

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6 December 2005
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

Simon Abbott, , Douglas Blausten Andrew Botterill, John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Carol Boulter, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Derek Chandler, Colin Gregory, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, Richard Kemp, David Lewis, (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Georgina Malcolm, Steve Morris, Gary Shaw, Douglas Thomas, Alan Walker

Visitors: Sally Lewis, Susan Lewis, Pia Duran, Joyce Littaur, David Harris, Marjorie Harris.

1 Apologies for Absence

Denis Baron Jean Barraclough, Peter Beesley, Arnold Elliott , Michael Rowley, Francois Crompton-Roberts, Leonie Stephen. Richard Wakefield

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

3 Matters Arising

Fireworks: David Littaur reported that HBS School has agreed that the RA may use the tennis courts for fireworks on New Year's Eve and he has written to confirm.

He told Council that volunteers are required for stewarding, collecting money, litter picking and setting up. He will send an appeal for help on the HGS Discussion Group.

Mature Trees: Georgina Malcolm said that she had not attended the LB Barnet Finchley & Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee meeting tonight and she circulated a history of actions taken regarding the red oaks in Erskine Hill since June 1991. The Chairman asked Georgina Malcolm to provide Rosemary Goldstein with an electronic copy. Georgina Malcolm said that she considered LB Barnet are obliged to cut down the tree outside 123 Erskine Hill.

Council Members: Michael Rowley thanked the RA Council for their gift and good wishes.

Crime Prevention on the Suburb: Derek Chandler was delighted that a resident had offered to become treasurer of Neighbourhood Watch but a new chairman is still being sought. He said that there had been a further delay introducing the Safer Neighbourhood Scheme which will provide more dedicated policing for the Suburb. This will not start until November 2007. There is a shortage of funds and qualified police sergeants. Derek Chandler will prepare an article for Suburb News requesting assistance for Neighbourhood Watch from residents. Colin Gregory was asked to look into the problems on the Heath with dog walkers reported at the previous meeting. Eva Jacobs said that she understood Thomas O'Brian is now sleeping in Lyttelton Playing Fields and he is still causing some problems. The Chairman said that this should be reported to PC Pridham and Francis Mungai, the Barnet Enforcement Officer.

To Authorise the Cost of £163 for Two Bound Volumes of Suburb News

The Chairman said that he had presented the bound volume to the Archives Trust which would keep them in their office on the Suburb. They are enthusiastic about preparing an Archives Display for the Suburb Centenary.

Notice Boards

Simon Abbott said that as some notice boards are rusty and worn he would like to purchase a further 10 in order that the old ones can be renovated. He proposed that the RA agreed to fund a further 10 Notice Boards at a cost not exceeding £250. This was seconded by Georgina Malcolm and passed Nem. Con. Terry Brooks said that a new backing sheet would shortly be issued to Notice Board holders with the RA's web site address. It was agreed to re-issue the Notice Board Rules to board holders.

Opening Ceremony for Street Name Signs

The Council expressed its thanks to the Chairman for all his work on this and to Richard Wakefield for hosting the party. John Boulter asked when the RA will be asked for the payment of £2,068. It was agreed that this figure should be shown in the 2005 accounts.

4 Question Time

Northway Gardens

Joyce Littaur reported a fallen tree over the pathway at Northway Gardens which was dangerous. Georgina Malcolm said that she had already reported it to LB Barnet and it was on their list of work for January but she will talk to them again.

Carol Boulter pointed out that Barnet is high on the list of Boroughs which makes payments for damages for loose paving stones and obstructions on the highway.

Visitors

Pia Duran requested that copy Agendas and Minutes are available to visitors. Council asked Rosemary Goldstein to provide these in future.

5 Report on Public Meeting held on 14th November

The chairman raised the question of whether or not the Council should go into closed session to discuss this item. Colin Gregory agreed that Council had the option of going into closed session but he thought that it should be an exceptional occurrence.

Gary Shaw said he did not think that it was necessary. Colin Gregory suggested that in future if Council wished to discuss something in closed session, this should be stipulated on the Agenda.

Gary Shaw told Council that the meeting had been packed with some 270 residents attending. 80% were supportive of the RA's position. Since the meeting he had been inundated with messages of support and it was clear that the RA's position is endorsed by the majority of local residents.

