

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3rd October 2006
at Fellowship House at 8 pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

Simon Abbott, Jean Barraclough, John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Carol Boulter, Alan Brudney, Terry Brooks, Derek Chandler, Francois Crompton Roberts, Nicole Gerber, Colin Gregory, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council) Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, Richard Kemp, David Littaur, Georgina Malcolm, Steve Morris, Selwyn Nakan, Max Petersen, Gary Shaw, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield (Hon Secretary), Alan Walker

Visitors: Harold Karton, Susan Lewis, Joyce Littaur.

The Chairman expressed the RA's condolences to Janet Elliott RA Membership Secretary on the death of her husband John.

1 Apologies for Absence

Denis Baron, Peter Beesley, Derek Blausten, David Lewis, Leonie Stephen

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting dated 5 September 2006.

These were approved.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

Eric Fletcher Memorial Garden

Georgina Malcolm reported that although LB Barnet had said that they had dealt with this they have not yet done anything.

Treasurer's Report

Alan Brudney said that the fireworks company had reduced the discount for ordering in advance, from 25% to 20%. He is in touch with another supplier and he will try to get the best possible price but if necessary he will buy fewer fireworks.

Membership

Steve Morris reported that 2,500 letter will be sent out this week. to non-members of the RA.

Noisy Garden Machinery

Gary Shaw had looked into this and the legislation is ambiguously worded. It is for the local authority to decide what constitutes a nuisance. ' He and the Chairman will continue to apply pressure on the Councillors.

GS

Vagrant

Georgina Malcolm reported that Tom O'Brien had appeared in court after his breach of the Anti-Social Behaviour Order and he had been given a conditional discharge.

4 Question Time
There were none.

5 Consam Report : Derek Epstein
Derek Epstein joined the Meeting for this item.

Planning and other Procedures of the HGS Trust

A copy of the report had previously been circulated to Council members. In 2003 the RA and the Trust had set up a committee to review the procedures. As the Trust and the RA were unable to agree, the RA published its own suggestions. Consam had recently met with David Davidson and Jane Blackburn and had gone through the 2003 recommendations and discussed the current position and agreed specific procedural changes which were detailed.

The Trust has now agreed the following: that the Trust web site will contain a list of applications which were refused and which were given consent; objectors will be notified of the result of an application "subject to resource implications"; an evaluation questionnaire was considered good PR "subject to resource implications" and this will be looked in to; the Trust plans to seek changes to the Scheme of Management to give it more powers; the Trust will consider including in their Gazette a one page overview of this joint procedures review setting out the changes agreed and Consam will consider what the RA will publish and where.

Carol Boulter said that this is a big step for the Trust and it can be built on. Colin Gregory thanked Derek Epstein for the clear helpful document. There is a significant improvement in the transparency of the Trust and it is pleasing that the Trust and Consam will meet at least annually to build on this and that there is now a constructive dialogue.

Simon Abbott welcomed this as part of a continuing relationship. He would like to see an appeals procedure rather than a 'review' and to ensure that the same people are not on the review panel who made the original decision as the RA had asked for in its original report.

Colin Gregory said that it was difficult to have an independent appeal panel as everyone is involved in some way in the original decision.

Georgina Malcolm, who works for the Trust, said that there are not enough staff to undertake some of the RA's proposals and she sees how much work and how busy the staff in the Trust office are.

The Chairman suggested a copy of the results of the planning application sent to the applicant should also be sent to the objectors. This seems a simple plan to operate. Georgina Malcolm said that it is not that simple and is time consuming.

Street Clutter Progress Report to RA Council

Liaison

Derek Epstein circulated a Progress Report to RA Council. Consam had asked LB Barnet to establish a forum for early day review of the environmental impact of highways proposals. This was refused and LB Barnet said that it is not their policy to consult when formulating policies.

Design Guidelines Handbook

Consam asked LB Barnet to agree to the creation of a Design Guidelines Handbook for the public realm which was agreed in principle. Consam will prepare a draft.

Remedying Existing Street Clutter

Discussions began in November 2005 and cost estimates were provided by the Chief Highways Officer. Consam carried out a detailed survey and submitted a list of proposals and requested a £20,00 budget. At the Finchley & Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee, a principal engineer Theo Panayi said that the costing were incorrect. The decision was deferred to the May meeting but officers did not provide the report requested by the committee, so the matter was deferred to the September meeting.

Meanwhile a meeting was held in July between Consam and six Barnet officers where it was said that the matter could not be progressed without members approval. It was considered by the Area Sub-committee in September where officers were authorised to scope, cost and prioritise the work in consultation with the RA. Consam briefed the Highways department and a reply was promised by the end of September. The committee refused to recommend the allocation of funds in the 2007/8 budget. Consam wrote in protest and Cllr Harper proposed a meeting to discuss this.

Carol Boulter suggested a well worded letter from the RA expressing their disappointment but it was agreed that in the first instance, we should concentrate on the handbook.

Georgina Malcolm suggested that Consam involve the East Finchley Councillors.

Henrietta Barnett Memorial

Richard Wakefield said that he had received a response from Cllr Harper about the refurbishment of the Memorial including the lamp which has been missing for some years. Cllr Harper said this was being costed and RA Council hoped that LB Barnet would pay for the necessary work in view of the fact that the Memorial was owned by Barnet and was a listed building.

