

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2 October 2007  
at Fellowship House at 8 pm

*Present:* David Lewis in the Chair

John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, Terry Brooks, Dave Brown, Carol Boulter, Derek Epstein, Nicole Gerber, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Georgina Malcolm, Steve Morris, Selwyn Nakan, Max Petersen, Richard Kemp, Brian Rivett, Leonie Stephen, Richard Wakefield, Alan Walker

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Sally Lewis

1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u>  David B Lewis, Jean Barraclough, Alan Brudney, Derek Chandler, Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, Gary Shaw.</p>	
2	<p><u>Approval of Minute of Council Meeting 4 September</u></p>	
3	<p><u>Matters Arising form the Minutes not on the Agenda</u></p> <p><u>Kenwood Open Air Concerts</u>  Eva Jacobs had reported on a meeting held on 25 September with English Heritage which intends reinstating the concerts next year. The site of the concerts will be moved so that they do not impact on the views from the House so directly. The season will be shortened and will only last for 7 1/2 weeks including the setting up of the stage. English Heritage had not agreed to any change to the content of the concerts, despite the wishes of many residents and popular music will predominate. These plans still have to be approved by Camden Council</p> <p><u>Incorporation of the RA</u>  The Chairman has sent the papers to two solicitors on the RA Council for their comments.</p> <p><u>Youth on the Suburb</u>  In response to the suggestion made at the last Council Meeting, Simon Abbott circulated a paper to Council setting out his proposals to set up a community IT Centre for youth on the Suburb and to provide access to older people. The amount asked from the RA is £12,500. He asked for the approval of Council to look into this proposal in more detail.</p> <p>Carol Boulter thought that all children on the Suburb had their own computer or access to one and she doubted whether the Suburb was the appropriate area for this scheme. Nicole Gerber said that there are computers at all the schools.</p>	

	<p>Richard Wakefield pointed out the importance of reacting with other young people. Alan Walker supported the idea of finding ways to get young people together but thought that more research is needed. John Boulter did not consider that the RA would want to provide this funding.</p> <p>Simon Abbott will address these points and write a response. The EC will discuss this when it receives a revised paper from Simon.</p>	SA
4	<p><u>Question Time</u> There were no questions.</p>	
5	<p><u>Trees and Open Spaces Matters</u></p> <p><u>Felling of Street Trees without Prior Notification</u> Leonie Stephen reported that 21 street trees have been felled because they were said to be dangerous. There had not been any formal notification from LB Barnet of its intention although sometimes the trees committee had been made aware of particular trees. Leonie said there are usually good reasons for trees being felled.</p> <p><u>Replacement of Felled Trees</u> LB Barnet will not pay to replace these trees. The typical cost for felling a tree is £204.25 and it costs approx £100 to replace a tree. LB Barnet will only finance the planting of 20 new trees on the Suburb this year.</p> <p>Derek Epstein considered that it is the responsibility of LB Barnet to do this in the same way that they look after the pavements and roads.</p> <p>Brian Rivett asked for an explanation why the tree outside 64 Erskine Hill had been felled.</p> <p><u>Non-replacement of Trees felled on private property despite conditions from the Trust or LB Barnet</u> The replacement of a tree is the responsibility of the house owner and Georgina Malcolm said that the Trust were unable to take further action if the house owner did not comply.</p> <p><u>Consideration of a Special Centenary Street Tree Planting Grant out of the Centenary Appeal</u> Council agreed that it would be good idea to plant a special Centenary Tree, possibly with a plaque. Brim Hill was considered a suitable location. Georgina Malcolm pointed out that it would be appropriate for the RA to do something on the north side of the Suburb to celebrate the Centenary. The cost of a suitable tree would be approximately £150.</p>	GM

