

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4 April 2006 at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

Simon Abbott, John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Derek Chandler, Nicole Gerber, Colin Gregory, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Richard Kemp, David Lewis, (Vice-Chairman), Georgina Malcolm, Steve Morris, Gary Shaw, Leonie Stephen, Richard Wakefield (Hon Secretary).

Visitors: Susan Lewis

The Chairman welcomed Nicole Gerber to the Council

1 Apologies for Absence

Jean Barraclough, Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten, Carol Boulter, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Rosalind Josephs, Francois Crompton-Roberts, David Littaur, Selwyn Nakan, Max Petersen, Douglas Thomas, Alan Walker

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting - March

3 Matters Arising

Report on Centenary Public Meeting on 24 January

David Littaur had previously reported that there had been liaison with the Institute and it was unnecessary for Colin Gregory to raise this.

Financial Report and Presentation on Income, Expenditure and Projected Surplus/Deficit for 2006

Georgina Malcolm suggested that Council members look at the 12 new almond trees which had been planted in Asmunds Hill.

Suburb Gallery

Richard Wakefield told Council that the Gallery was now open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday morning and all day on Friday. Consequently the financial position has improved slightly. He has organised three exhibitions and details of these will appear in Suburb News. Suburb artists are painting portraits at the Gallery on Fridays. The Trust have not yet decided what they will do when the lease expires in June 2007.

Simon Abbott said that it would be a great shame if the Gallery closes in Centenary year. He suggested that various books/publications for sale are displayed in the window, including the Micky Watkins book. Richard Wakefield said that this is already done and the window display changes every week.

Nicole Gerber suggested a children's painting competition for the local

schools with an entry fee to raise money. Richard Wakefield said that this RW had been done before and he would look into it - perhaps during the school holidays. Colin Gregory suggested a competition could be held for suburb art students. The exhibits could subsequently be sold in the Gallery.

Proposed Mini roundabout at Meadway and Hampstead Way , Report of meeting with LB Barnet Officers

Gary Shaw had drafted a letter which had been sent to LB Barnet setting DBL out the RA's position.

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 is preparing a letter which will shortly be sent to LB Barnet.

4 Question Time

There were no questions.

5 Proposal to suspend the Six year Rule for 2006-2007

The Chairman proposed that the Six year Rule is suspended for this year although he would like to see new blood on the standing committees. He suggested that Standing Orders could be amended to ensure that One or two members of each committee retire by rotation each year. John Boulter wondered why a committee members who has expertise in a particular area should be asked to retire. Llonie Stephen agreed and she considered it 'wasteful' to lose the services of someone with expertise

Simon Abbott said that this discussion had become an annual event and he thought that there should not be a general acceptance of everyone who wishes to continue but there should be a loophole. He wanted limited tenure.

Derek Chandler pointed out that the purpose of the rule was to have a procedure to break a 'clique' of committee members on a standing committee if this was found to be necessary.

Gary Shaw pointed out that that if some of the members on his committee were to leave it would be a problem for the Roads & Traffic Committee.

Colin Gregory said that the RA wants to be able to make an exception without dispensing with the rule as we must ensure that fresh ideas are brought to the committees. Issues discussed by standing committees today are more complicated and need greater expertise. On balance Council should have an opportunity to alter the composition of the committees each year and it would be preferable if they were able to pass a resolution each year.

Simon Abbott accepted the comments about expertise but he considered that more changes on the committees would mean a larger spread of expertise.

A Motion was proposed by Georgina Malcolm and seconded by David Lewis to suspend the Six Year Rule for 2006-2007. This was carried with 14 votes in favour and 1 against.

- 6 Approval of expenditure on membership computer program alterations (the cost of the original program had been donated by Steve Morris)
Steve Morris circulated drafts of the proposed new discount membership card and the sticker to be inserted in the participating shop windows. This was approved by Council. There will be one card per member household and it can be used by every member of the household. A letter of explanation will be sent out with the card. There are 17 shops/services participating so far and it was hoped that the publicity will produce more. Richard Wakefield will be approaching advertisers in the Yellow Directory. In response to a question from Simon Abbott, it was confirmed that the membership is for the calendar year but the discount will run to the end of May in the year following the end of the membership year.