Thanks were expressed to Derek Epstein for all the work he and Consam had done.

6 Approval of a Contract regarding the Henrietta Barnett Rose

The chairman had circulated a copy of a *letter of intent* from the Centenary Committee regarding the commissioning and supply of the Henrietta Barnett Rose for his signature. The rose is to be sold during the centenary year. He had shown the letter to Colin Gregory and Peter Beesley who thought that there may be some personal liability if the roses were not of good quality. The chairman pointed out that there was a wider issue here of liability and this should be discussed further by the Executive Committee and if appropriate the standing orders would have to be amended. The RA would not be expected to purchase a stock of the roses and they will be sold by completion of an application form which would be kept in the Suburb Gallery as well as at events.

Richard Wakefield congratulated the Centenary committee on an amazing deal . He will put an article in Suburb News and Georgina Malcolm asked whether there could also be an application form on the web site. She said that both the Trust and the HB School PTA had agreed to purchase some of the roses for their gardens.

Simon Abbott asked if the Chairman signed the letter 'for and on behalf of' the RA' it would affect any liability but Colin Gregory said that this would probably have no effect.

Simon Abbott proposed a motion that the RA Council authorised the Chairman to sign the letter of intent with Harkness on behalf of the RA. This was seconded by Terry Brooks and passed Nem Con.

7 Approval of Advance expenditure on a stock of 300 Centenary Coffee Cups in three designs

Richard Wakefield told the Council that the supplier had forgotten to re-order the mugs and the manufacturer of the mug had now gone out of business. He had no samples to show to Council but photographs of the designs had been published in Suburb News.

The EC had recommended to Council that 100 of each design is ordered John Boulter pointed out that it was agreed that the Council should see the mugs before agreeing to the expenditure. It was pointed out that Richard Wakefield and The Chairman had agreed to underwrite the cost of the mugs if necessary.

Carol Boulter suggested that as the original mugs did not sell quickly that we should sell a Suburb Centenary mug and she produced some examples. Georgina Malcolm said that this should be a separate project and the Chairman asked the Celebrations committee to consider an additional design. Eva Jacobs told Council that it is possible to purchase a porcelain mug in Woolworths for £2 and it is this that the RA would be competing against. "It should be IHGS specific" she said.

Simon Abbott thought that the RA should approve the three mugs in principle subject to there being a proper budget but this was not agreed.

8 Planned Expenditure for 2007

John Boulter reported that the leaflet which is being prepared and the increase in subscriptions may bring in a little or a large amount of money. He was surprised that, although RA Council had agreed earlier this year to stop spending money in order to replenish its reserves, that large sums of money were now being considered; for example the sum of £3,500 to purchase mugs at the last Council meeting and nearly £4,000 for ceramic cottages at the last Executive Committee Meeting.

He would like all Standing Committee chairmen to produce a forecast of their main expenditure for next year, based on last year's expenditure plus any exceptional projects.

Regarding early expenditure for the Centenary Celebrations, RA funds are more plentiful during the period from March to July than during the rest of the year. So in most cases it was not practicable to authorise any expenditure now for Centenary events ahead of the pledge or commitment of specific money which is to be raised to fund the Centenary Celebrations.

The Chairman said that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Celebration Committee, applications for sponsorship will be made centrally to avoid sponsors being approached for more than one project. It would be preferable to await the decision about the proposed royal visit before approaching sponsors as this would have an impact.

He emphasised it was not necessary to scale back any plans at this stage and there are many events proposed which do not cost a great deal of money.

There are one or two large projects such as the Souvenir Programme and the Pageant which may need to be financed by the RA but both these will receive revenue which should reduce the net cost significantly. Richard Wakefield said that a 10% discount would be given to advertisers in the Souvenir Programme who pay in advance.

David Littaur pointed out the problems he is having. He needs to make certain bookings which have financial commitments. An example being the face-painter for the Big Birthday Party and he would like the confirmation from Council that he can proceed.

The Chairman said: "If any funds need to be spent at this stage, an application should be made to the EC." It was also pointed out that any advance reservations for expensive projects could be subject to a cancellation clause nearer the time.

Rosalind Josephs pointed out that the manufacturers of the thimbles want to have payment in advance and the Chairman said that the first order would probably have to be a smaller one although this may be more expensive per item. This would probably apply to all the memorabilia items.

Colin Gregory said that a message of encouragement should be sent to the Celebrations Committee and although the RA should not allocate resources at this stage the Committee should have faith that the money can be raised. The RA Council is pleased with the programme and want the committee to carry on with the planning. The Chairman also said that the Celebrations Committee is doing an excellent job and should not be discouraged.

9 Any Other Urgent Business

Report on EC Meeting

Eva Jacobs asked for an agenda item on the Council agenda to enable Council members to ask questions about the EC Minutes. Council agreed to this and in future there will be an Agenda item 'Matters arising from EC Minutes.'

Bookkeeper

Douglas Thomas asked for further information on this item in the September EC Minutes. There had been some problems with communication and John Boulter will be speaking to Nedret Mckinley and will report back to the EC

10 To confirm the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 7 November 2006 at 8.00pm at Fellowship House.

This was confirmed