

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 th March 2006
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

Simon Abbott, Denis Baron, Douglas Blausten, Derek Chandler, John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Carol Boulter, Francois Crompton-Roberts, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Colin Gregory, Rosalind Josephs, Richard Kemp, David Lewis, (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Georgina Malcolm, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield (Hon Secretary),

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Max Peterson

Before commencing the Meeting the Chairman announced with great regret the death of Michael Rowley and Anne Lawson, both of whom had worked very hard for the RA and the Suburb over many years. The EC will discuss how they can be remembered.

1 Apologies for Absence

Jean Barraclough, Peter Beesley, Andrew Botterill, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Eva Jacobs, Steve Morris, Gary Shaw, Leonie Stephen. Alan Walker.

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting 7 February

3 Matters Arising

Report on Centenary Public Meeting on 24 January

Colin Gregory will speak to the Institute

CG

David Littaur reported that that he had recently been told that the Institute wish to appoint Alan Brudney to be their representative on the Celebrations Committee. David Littaur will talk to him. DLit

4 Question Time

There were none.

5 Financial Report and Presentation of Projections on Income, Expenditure and Projected Surplus/Deficit for 2006.

John Boulter circulated a paper to Council members. He said that the concern about RA finances essentially stems from the large discretionary payments made for Street trees, St Jude's Proms, St Jude's Appeal, Traffic Calming and Street Name Signs. Without these items the RA would have made a small surplus over the last four years.

He pointed out that subscriptions have begun to fall slightly and the funds in the accumulated fund amounted to only £14,000.

This year the RA is committed to spend £3,500 on the St Jude's Proms and £800 on the production of a leaflet to raise money from the

Centenary celebrations. Spending on trees could be limited to money from the Joy Edelman legacy. This may halt the run of deficits. He suggested that no more significant grants are made for the current year.

The Council discussed the possibility of increasing the suggested annual subscription and raising this at the AGM. Colin Gregory pointed out that two weeks notice would have to be given to all members of the RA which is not practical. Membership cards have already been printed for the this year.

The Chairman suggested that notice could be given in the summer edition of Suburb News for a Special General Meeting, to agree an increase in the subscription.

He pointed out that Heath and Hampstead Society charge £15 a couple (£12 for seniors) and £10 for an individual (£6 for seniors).

The Chairman said that RA reserves are low and would not be sufficient if we wished to go to Court to seek a judicial review.

Simon Abbott was concerned that if the subscription was increased members may be prepared to give less to Fellowship. There are only a small number of residents who give less than £6 and the RA must allow residents who cannot afford it to give less. However we must have enough reserves for an emergency. It was pointed out that a rise in the subscription might paradoxically mean a rise in income for Fellowship because the rounding would be different and the typical donation of £4 could become £5 or £10 if the sub was increased to £10.

The Chairman said that with the large turnover of houses on the Suburb there are a large number of empty and rented houses.

Colin Gregory suggested that we 'tested the water' at the AGM and asked residents for their comments. This was agreed and if an increase was to be recommended, this could be put to a special general meeting in 2006 so that the new subscription could be applied for 2007.

John Boulter reminded Council that there would be an appeal for money for the Centenary celebrations and thought that the RA would not wish to have two appeals in one year, although the subscriptions have not kept pace with inflation.

Simon Abbott pointed out that the minimum was a "suggested" amount and Council agreed it was not intended to amend the constitution to change this. People who really could not afford a higher figure could therefore continue to pay the same as before.

Suburb Gallery

John Boulter pointed out that the Suburb Gallery, after many years of small surpluses, showed a deficit of £1,600 - the previous deficit was for refurbishment. The Gallery account has no money and needs £500 to

pay the rent and a further £170 for selling books, both owed to the HGS Trust.

RW

Richard Wakefield said that the problems with the Gallery had been discussed by Council on a few occasions, but no volunteers had had been forthcoming . There are not enough volunteers to manthe Gallery all the time. The Trust had been helping with the payment of the rent but when the lease expires in July it may mean that the Gallery will be forced to close. JB

Carol Boulter suggested that the artist form a co-operative and run the Gallery. Colin Gregory said that artists should be asked for their ideas. Douglas Blausten was concerned whether the Trust is committed to funding the Gallery in the long term. There could be a question of dilapidations and we must know the Trust's position.

Richard Wakefield agreed that the Trust is looking for ways of saving money. He will supply a copy of the agreement made between the RA and the Trust, to the Treasurer and the Chairman. RW

Richard Wakefield will speak to the framers who used to run the shop in Temple Fortune who had expressed interest in the Gallery and there is also a suggestion of artists painting portraits in the Gallery.

In the meantime the Council agreed to the payment of £760 which has already been shown in the 2005 accounts. The EC will discuss the matter of the Gallery lease and make recommendations to Council.

6 Proposed Mini roundabout at Meadway and Hampstead Way. Report of Meeting with LB Barnet Officers

The Chairman said that the residents' views on this proposal were mixed. LB Barnet had supplied details of five accidents at this roundabout over the last three years but fortunately the injuries had been minor.

