

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 February 2006 at Fellowship House at 8 pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

Simon Abbott, Andrew Botterill, John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Carol Boulter, Derek Chandler, Francois Crompton-Roberts, Colin Gregory, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Richard Kemp, David Lewis, (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Georgina Malcolm, Steve Morris, Gary Shaw, Leonie Stephen, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield (Hon Secretary),

Visitors: Susan Lewis, Joyce Littaur,

Council welcomed Leonie Stephen back to Council after her recent operation and reported that Jean Barraclough and Michael Rowley were recovering from their operations.

1 Apologies for Absence

Jean Barraclough, Denis Baron, Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Rosalind Josephs, Michael Rowley, Alan Walker

2 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting 3 January 2006

3 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Problems with Dog Walkers on the Heath Extension

Colin Gregory said that this issue is constantly kept under revue. The City had looked at its leaflet produced for Epping Forest and decided to produce a similar leaflet for all their open spaces suggesting a limit of four dogs per person.

The current bye laws state that dogs must be kept under control. Simon Abbott asked what is the definition of effective control and Eva Jacobs said that it is not possible to know that a dog is out of control until something happens. Gary Shaw pointed out that some people make a living from walking dogs and they are experienced in handling them. Georgina Malcolm said that sometimes walking one dog and coming across a pack of dogs can cause problems.

Colin Gregory took the points made by Council on board and would raise them with the Hampstead Heath authorities.

Tennis Courts-Hurst Close/Ruskin Close

Georgina Malcolm has spoken to the Trust. The tennis courts had fallen into disrepair and the Trust had been unable to reach agreement with all the adjoining owners. A lease had now been entered into with a resident of South Square on the understanding that he will negotiate with the adjoining owners and reach an agreement with them.

Plans have been drawn up for this land to be used for one tennis court instead of two, with surrounding landscaping, and this has been discussed at the Conservation Advisory Committee.

Election

Gary Shaw told Council that William Comet from Asmunds Hill will be standing as an independent Candidate at the Council elections in May 2006. He was invited to attend a future Council meeting.

In response to a question from Colin Gregory, Gary Shaw said that the candidates will try to reflect the local opinion on all local issues.

Controlled Parking Zone

After a great deal of pressure, the ward councillors have announced that Sheridan Walk will be removed from proposed zone.

Barnet has also agreed to reduce the operating hours to Monday -Friday 10-11am in Asmunds Place, Hampstead Way (between Finchley Rd and Asmunds Hill), Temple Fortune Lane, Temple Grove, Leaside Crescent (between Bridge Lane and Eastville Avenue), Temple Gardens and Saffron Close.

There had been a ballot of residents which closed on 7 February. The average rejection rate in the disputed roads was 88% with a turnout between 50-70%. Higher rates of rejection were recorded in neighbouring roads. Many residents who had initially wanted the scheme had now changed their mind. LB Barnet had been advised of the figures and the Council agreed that the Chairman should write to the Chief Executive again on the subject enclosing the figures from the ballot.

DB
L

4 Question Time There were none.

5 Who should speak for the Residents Association?

Richard Wakefield told the Council that this had arisen from a notification he had received from LB Barnet about their intention to erect a roundabout at the Meadway/Hampstead Way crossing without consultation. When he queried this with LB Barnet, he was told that this had been proposed by the Roads & Traffic Committee. He was surprised that this could have gone to LB Barnet without any discussion by Council.

The Chairman said that there had been a further case when the Trees Committee had written in support of a tree being felled in the face of residents who were trying to preserve it. This should also have been discussed by Council.

Colin Gregory said that the Constitution specifies that the Association must speak with one voice and any new policy must be brought initially to the Executive Committee

Carol Boulter considered that if there is an issue affecting the Suburb, Council should be consulted. If the issue is specific to that Standing

Committee then the Committee should make a decision and a letter circulated to the Committee members who decide whether it should be discussed by the Executive Committee. There is a distinction between the two situations.

Eva Jacobs appreciated that Council meetings must be kept to a reasonable length, but there could be a report from each Standing Committee at each meeting. Otherwise committees should have freedom to make their own decisions. The Chairman pointed out that the Association's committees are not entitled to make policy without reference to the Executive Committee or Council and the procedures are clearly laid down in the Standing and Working orders.

The Chairman added that one rule of thumb for avoiding controversy would be for Standing Committees which wish to change something. they should bring it to Council but if they wish to stop something they may be able to decide themselves. Colin Gregory disagreed with this rule of thumb.

However, if in doubt, or where there is likely to be a difference of opinion among residents, the Chairman or the Executive Committee should be consulted before action is taken or any formal communication is made with an outside body.

Simon Abbott said that ultimately it is the members of the Association who determine the policy. Standing Committee should comply with the standing and working orders but they tend to work on an informal understanding and only when something goes wrong is there a problem. Major policy issues must be decided by Council but the Standing Committees must have enough freedom. There must be an information flow - there used to be standing committee reports at Council meetings. Information could be fed to the Executive Committee.

The Chairman said that problems can also arise when an issue spans two committees.

