

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

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

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Simon Abbott, Jean Barraclough, Carol Boulter, Terry Brooks, Derek Chandler, Francois Crompton-Roberts, Nicole Gerber, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, Richard Kemp, David Lewis (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Georgina Malcolm, Max Petersen, Gary Shaw, Leonie Stephen.

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Pia and Carlos Duran

1 Apologies for Absence

Denis Baron, Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten, Alan Brudney, Colin Gregory, Steve Morris, Selwyn Nakan, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield.

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting -7 November

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

Carol Boulter asked whether the EC had discussed the Centenary mug at their meeting. The Chairman said that this had not been discussed but Georgina Malcolm produced a mock-up of mug which was circulated to Council. The Chairman said the RA could not commit any more funds until the sponsorship for the Centenary is secured.

A resolution was proposed by Terry Brooks and seconded by Carol Boulter 'That the Celebrations Committee should consider the proposed Centenary Mug and prepare the costings for RA Council to consider.'
This was passed Nem Con.

Safer Neighbourhoods and Crime Prevention

Leonie Stephen was concerned that the Garden Suburb School parents were ignoring the signs and parking on the other side of Willifield Way when collecting their children from school which is a danger. Gary Shaw pointed out that the RA had stated on numerous occasions that the new scheme would be more dangerous than what had proceeded it. Carol Boulter asked whether the School is prepared to assist but Gary Shaw said that it would not co-operate. The Chairman wondered whether the police would help and Carol Boulter suggested enlisting the help of the parents who walk their children to school.

4 Question Time

There were no questions.

5 Prize Draw and Report by Membership Committee of results of third mailing

A mailing had taken place of 2,500 non-members who had not joined the RA this year. There had been an increase in membership this year which now stands at more than 2,200.

Nicole Gerber drew the number for the prize draw. This was won by James Scott of 3 Ludlow Way. Richard Wakefield will present the prize to him.

RW

6 Matters Arising out of the Executive Committee Minutes and Endorsement of the Centenary Expenditure recommendations of the Executive Committee

The EC had recommended the expenditure of £212 for the inflatable planetarium and £6,500 for the hiring of the costumes for the Pageant.

The Chairman said that the sum of £7,500 had been raised by the leaflets and £10,000 by a direct approach to targeted residents.

The Chairman proposed a motion seconded by Jean Barraclough 'that the RA spends £212 on the Inflatable Planetarium and £6,500 on the Pageant for the Centenary Celebrations.'

This was passed Nem Con.

The Chairman reported that 98% of the contributions received for the Centenary celebrations had been from RA Members and he is considering a further mail shot to targeted members. The EC had discussed this and recommended to Council that £900 is spent on a targeted mail shot to either 1,000 or 1500 members. Richard Kemp asked whether this could be enclosed with the AGM material but the Chairman wished to keep it separate. Derek Chandler asked whether the envelopes could be overprinted with the centenary logo and the Chairman agreed to look into this. A motion was proposed by David Lewis and seconded by Leonie Stephen 'That the sum of up to £900 could be spent on a further mailing to residents who had not responded to the earlier appeal for Centenary funds'. This was passed Nem Con.

DBL

Electronic Payments

The Membership Committee wishes to use electronic payments to supplement cheques for payment of annual subscriptions. Most of the cost of these payments is calculated on the actual turnover. Initially residents could be asked to join on-line if they wish to pay electronically to save work for the Membership Secretary. It is a requirement that a Business account be opened at Barclays in addition to the existing Community account. The cost of this is £9 a quarter. Membership would also like to pilot collection by standing orders.

Terry Brooks proposed a motion seconded by Georgina Malcolm 'That a Business account is set up with Barclays Bank and that the RA Council authorises the Membership Committee to set up a facility for electronic payments and the use of credit and debit cards to collect members subscriptions'.

This was passed by Council Nem Con.

The Chairman confirmed that the RA would not have sight of or hold a list of credit card numbers which will go direct to the bank.

Steve Morris will give a Membership Report at the January Council Meeting. SM

7 Fallogen Way :rebuilding and suspension of Bus Stops
Gary Shaw reported that Transport for London had postponed the meeting which would now be held on 7 December and he will report back to Council at the next Meeting. GS

8 Allotments Committee Report and welcome of the new chairman Pia Duran
The Chairman welcomed Pia Duran to Council . She explained that there are 121 allotment sites. 100 pay rent to the Trust and the rest to Fellowship and the Orchard. She will be looking at the consistency of the rents paid for the allotments as well as the work which the Trust have already and intend to carry out on their sites. The vast majority of the sites are well maintained and she will look into those that are not.

Pia Duran hoped to be able to organise a visit by Council to the allotment sites as part of the centenary celebrations.

An up to date list of allotment holders with their e mails will be compiled with the hope of introducing a Newsletter. It is intended to form closer links with the Horticultural Society. She is talking to and meeting the site secretaries. Next year Pia Duran hopes to deal with the problem of water on the some of the sites. In response to questions it was confirmed that the Allotments Committee is not affiliated to any National Group and the land is private. Richard Kemp agreed that the public are not encouraged to walk over the sites. Although it is necessary to become an associate member of the RA if an allotment holder lives outside the Suburb, it is unnecessary for a Suburb resident to become a member of the RA, to rent an allotment. 4 to 5 plots are vacant at the present time and enquiries from residents would be welcomed. The Chairman thanked Pia Duran and wished her luck continuing this 100 year old Suburb tradition.

9 Any Other Business

AGM Matters

Terry Brooks explained that the Annual Report for this year will be shorter and the Chairman would like Standing Committee Chairmen to send him their Annual Reports, which should be between 250 and 350 words before Christmas, preferably by e mail.

Statement of Community Involvement

Derek Chandler reported that LB Barnet will not agree to amendments suggested by the RA on LB Barnet's decision making process. There had been an interesting presentation from the East Finchley LA21 committee at the meeting.

Government Paper on Planning

Eva Jacobs said that she was concerned to read about the paper prepared by a government economist on planning consents. Carol Boulter pointed out that there was no reference in the article she had read referring to conservation areas. It was agreed that Consam should keep a watching brief on this.

DE

HB Memorial

Richard Kemp was concerned at the protection which had been erected around the Memorial. He considered it an eyesore and it restricted access. He hoped that the refurbishment would be completed by May. The Chairman said that he had written to John Finney the Conservation Officer at LB Barnet to ask what was being done. The Trust has taken this matter up: Georgina Malcolm said that she had been informed that it is a temporary structure whilst the refurbishment work is being carried out and she will talk to John Finney .

GM

- 10 To confirm the date of the Next Meeting on Tuesday 2 January 2007 at Fellowship House at 8.00pm.
Confirmed. There will be a short meeting followed by wine and mince pies.