	<p>Georgina Malcolm will prepare a proposal for tree planting for the November Council Meeting.</p> <p>The EC will discuss a grant for tree planting for the coming year.</p> <p>Leonie Stephen will raise this at the Trust Grants Committee and see whether any funds could be made available for tree planning this year.</p> <p>John Boulter pointed out that there is still money left from the Joy Edelman legacy which could be used.</p> <p><u>Discussion on the quality of gardening on Public Suburb Open Spaces and how this might be improved: Central Square, Northway Gardens , Lyttelton Playing Fields</u></p> <p>It was pointed out that part of the Suburb no longer has an Officer who is responsible for the open spaces and parts of the Suburb are 'a disgrace'.</p> <p>Derek Epstein suggested asking LB Barnet whether the RA could manage their budget for them. It was thought that this had already been suggested and turned down by Barnet. Georgina Malcolm told the Council that LB Barnet's annual budget for Central Square was only £1,700 which she considered a political decision and she told Council that a great deal of money had been spent on Victoria Gardens in Finchley during this year.</p> <p>Derek Epstein will be walking round the Suburb with the Chief Executive of LB Barnet and he will point out various matters. David Littaur suggested that the City of London may agree to take over responsibility for some of the Suburb's green spaces. The EC will discuss this.</p> <p>Richard Kemp suggested that teams of youths may be prepared to take on some of the gardening tasks. Leonie Stephen and the Trees committee were thanked for this report and for the work they are doing.</p>	LS
6	<p><u>The Institute Extraordinary Meeting called for 8 October which will further reduce representation of the Institute Council</u></p> <p>The chairman was concerned at the reduction in the representation of Suburb interests on the Institute Council. Fellowship will lose its representation as well as Birbeck College. The Institute is increasing their co-opted members and reducing the nominated ones.</p>	

7	<p><u>Authorisation of Centenary Expenditure as recommended by the Executive Committee</u></p> <p><u>Children's Storytelling Festival</u> David Littaur proposed a Motion to make £554 available for the cost of caretaker for the multicultural Children's Storytelling Festival to take place on 18 November. This was seconded by Richard Wakefield and passed Nem. Con.</p> <p><u>Edwardian Musical Hall</u> John Boulter proposed a Motion to make the sum of £605 available for the cost of an accompanist, producer's expenses and charges for the rehearsal space for the Edwardian Music Hall to take place on 24 November on the basis that the RA will be reimbursed up to £605 from the proceeds of ticket and programme sales. This was seconded by Richard Wakefield and passed Nem. Con.</p> <p><u>New Year's Eve Fireworks</u> The cost of a superior 15 minute firework display will be £2,000 plus vat. This can be musical and it is intended to try to borrow the PA system which will be manned by volunteers as the cost of hire is expensive. Carol Boulter proposed a Motion that the sum of £2,000 plus vat is made available for New year's Eve Fireworks. This was seconded by Simon Abbott and passed Nem Con.</p>	
8	<p><u>Report on the Membership Mailing and authorisation of additional expenditure for a final membership mailing to take place towards the end of October using the new credit card faculty</u></p> <p>Steve Morris said that the mailing to 3,500 non members is going out shortly and it will include a Standing Order form. The ability to make on line payments is now in place. He would like the Membership Committee to consider a further mailing to lapsed members, the number of which stands at 730 at present, although he hoped that this would be reduced. This would cost £600 and a response rate of 8% would be necessary to recover the cost of this.</p> <p>Steve Morris proposed a Motion to make the sum of £600 available for a further mailing to lapsed members if the Membership Committee considers this worthwhile. This was seconded by Terry Brooks and passed Nem. Con.</p>	
9	<p><u>Matters Arising out of the draft Executive Committee Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Consultation with LB Barnet on Primary Care Trust</u> Derek Chandler is unable to become the 'health spokesman'</p>	

	for the RA and Council was asked whether anyone else would volunteer for this or whether they could suggested someone, perhaps with medical expertise.	
10	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>Michael Rowley Memorial</u>  Alan Walker said that the sub-committee set up to consider this Memorial, with Eva Jacobs and Simon Abbott, had been working on this project. Kingston University had set up a new department called 'The Centre for Suburban Studies' involving the Architectural faculty where Michael had worked. It was proposed to have an annual forum on the Suburb, about the Suburb.</p> <p><u>Council Membership</u>  David Lewis reported that Denis Baron had decided to retire from Council after 12 years. Council thanked him for the work he had done and wished him a happy retirement.</p> <p><u>BBC Women's Hour</u>  There will be an item on Dame Henrietta Barnett on Radio 4, Women's Hour at 10.00am on Friday 5 October.</p>	AW
11	<u>To confirm the Date of the next Meeting on Tuesday 6 November at 8.00pm</u> This was confirmed.	