The Roads & Traffic committee is in the process of carrying out a survey of parking by shops and business. It also has launched a petition and signatures are being collected door to door and at shops in Temple Fortune. He said there will be developments on the electoral front shortly. Regarding Asmunds place where originally it was thought that the residents were in favour of a CPZ, it seems that 36 out of 52 residents now oppose the scheme.

The Roads & Traffic Committee is considering a complaint to the District Auditor on the grounds of:

- a) LB Barnet's intentions on how it will spend any revenue raised by the Scheme.
- b) Figures provided by LB Barnet do not appear to be credible.

Alan Brudney was disappointed in the way that the Councillors had conducted themselves. The Chairman said that the Councillors have told him that a new scheme will be presented within three weeks.

There was a suggestion that there could be a temporary car park at the old Henly's Corner garage site.

Douglas Thomas congratulated the Chairman on his excellent chairing of the Public meeting. Concern was expressed at the work being done to Asmunds Place and the removal of the grass verges. It seems that English Heritage has not been consulted about this. Derek Chandler had a document from English Heritage stating that there should be a 'Conservation Area Appraisal.' Colin Gregory said that there are issues about inconsistency of policies and issues of principle which should be addressed. The Chairman was asked to write a letter to the Chief Executive of LB Barnet regarding the removal of the grass verges. The Chairman said he would circulate the draft to Council members and other interested parties before he sent it.

6 AGM

A motion was proposed by Carol Boulter and seconded by Eva Jacobs that the AGM shall take place on Monday 27 March at 8.00pm at Henrietta Barnet School Hall. This was passed by Council Nem Con.

The Chairman reminded Standing Committee Chairmen that they should prepare their annual reports and send them to him with a copy to Richard Wakefield.

Eva Jacobs asked who would have a vote at the AGM if there is a contentious issue. The Chairman said that voting cards would be distributed as they have been in the past. The Constitution states that only households on the in the previous year are entitled to attend and vote. But only one person from each eligible household has a vote so only one will be given a voting card. The EC and Membership Committee will discuss and organise this. HB School had agreed not to make any charge to the RA for the use of the Hall. The Annual Report will be included in the Suburb News which will be published on 4 February.

7 Requests to Spend Money

To Authorise Expenditure incurred on the Public Meeting held on 14 November

Mr and Mrs Michael and Irena Colomb have kindly agreed to donate the sum of £132 for providing sound equipment towards the New Year fireworks. The RA Council expressed its thanks to them. The Council authorised the expenditure of £30 for the CPZ Meeting posters.

To Authorise Expenditure incurred for the Opening Ceremony for Street Name Signs held on 29

November: The Chairman said that the existing wine stocks had been used and there was only the cost of sandwiches which had been obtained from Sherrards at a cost of £85.90. Council authorised this expenditure.

To authorise a Budget for the printing of a Centenary Calendar by Publications Committee: In the absence of Richard Wakefield this will be discussed in January.

8 Any Other Business

CPZ: A short discussion took place about another possible option regarding this proposal but no decision was made.

HGS Institute: Simon Abbott was concerned at the reduced presence of the Institute on the Suburb once it started to use the McDonalds building in East Finchley. He wanted reassurance that there will be facilities for students to register in Central Square. The Institute had stated that there will be courses on the Suburb 'for the foreseeable future' and he wanted this defined. The Chairman was asked to write a letter to Fay Naylor asking for a list of courses on offer on the Suburb next year. This could become an article for the next Suburb News. There was the possibility that if the School increases in size it may be forced to move out of the Suburb and the premises would have to be sold.

It would be ideal if a benefactor could purchase the Tea House for the benefit of suburb residents and perhaps it could house a living museum with material provided by the Archives Trust..

Parkway Caf: Eva Jacobs asked the position about the illegal pavement terrace in Kingsley Way. LB Barnet had stated that it is taking legal action under the Highways Act to have it removed. The Vice Chairman had asked Cllr Harper for an update on the latest position.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: The Chairman had received a letter from LB Barnet which wants stakeholders to comment on planning. Consam agreed to deal with this.

HGS Trust Gazette: Eva Jacobs suggested that Council members should read this new publication and comment on it.

9 To Confirm the Date of the Next Meeting as 3rd January at Fellowship House at 8.00pm: Council agreed that there should be a short meeting to discuss the Celebrations Committee Public Meeting and any necessary resolutions in connection with the AGM.