A meeting had taken place and LB Barnet propose to insert a 'button' roundabout painted on the road. Extra and taller lampposts will be required.

Richard Wakefield pointed out that this was one of the most important corners of the Suburb architecturally and it should not be ruined. Simon Abbott said that all the residents in Hill Close consider crossing at this junction to be dangerous with a risk of a serious accident. Richard Kemp felt a roundabout was necessary.

Carol Boulter said that the junction is far safer with the recent implementation of yellow lines on the corners and the elderly can cross over at Meadway Gate. A roundabout would become an eyesore.

Douglas Blausten who lives near the crossing remembers making a register of all the accidents many years ago. He had witnessed a very

serious accident. It had been RA policy to have something done but LB Barnet would not take any action. He agreed about the architectural heritage but the number of cars and the size of the cars had changed and this was a fatality waiting to happen. He considered that the RA should concentrate on the design of the roundabout, the quality of the materials used and the type of lighting. English Heritage should become involved.

Richard Wakefield pointed out that there have never been any fatalities and there is only a problem in rush hour and in school term time. Derek Chandler said that this matter keeps coming up at Roads & Traffic meetings. The Committee eventually felt pressure from residents and they had made two suggestions:

- 1 A compulsory left turn coming up Hampstead Way from the Heath extension or:
- 2 A small roundabout of a few feet in diameter high enough for drivers not to be able to drive over.

Colin Gregory proposed a motion:

'That the Residents Association opposes the proposal for a 'pimple' roundabout painted on the road surface but will support measures acceptable in conservation terms in accordance with the proposal of the Roads & Traffic Committee to achieve a safer junction.'

This was seconded by Richard Wakefield and passed Nem. Com.

Roads and Traffic were instructed to continue the negotiations with the Borough.

7 Proposals being considered by local Councillors for the removal of grass verges in Erskine Hill and the use of tarmac for the pavements instead of paving blocks.

The Chairman reported that after a request from two residents, a meeting had been held to canvass the proposals of residents in Erskine Hill to remove the grass verges. English Heritage which had given money to restore the verges had been informed about the proposals and is against them. If they went ahead it would require repayment of the money. The RA and the HGS Trust may also be due for a refund if the grass verges are removed.

Colin Gregory pointed out that this was contrary to the principals of Greening the Suburb and the conservation principles should be adhered to.

Richard Wakefield had asked for a maintenance schedule as it seems that the verges are not being cut. Rosalind Josephs said that LB Barnet should normally cut verges on the Suburb 13 times a year.

Simon Abbott had been asked by Marion Litchfield to raise the question of the grass verges at the bottom of Hogarth Hill which are being destroyed. She wanted wooden posts to protect them. A meeting had been held with Barnet. The chairman pointed out that oak posts had been proposed at the top of Ossulton Way to protect grass verges.

Rosalind Josephs said that Barbara Bliss, a resident of Kingsley Close, had complained about the cars from the footballers who play in Lyttelton Playing Fields, which park on the verges, and she would like wooden posts there.

Georgina Malcolm said that grass verges which have been removed by Transco have not been made good in Temple Fortune Hill and Erskine Hill. Francois Crompton Roberts said that in Erskine Hill the road surface is getting higher and the kerbs are nearly at the same level in some places. DBL

The Chairman will write to Barnet on these matters. The Council thought that it would be cheaper to provide oak posts than to remove the verges.

8 Proposals to charge for Parking at Brent Cross

The Chairman told the Council that the developers wish to expand and increase the number of shops at Brent Cross but LB Barnet and the Mayor of London will not allow any extra parking. They will only give permission for any development if charges are made for the existing parking.

The Council noted this and opposed parking charges but felt that this was not something that the RA should take up. As this is outside the Suburb, only if sufficient residents are concerned about the position should the RA become involved.

9 AGM

David Littaur would like help with the bar after the AGM.

With regard to the PA system Richard Kemp had obtained a reasonable estimate for hiring and operating a PA system, with his assistance on the evening, for £320 including vat. Richard Wakefield suggested that the RA do not purchase sandwiches this year and that we use up the existing stocks of wine to save money. The RA Council agreed this.

Derek Chandler proposed that the RA accept the quotation for a PA system for £320. This was seconded by Georgina Malcolm and passed Nem Con.

10 Standing Committees - Terms of Reference

The Chairman asked the Standing Committee Chairmen to look at their terms of reference.

11 Any Other Business

St Jude's

David Littaur proposed and Simon Abbott seconded the EC's recommendation that £100 is donated to St Jude's, to thank them for the use of the Church for the Fireworks on New Year's Eve.

Celebrations Committee

David Littaur said that he is now receiving budgets for the various events. The Chairman said that the EC will discuss these.

Henrietta Barnett Memorial Lecture

Simon Abbott said that this lecture will be held on 14th June 2006 on the Future of Garden Cities. Details will be inserted in the Suburb News.

- 12 To Confirm the Date of the Next Meeting on Tuesday 4th April 2006 at 8.00pm at Fellowship House
Confirmed