is impossible to say what it will be at this stage. All the regular items of expenditure are in line with expectations but there are differences in the optional items where budgets had been authorised by Council e.g. tree planting - £2500, St Jude's - £3500, Fireworks- £850

Bank Mandate

John Boulter told the Council the problems he had encountered with Barclays in trying to change the signatures on the Bank Mandate. This had been achieved and David Lewis, John Boulter and Richard Wakefield are the new signatories

Legacy

The executors of the late Dr Edelman had now obtained probate and the problems had been sorted out. The legacy to the RA of £6,000 will be spent on trees and a commemorative seat in Kingsley Way where she lived and any remainder on a similar project.

8 Resolution regarding Financing of Independent Election Candidates at Barnet Council elections

John Boulter proposed a motion which had been circulated to Council as the EC considered that ordinary RA subscriptions should not be used to support candidates in local council elections, which some residents may disapprove of. The RA must record and account for any money collected for this purpose.

Eva Jacobs wished to add 'by the RA' after the words 'purpose' in line 3. Alan Brudney thought that the RA should be prepared to make some of its funds available for this purpose although Gary Shaw said that the costs of fielding candidates is low.

Simon Abbott said that we could not change our minds about this after a resolution had been passed and Eva Jacobs agreed that we must decide what we want to do before passing any resolution.

Derek Chandler said that the original motion passed by Council does not require the RA to give 'financial' support to this proposal.

Douglas Blausten thought that it would be strange for the RA to pass a motion to support independent candidates endorsing their views and objectives and then not to support this financially.

Steve Morris did not wish to mislead residents and collections for subscriptions for next year will commence before the next AGM so residents would have to be told in advance. A decision must therefore be made by December before stationery is ordered for the next year.

Simon Abbott suggested that the wording is changed so that it provides for funds to be raised to support the independent candidates and that these be separately recorded.

Gary Shaw said that he had received offers to donate to this campaign. It was agreed that the EC would look at the wording of the resolution again in the light of this discussion and bring it back to Council.

9 Any Other Urgent Business

Centenary/Celebrations Committee

Richard Wakefield asked the Council to approve the expenditure of £100 towards the preparation of a Suburb calendar. Break even will be reached if 500 calendars are sold at £4 each, or 350 are sold at £7. He proposed a motion for this sum to be made available, seconded by Simon Abbott and passed Nem. Con

He also proposed a motion for the expenditure of £105 for the preparation of digital pictures for Centenary Mugs. This was seconded by Derek Chandler and passed Nem. Con

Carol Boulter asked why these request had not been channelled through the Centenary Committee and Simon Abbott suggested that Council agree a budget so that each item does not have to come to Council.

Leonie Stephen

Leonie Stephen is in the Royal Free Hospital, Jenner Hoskins Ward awaiting an operation. She would welcome telephone calls on 0207 7830 2713 x 4029. Richard Wakefield will organise flowers to be sent to her from the RA

RW

Parkway Cafe

Douglas Thomas asked whether action was being taken to remove the illegal pavement terrace which had been erected. Michael Rowley said that both the Trust and LB Barnet are taking enforcement action against this

David Littaur proposed a vote of thanks to David Lewis for chairing this meeting which Council endorsed.

10 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 11th October at 8.00pm

The time of the next meeting of the EC on 15th September is 3.00pm