

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2nd January 2007
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Simon Abbott, Denis Baron, Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten, Alan Brudney, Jean Barraclough, Carol Boulter, Derek Chandler, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, Richard Kemp, David Lewis (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Steve Morris, Selwyn Nakan, Gary Shaw, Leonie Stephen, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield, Alan Walker

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Terry Rand and Ken Murrell, Steve Dumain and Tony McGuire and Norman Saville

1 Apologies for Absence

Terry Brooks , Francois Crompton-Roberts, Colin Gregory, Georgina Malcolm, Max Petersen

2 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting - 5 December

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda
Centenary Mug

Carol Boulter asked what action had been taken regarding the resolution passed at Council about a fourth design for a Centenary Mug. David Littaur said that the Celebrations Committee had not met since the last Council Meeting.

Fallden Way: rebuilding and suspension of Bus Stop

Gary Shaw reported that Transport for London had proposed two solutions: to erect a traffic island, which the police strongly oppose and a long term solution to cut larger lay-bys which would entail a loss of parking spaces and would mean that new lay-bys might have to be cut to accommodate the parked cars.

4 Question Time

Ken Murrell and Terry Rand asked the RA Council's view regarding the disposal of the Henly's Corner Action Fund. John Boulter explained that the EC had discussed this and proposed that the sum of £5,000 should be returned to the RA to replace the money that it had spent on the Public Enquiry and that the RA should be the custodians of the balance prior to distribution to those who had donated money to fight this cause. John Boulter had written to Harold Karton to this effect and awaited his comments.

Carol Boulter thought that as so many Council members were unaware of the background it should be an agenda item for a future Council meeting. However, Simon Abbott wanted to know what Terry Rand and Ken Murrell proposed. They told Council that the Action Committee and Fund were founded in 1989 to fight the proposals for Henly's Corner and that the

residue of the money was being held by the Committee in a private bank account, originally with four signatories required for any movement of funds but only two signatories still survive. Many residents and organisations had given money to the fund but he said there are no surviving records. It had been suggested that the money should be held by the Finchley Society and then be given to College Farm but Terry Rand and Ken Murrell had argued against this and suggested that the HGS Trust hold the funds. After a period of five years if the Committee does not need the money it should be divided between College Farm, North London Hospice, the Finchley Society, the RA and the Trust. This will be discussed again by the EC which will report to Council in the light of the response from Harold Karton.

5 Revitalising the Tea House

Tony McGuire and Steve Dumain explained their proposals. They had been responsible for the setting up of a café in Westminster Abbey and also in St Paul's Cathedral. They are both Suburb residents and they would like to restore the Tea House in a sympathetic way and create a café which could also display suburb Archives. They are in communication with the Institute which is considering this although the Institute is interested in selling the Tea house.

Alan Brudney (the RA representative on the Institute Council) said that the Institute Council has not yet discussed this but there is an enormous amount of work needed to the building and there are two sitting tenants. Jean Barrowclough (also a member of the Institute Council) said that the Institute is considering ways to raise funds including selling the Tea House.

Richard Wakefield pointed out that the Trust own the Freehold and the building can only be used as a tea house and for educational use. Alan Walker thought it was a great idea but Simon Abbott pointed out that there is another dimension which is the provision of adult education classes on the Suburb and he would like to know what the Institute are planning in this respect. Carol Boulter thought it was lovely idea but questioned its commercial viability and David Littaur also thought it was delightful idea and asked whether Tony McGuire and Steve Dumain would consider buying the Tea House. They said that they may be able to at a future date but initially they would like to lease it to see whether a café would be viable. Leonie Stephen considered it a marvellous idea and Derek Chandler said that there was a strong feeling of support from the RA and proposed a resolution seconded by Leonie Stephen that the RA Council wishes Tony McGuire and Steve Dumain every success with their venture. This was passed by 17 votes in favour with 4 abstentions.

6 Membership Committee Report

Steve Morris was pleased that the membership of the RA had increased by 100 between 2005 and 2006 although there had been 400 members who had not renewed made up by 500 new members. The subscription income had increased from £17,500 to about £20,000. The extra mail shot had been worthwhile. It was hoped to offer standing orders and correspond by E mail to members in the future and to introduce a pilot scheme for credit card payments. The contributions to Fellowship were down this year and membership committee does not know the effect of the increase in the

membership subscriptions on next year's membership numbers.

Joan Beales and Jean Barraclough wish to retire as ward organisers and replacements are sought. A volunteer is urgently required to take over the administration of the discount scheme.

In response to a question from Eva Jacobs Steve Morris confirmed that the mail shot had paid for itself. She was concerned to hear about the loss of 400 members but Steve Morris said that there is a large turnover of residents and there is an average loss of 200 every year. Council congratulated Steve Morris and his committee.

7 Matters Arising out of the Executive Committee Minutes including approval of Centenary Souvenir Programme

Richard Wakefield circulated a mock up of the cover to the proposed Souvenir Programme. It will contain 80 A4 pages including editorial about life on the Suburb and advertisements will form about 50%. The estimated cost is £9,000 and so far he had obtained £8,500 of advertising with a possibility of a further £6,000. Delivery and shrink wrap is included in the cost.

Douglas Thomas proposed and Steve Morris seconded a resolution endorsing the Centenary Souvenir Programme. This was passed Nem Con Council thanked Richard Wakefield for all the work he had done.

Carol Boulter was concerned that a circular letter by the Centenary Committee and the HGS Trust referred to many of the event organised by the Celebrations Committee. Simon Abbott thought that the Trust is unclear of the difference between the Celebration and the Centenary Committee. Richard Wakefield felt that it was important to produce a paper to people abreast with what is happening. The Chairman will talk to Eddie Caplin and David Littaur about the letter and will clarify who it will be sent to.

Eva Jacobs thought that those residents who have done a lot of work for the Centenary should be recognised.

8 Any Other Urgent Business

Centenary Thimbles

Richard Wakefield passed round samples of the centenary thimbles for Council to see.

AGM

This will be held on Monday 26 March at the HB School Hall.
The April Meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday 27 March.

9 To confirm the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 6 February at Fellowship House at 8.00pm This was confirmed