

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 September 2006
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Denis Baron, Carol Boulter, Douglas Blausten, Alan Brudney, Derek Chandler, Terry Brooks, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council) Rosalind Josephs, Richard Kemp, David Littaur, Georgina Malcolm, Selwyn Nakan, Max Petersen, Gary Shaw, Leonie Stephen, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield (Hon Secretary),

Visitors: Janet Elliott, Joyce Littaur,

1 Apologies for Absence

Simon Abbott, Jean Barraclough, Peter Beesley, Francois Crompton Roberts, Nicole Gerber, Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, David Lewis, Steve Morris

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting 4th July

These were approved.

3 Matters Arising

Patrons for the Centenary Ceelebrations

The Chairman reported the following additional acceptances: Sir Victor and Lady Blank, Katie Boyle (Lady Saunders), Angela Buxton, Lord Howie, David McCallum, Jonathan Ross OBE and Dame Elizabeth Taylor.

DBL

It was additionally greed to invite Rachel Weisz, Henry Kelly, Eric Gruenberg and Musa Moris Farhi MBE to become patrons.

4 Question Time

Eric Fletcher Memorial Garden

Joyce Littaur was concerned at the state of the brickwork around the flower bed by Lyttelton Road. Georgina Malcolm said that she had had a meeting with representatives from LB Barnet and they agreed that the retaining wall will be re-built.

5 Treasurer's Report

John Boulter said that subscription income of £17,000 had been paid in but he will not know the overall position until the year end. There will probably be a small deficit but hopefully the Centenary leaflet will bring in funds together with the increase in the Annual Subscription next year. Fellowship have asked for money which the RA has collected on their behalf. The RA reserves have been run down although this year new trees will be paid for out of the legacy tree fund but fireworks have to be funded. Janet Elliott said that the RA's subscription income is £750 ahead at this stage.

John Boulter had obtained a quotation from the Royal & Sun Alliance the RA's existing liability insurer for insuring the fireworks, for £105 which was significantly less than other quotations.

Alan Brudney proposed a Motion to approve the expenditure of £850 for the Fireworks for New Year's Eve in addition to the £105 for the insurance premium. This was seconded by David Littaur and passed Nem. Con.

6 Membership - Request for Expenditure

A paper had been circulated prior to this meeting.

Selwyn Nakan explained that the sum of £950 was required to cover the cost of a postal mailing to households that have not joined the RA. Two requests had been sent via the Membership Representatives and it is impractical to use them for a third request. Last year there had been a targeted mailing with a 20% response rate. A 5% response rate would make a break even situation. The cost of mailing each of these households would be 38p.

Selwyn Nakan thought that it was important to make a membership push before the subscriptions are increased next year.

Rosalind Josephs considered that the postal mailing would be more effective than a circular placed through the door by a Membership Representative.

Douglas Blausten said that some applications for money have the merits of sponsorship and he suggested that anyone requesting RA Funds should say what efforts have been made to get sponsorship.

Carol Boulter thought that, if possible, the requests should be personalised. Janet Elliott said that names will be used where they have them.

There was a second request for £600 to enable the setting up of an e mail system to request membership subscriptions from 2007 and for payment by credit card on line, To encourage households to submit their e mail addresses a prize draw was suggested. This system would be much cheaper than mailing residents once it is set up and e mail can be used to facilitate future communications between residents and the RA.

A Motion for the expenditure of £1,550 by the RA for the postal mailing and to set up an e mail system was proposed by Selwyn Nakan and seconded by Richard Wakefield and passed Nem Con.

Centenary Mugs

- 6 Richard Wakefield said that he had hoped to bring three specimen mugs to show the RA but these had got lost in the post. He asked the Council to approve the expenditure of £3,600 to enable him to order 1,000 mugs which would cost £3.70 each and which would be sold at £6.99. There were three

different designs. More mugs can be ordered of a particular design if one proves more popular than others. Carol Boulter queried why similar mugs were being sold again after the problems selling the 90th anniversary mugs. JB John Boulter said that he would look in to the figures to see whether the RA had sufficient working capital to finance this in advance of receiving funds specifically raised for the Centenary either from residents or by sponsorship.

Douglas Blausten said that the Council should see the mugs and approve the design before agreeing to spend a large amount of its funds.

Richard Wakefield said that it was important to order the mugs now for the Christmas period and for details to be included in the next Suburb News.

Douglas Blausten proposed that this decision is deferred to the October Council Meeting when the specimen mugs can be seen. This was seconded by Derek Chandler and passed by 11 votes in favour and 2 against,

7 Centenary Leaflet

Council noted that the cost of the Centenary Leaflet will probably go over budget by some £200. It was hoped that there may be the possibility of a sponsor for this.

8 Noisy Garden Machinery

Gary Shaw said noise from garden machinery is becoming a constant problem throughout most of the year. Gardeners working in East Finchley Cemetery are causing particular problems on the north side of the Suburb. Council members were sympathetic and Richard Kemp said that he had spoken to LB Barnet about this in another area of the Suburb as they have some responsibility for this.

Janet Elliott pointed out that the Trust's gardeners use noisy leaf blowers. It was suggested that a letter could be written to the local contract gardeners and to the East Finchley Cemetery and perhaps the Noise Abatement Society could assist.

Richard Wakefield said that the RA should ascertain the legal position and perhaps purchase a decibel meter if there is a legal limit to the noise. He will talk to the Trust Council. RW

A motion was proposed by Gary Shaw that the Council regrets the noise from garden implements on the Suburb and Consam and the Trees & Open Spaces Committee should look into this. This was seconded by Douglas Blausten and passed Nem Con. LS

9 Any Other Business

Georgina Malcolm said that an ASBO had been taken out by LB Barnet against Tom O'Brien.

Litter Pickers

Rosalind Josephs requested RA funds to send out a mailing to update details of the 100 litter pickers. This was agreed by Council.

- 10 To confirm the date of the Next Meeting on Tuesday 3 October at 8.00pm at Fellowship House.

This was confirmed.