Steve Morris told the Council that the computer system also needs changing and the cost of this will be £200. It will cost £400 to produce the cards which will mean a net deficit on the RA's normal printing costs of stationery of £300. He said 50 new members will cover the extra cost.

A Motion was proposed that the RA Council authorised the expenditure of £200 for the computer system and £300 for producing the discount membership cards.

This was proposed by Colin Gregory and seconded by Simon Abbott and carried Nem Com.

The Chairman thanked the Membership Committee and everyone involved in setting up this new system.

- 7 Confirmation of Date and Venue of Public Meeting for the Hustings to be held on Tuesday 25 April for the May Barnet elections. Approval of any Associated Costs.

The chairman said that the Free Church Hall is on that date assuming that the candidates are free. The cost of hiring the Free Church Hall is £60.

A Motion to authorise the expenditure of £60 was proposed by Georgina Malcolm and seconded by Derek Chandler and carried Nem Con

- 8 Election of the Executive Committee

The Chairman told the Council that Jean Barraclough does not wish to stand for the EC this year and she was thanked for all her work. Eva Jacobs asked the position about representation of Standing Committees on the EC.

The Standing Orders provide that from time to time there may be a resolution of Council that the Chairman of standing committees be asked to serve on the EC, although there is usually adequate representation from all the committees.

A Motion was proposed to elect the following Council members to the EC:

Derek Chandler
David Littaur
Georgina Malcolm
Steve Morris
Gary Shaw

This Motion was proposed by David Lewis and seconded by Colin Gregory and carried Nem Com

9 Standing Committee Membership

The following changes were proposed to the list in the yellow directory.

Conservation and Amenities

David B Lewis is no longer Chairman

Delete

Denis Ross*
Michael Rowley

Add

Derek Epstein* (Chn)
Max Petersen*

Events

Add

Lillian Slowe*

Add

Garden Suburb LA 21 Committee

Georgina Malcolm
L'onie Stephen
Richard Wakefield

Membership

Add

Selwyn Nakan*

Publications

Delete

Michael Rowley

Add
Susan Lewis*

Alter
Richard Wakefield (Publisher, Suburb News)

Roads & Traffic

Delete
Andrew Botterril

Add
Benson Greenberg*
Mervyn Mandell*
Brian Rivitt*
William Sowerbutts*

Trees & Open Spaces

Delete
Michael Holton*

Add
Ian Tutton*
Prue Beard*

100th Anniversary Celebrations

Delete
Carol Boulter

Add
Alan Cohen*
Marjorie Harris*
Lillian Slowe*
Ian Tutton*
Alan Walker
Richard Wakefield
Jo Velleman*

Constitution Working Group

Delete
Michael Rowley

Add
Colin Gregory
Steve Morris

Suburb Website

Add

Rachel Turner*

The Council discussed whether the Constitution Working Group should continue. The Chairman pointed out that during this year the RA will be very busy preparing for the Suburb Centenary and the present Constitution does seem to work.

Georgina Malcolm said that there are issues to look at. The Standing and Working Orders have been amended piecemeal and need to be looked at properly. Simon Abbott thought that there is a need for updating. Eva Jacobs said that questions are being asked about the nature of the Constitution. Steve Morris said that there are issues to be decided and he welcomed Colin Gregory's input.

Colin Gregory proposed that the Constitution Working Group changed its name to Standing and Working Orders Committee. No member of Council seconded this Motion and it therefore failed.

A Motion that the Constitution Working Group continues was proposed by Simon Abbott and seconded by Steve Morris and carried Nem Con.

