

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6 June 2006
at Fellowship House at 8.30pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Jean Barraclough, Carol Boulter, Douglas Blausten, Derek Chandler, Terry Brooks, Francois Crompton-Roberts, Nicole Gerber, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Rosalind Josephs, Richard Kemp, David Lewis, (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Georgina Malcolm, Selwyn Nakan, Max Petersen, Steve Morris, Gary Shaw, Leonie Stephen, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield (Hon Secretary),

Visitors: Leslie Dweck, Janet Elliott, Mr & Mrs S Goring, John Hewson, Cllr Andrew Harper, Peter Hibberd, Susan Lewis, Joyce Littaur, Dr Ruth Rappaport, Mark Sinden.

1 Apologies for Absence

Simon Abbott, Peter Beesley, Alan Brudney, Denis Baron, Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, Alan Walker.

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

Proposal to rename Queens Court as a series of numbers in Hampstead Way on completion of the refurbishment

The Chairman had spoken to representatives from Queens Court, but Cllr Harper said that this matter had now been resolved. The Chairman was concerned that some tenants seem to be fearful of their management.

Proposal to close Golders Green Post Office

Georgina Malcolm said that there is a general petition for signature at the Market Place post office objecting to the restriction of the services offered by post offices but there is no threat of closure.

Pavilion Children's Centre

John Boulter had written a letter as agreed and a representative from the Pavilion Children's Centre had agreed the return of the £1,000 loan but he had not yet received a cheque.

4 Question Time

Hogarth Hill/Creswick Walk

Mark Sinden told Council that the land behind these roads is a wooded area which had been sold by the Trust to Mrs Henderson. She had kept it as woodland. 25 and 27 Creswick Walk had been sold with this woodland and the purchaser had erected a wooden decking for tai chi meditation in the middle of the wood without permission from LB Barnet or the Trust.

An application for retrospective planning permission had been made. Every resident in both these roads had signed a petition objecting to this except for a tenant of the new owner. Mark Sinden understood that negotiations are taking place for the sale of the two garages behind Crediton Court to this owner. There is a prohibition that the land is not to be used other than as garden land. DBL

The RA Council agreed that a letter should be sent to LB objecting to this planning application and a draft will be forwarded to Council. The closing date for objections is June 10.

Buy to Rent Properties

Dr Rappaport said that she objected to the purchase of Suburb properties which were bought solely for the rental market.

Vagrant

Questions were asked why the Trust had become involved with this issue and had spend £12,000 in legal fees. The Chairman explained that the Police and LB Barnet were unwilling to take action. A large group of residents had come to Council in May 2006 and asked the RA to help get some action taken and it was for this reason that the Trust agreed to deal with this problem. It was agreed by Council that the Chairman will write to the Ham & High supporting the actions of the Trust and to say that there was no alternative given that neither the police nor LB Barnet would take action. DBL

5 Trees and Open Spaces Report

Leone Stephen was delighted to welcome Dr Ian Tutton, Prue Beard and Deborah Calland on to the Trees Committee. The Committee were saddened by the death of Michael Holton who was responsible for the Bigwood Memorial Gate.

The almond trees in Asmunds Hill, are doing well and continue the policy of single species planting in one road. There is no funding available this year to plant more trees but it is hoped to use the residue of the bequest from Dr Edelman.

Georgina Malcolm had prepared a comprehensive list of ownership and condition of all the open spaces on the Suburb for which she was thanked. Douglas Blausten also appreciated her speedy response to a problem with a tree outside his house.

The rose garden in Northway Gardens had been replanted. The original plaque for the drinking fountain had been found and restored. There is an ongoing discussion as to whether it should be filled with water. There was a problem with the missing slide in the children play area by Bigwood which is being pursued.

Bluebells had been planted in Bigwood and the restoration of the middle pathway and the ditches are being considered but there are no funds available to carry this scheme forward.

Mairtin Coss, who is responsible for the Heath Extension sports pitches and Golders Hill Park including the animal section and Paul Maskell who is responsible for leisure facilities on the Heath had attended a Trees & Open Spaces meeting. A walk around Golders Hill Park is planned on 26 June led by the Superintendent of the Heath.

There is a proposal to rename the Heath Extension, Wyldes Fields which the Committee does not support. Richard Wakefield said that for many years the question of a change of name for the Heath Extension had been proposed and he hoped that it would now be considered by Council. The Chairman agreed that the EC will discuss this.

It is thought that LB Barnet has agreed to a pedestrian crossing outside the entrance to Golders Hill Park in North End Road although the existing crossing will be retained by Camden. Cllr Harper indicated that the change of control of Camden might make implementation easier. Leonie Stephen asked residents to water trees and to cut the grass verges outside their houses even though it is strictly speaking the responsibility of LB Barnet.

David Littaur said that Central Square looks neglected and is full of rubbish. Georgina Malcolm and Rosalind Josephs will look into it. Leonie Stephen hoped that the Square would look good during the Proms. She was thanked for her comprehensive report.

6 Approval of Committee Terms of Reference

Richard Wakefield proposed and Terry Brooks seconded the Motion that the Terms of Reference are approved. This motion was put to the RA Council and was carried Nem Con.

7 Any Other Business

Kerb stone

It was reported that granite kerb stones had been taken up in Erskine Hill and replaced with concrete and the kerb stones in Willifield Way had also been taken and replaced but the quality of the finish was poor. Cllr Harper said that he will look into both these matters..

Attendance by Councillor at Council Meeting

The Chairman thanked Cllr Harper for attending and suggested that a Ward Councillor should regularly attending RA Council Meetings which used to happen.

8 To Confirm the Date of the Next Meeting on Tuesday 4 July 2006 at 8.pm at Fellowship House

This was confirmed.