LB Barnet had invited the Chairman to attend a site meeting at Meadway/Hampstead Way regarding the proposed roundabout. Richard Kemp and Richard Wakefield have been asked to join him. Steve Morris said that we must ensure that there is adequate consultation on this issue.

A short general discussion on traffic issues then arose and it was agreed that the Council will discuss the issue of the proposed roundabout in Meadway/Hampstead Way after the site meeting has taken place. Colin Gregory said that the site meeting should be treated as a fact finding one and that the Trust and English Heritage should be consulted.

6 AGM Matters

Richard Wakefield circulated a copy of the Annual Report for which Council thanked him.

Georgina Malcolm will provide the blue/pink voting slips and Steve Morris and the Membership Committee will produce the members register at the Meeting and get volunteers to distribute voting slips as members come into the meeting.

SM
GM

There will be a vote on the motion to have independent candidates for the Council elections in May. There will be a vote by a show of hands with the cards and if it is considered necessary voting cards will be collected to be counted.

Although motions for the Annual General Meeting have to be submitted at least 6 weeks before the Meeting, Colin Gregory gave his opinion that amendments can be taken at the meeting provided they do not substantially change the meaning of the motion. The decision on whether an amendment would be allowed to be tabled would be made by the chairman of the meeting.

7 Garden Suburb LA 21 Partnership

This partnership was formed as a result of the Rio Summit on sustainable environment. Following the withdrawal of funding by LB Barnet in February 2004, there had been no further meetings. Nancy Boulicault, the former chairman, had written to ask whether her daughter can take over the Garden Suburb Agenda 21 to form an Agenda Under 21 Group together with the camcorder and funds amounting to £450.

The Chairman said that he would like to keep the committee as part of the RA and make it a Standing Committee. Colin Gregory asked how the committee engages with other organisations and Richard Wakefield replied that there are meetings with other Agenda 21 Partnerships in Barnet.

Eva Jacobs was not convinced that we needed an Agenda 21 committee but the Chairman said that it may be that LB Barnet is obliged to consult with the committee on various issues that may arise in the future. Colin Gregory wanted to see the RA re-connected with environmental issues.

The Chairman proposed that the Garden Suburb Local Agenda 21 Partnership becomes a standing Committee of the RA. This was seconded by Leonie Stephen and passed by 10 votes in favour and 2 votes against.

RW

Richard Wakefield agreed to serve on the Sub Committee and he will ask Rosalind Josephs whether she is able to join together with Nancy Boulicault's daughter. It was agreed that young people should be encouraged to participate. It was agreed that the terms of reference of the committee should be confined to environmental issues not already covered by existing standing committees.

8 Pavilion Children's Centre

John Boulter told Council that the RA had lent the Pavilion Centre the sum of £1,000. It has now negotiated a new lease with Barnet which is without fully repairing covenants. Council agreed that John Boulter will write and request that the loan is repaid to the RA.

JB

- 9 Alexander Stuart Gray Memorial Award: Proposal to appoint Richard Wakefield, Georgina Malcolm and a qualified Architect as Judges. RW
The Chairman proposed a motion to appoint them and Arnold Linden as the GM
Architect. This was seconded by Carol Boulter and passed Nem Con.

- 10 Report on Centenary Public Meeting on 24 January
David Littaur reported that this was a packed meeting of around 100 people at the Free Church Hall with the aim of discussing ideas and motivating interest. After a welcome by RA Chairman David B Lewis, the meeting was chaired by Alan Walker. Alan Cohen a member of the Celebrations committee followed this with a presentation. There were many suggestions from the floor and an ideas box.

Letter will shortly be sent all organisations asking for their firm proposals and budgets. There must be co-ordination to ensure that the same sponsors are not approached by different organisations. CG

Despite an invitation there had been no representation or response from the Institute and Colin Gregory will raise this.

David Littaur said that the Centenary project he would really like to see is a new Community Centre with a tower similar to the previous Club House built on the Fellowship House site.

- 11 Purchase of more Litter Pickers Devices RW
The cost of 50 new litter pickers is £250 and Richard Wakefield will approach MacDonalds to see whether they will agree to make a further donation. Council agreed that the new litter picker devices can be purchased out of the LA 21 Partnership funds.

- 12 Any Other Urgent Business

St Jude's' Proms

It was proposed that the RA should donate the sum of £3,500 to sponsor the opening night on 17 June. This motion was proposed by Colin Gregory and seconded by Richard Wakefield and passed Nem Com.

RA Budget

Andrew Botterill asked on what basis the Association's Council decides whether to spend money and whether there is a budget to enable them to reach an informed decision. The Treasurer explained that it is difficult to have reliable budgets as apart from the normal predictable annual expenditure there are many items where money is required, which cannot be foreseen in advance. He will talk about the accounts at the March Council Meeting. JB

Neighbourhood Watch

Derek Chandler reported that unfortunately there had been a failure to find a steering committee although a resident had volunteered to act as treasurer. Therefore, the administration will be transferred to Barnet Borough Watch. He will write to all co-ordinators informing them of the position..

CG

City Management Plan

Colin Gregory reported that the City is reviewing its management plan for Hampstead Heath and he will report back to Council.

- 13 To Confirm the date of the Next Meeting on Tuesday 7 March at 8 pm at Fellowship House

This was confirmed.