10 Association Representation on Other Organisations

Delete

Barnet Tree Wardens

Bigwood Management Group should be renamed Bigwood and Littlewood Management Group

Centenary Committee

Delete

Mike Brown

Michael Rowley

Mervyn Unger

Add

Jonathan Hardy (LBB)

Jon Finney (LBB)

Richard Wakefield will represent the Trust

English Heritage Liaison

Delete

David B Lewis

Add

Derek Epstein

Federation of Residents' Associations of LB Barnet (FORAB)

Delete

Steve Morris

HGS Trust Grants Committee

Llonie Stephen will ask Eileen Whelan whether she wishes to remain on this committee

HGS Trust PPC

Delete

David B Lewis

Add

David Lewis

HGS CAAC

As Peter Phillips will retire from CAAC during the year he was thanked for the 25 years he had served on this committee.

Delete

Michael Rowley

Add

Alan Jacobs

Alternates: Max Petersen (tbc)

HGS Institute

Richard Wakefield will talk to Alan Brudney about his representation. The Council agreed that it was important to have strong representation on the Institute now it had partially moved outside the Suburb. The RA Council would like to have two representatives. RW

HGS Fellowship

Delete

Tim Neal

HB School Governors Observer

Delete

Denis Baron

Add

Nicole Gerber

David Lewis will write to the Chairman of the Governors to introduce Nicole Gerber.

DL

It was agreed by Council that there should be more frequent reports from RA representatives on other organisations. Representatives who are not Council members should be asked to come to RA Council and update

them on items of interest.

A Motion was proposed to appoint these RA Representatives on other Organisations. It was proposed by Llonie Stephen and seconded by Eva Jacobs and carried Nem Con.

11 Proposal to Name the Path in Central Square from HB School to Willifield Way via the HB Memorial as Henrietta Barnett Way, as a Centenary Project.

The Chairman thought that it would be possible to use the name informally and include it on the map in the Yellow Directory without involving LB Barnet. Richard Kemp said there should not be any signs. John Boulter could not see the point of naming this pathway as Henrietta Barnett already had a Memorial in Central Square and a School named after her. Simon Abbott agreed but Richard Wakefield thought that it would be nice to have something named after Dame Henrietta Barnett. during the Suburb's Centenary. The Chairman pointed out that Dame Henrietta Barnett must have decided not to have a road named after her at the time, otherwise this would have been done and that many roads were named after others involved in founding the Suburb including two after Bishop Winnington-Ingram.

A Motion that the pathway be named Henrietta Barnett Way was proposed by Richard Wakefield but as there was no seconder the Motion failed.

Georgina Malcolm suggested that as the H1/2/3 bus is now under a different ownership perhaps a bus could be named after Henrietta Barnett as has been done in Hove Sussex.

12 Proposal to call a special General Meeting on 6 June 2006 to raise the Annual Subscription and to agree a rate following the discussion at the Annual General Meeting

John Boulter told Council that at the Annual General Meeting he had said that in 1970 the subscription was £3 and to keep it in line with inflation, this would have to be increased to £30. The AGM was enthusiastic about increasing the subscription to £15 but the RA must call a Special General Meeting of the Association to authorise this.

Eva Jacobs pointed out that the subscription is only a suggested minimum subscription to which Council agreed.

A discussion took place as to whether the increased recommended subscription should be £10 or £12 or £15. Steve Morris said that he would like to introduce payment by Standing Order and he would like a sufficient increase in the subscription so that it could stay the same amount for several years to justify the work involved.

Eva Jacobs suggested that these three different suggested subscriptions

are discussed at the Special General Meeting. Colin Gregory proposed that a Special General Meeting be called on 6 June 2006. This was seconded by Georgina Malcolm

An amendment to the Motion was proposed by Steve Morris so that the Special General Meeting should be given a choice of suggested minimum subscription between £10, £12 or £15. This was seconded by Eva Jacobs. There were 7 votes in favour of this Amendment and five votes against.

The Motion as amended read: "That the Association raises its suggested minimum subscription to £10 or £12 or £15 depending on the choice of the Meeting" and this wording was passed Nem Con.

- 13 To confirm the date of the Next Meeting on Tuesday 2 May 2006 at 8.pm at Fellowship House
Confirmed