

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association  
 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4 December 2007  
 at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair  
 John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Jean Barraclough, Carol Boulter, Francois Crompton-Roberts, Derek Epstein, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Lewis (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Steve Morris, Selwyn Nakan, Max Petersen, Richard Kemp, Gary Shaw, Leonie Stephen, Alan Walker

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Nick Lowe

1	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u>          Douglas Blausten, Dave Brown, Derek Chandler, Colin Gregory, Brian Rivett.</p>	
2	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></p>	
3	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda</u></p> <p><u>Incorporation of the RA</u>          The Chairman is looking into this.</p> <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 facility</u>          Janet Elliott said that there are now 2,118 members of the RA which is 41.2%, slightly below the 2006 membership, but the money received has greatly increased from £19,152 in 2006 to £31,683. The fourth mailing was successful and Janet Elliott will be preparing an analysis of the various mailings.</p> <p>The Chairman said that the RA may wish to modify the way we collect membership and change the Chairman's envelope.</p> <p>The membership money collected this year may have been influenced by the donations to the centenary appeal and nearly all those who had donated were members of the RA.</p> <p>Janet Elliott said that the Paypal system had been used by 12 or 13 residents and Standing Orders by 40.</p> <p><u>Authorisation of Expenditure on tree planting £3000 plus any remaining funds from the Dr Joy Edelman Legacy</u>          John Boulter said that £2,178 had been spent on trees for the season ending in August 2007. This money had come out of the legacy and there will be very little money left in the fund.</p>	<p>DBL</p> <p>JE</p>

	<p><u>Centenary Expenditure</u></p> <p><u>Plaque to commemorate the visit by the Duke of Gloucester</u> The cost of the plaque is slightly lower than estimated and it will cost £2,500.</p> <p><u>Central Square Lottery application and setting up of a new Steering Committee to appoint the consultants and supervise the brief</u> The Chairman was not aware of whether the steering group has been set up to instruct the consultants but the lottery had now given permission to commence.</p> <p><u>Institute Notice Boards ~Transfer to the RA</u> The cost of turning the notice boards into RA boards to enable them to hold up to four notices has been estimated at £400.</p> <p>David Lewis proposed and Francois Crompton-Roberts seconded a motion</p> <p>'That the RA spends £400 to convert the three notice boards for RA use'. This was passed Nem Con.</p> <p>Richard Kemp said that there is an under-utilised notice board by the Garden Centre in Finchley Road and David Littaur will negotiate with LB Barnet for the use of this.</p> <p><u>Blood Test</u> A letter had been received from Barnet Primary Care in response to the letter sent by the Chairman on behalf of the RA.</p> <p><u>Character Appraisal</u> The Trust is holding a lecture and exhibition for all residents on 13 December at HB School at 7.30pm. The Trust has said that it intends to pay off the loan of £3,000, from the RA, within 2 years.</p> <p><u>Centenary Roses</u> The Centenary Committee is progressing this.</p> <p><u>RA Office</u> Jean Barraclough said that the work has been put out to tender with three different builders to repair and redecorate the new room.</p>	<p>DLt</p> <p>CG</p>
4	<p><u>Question Time</u> There were no specific questions but Nick Lowe had attended to voice his concern about the use of CCTV to penalise residents dropping off infirm or disabled people on the double red lines outside the hairdressers and library in Market Place.</p>	
5	<p><u>Market Place Parking</u> Gary Shaw said that in the whole of 2005 there were 106 parking tickets issued at Market Place, in 2006 there were 365 and there were 700 each month from October 2007.</p>	

	<p>Transport for London are levying tickets at the rate of £1,000,000 pa from Suburb residents. Nick Lowe could see no reason to have a loading bay in Hill Rise and various Council members had received tickets or knew of residents who had received tickets for stopping on the bay merely to set down or collect someone who was attending the library or hairdresser.</p> <p>Gary Shaw said that there is a discrepancy between what is laid down in the Highway Code and what TfL are doing and he has been assisting numerous residents who had received parking tickets. There is a batch of adjudications due to be made in January and a new decision could be made which will enable an application to the County Court to get the signage changed.</p> <p>There was a short discussion when one of the suggestions made was that the loading bay should also be a disabled bay.</p> <p>Gary Shaw proposed a motion seconded by Richard Kemp 'The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association calls upon Transport for London to remedy the poorly positioned signage associated with the loading and disabled bays in Market Place Northway and Hill Rise so as to eliminate parking fines, which by use of its CCTV camera Transport for London is currently levying at the rate of £1 million a year on Suburb residents and visitors who inadvertently park in a restricted area'. This was passed Nem Con.</p>	
6	<p><u>Publications Committee Report</u> Terry Brooks told the Council that a larger Yellow Directory is planned with more space for Clubs and Societies to explain what they do. The Annual Report will be distributed separately and there is no chance at present of having four issues a year of Suburb News.</p> <p>A commendation for Suburb News was received from the London Forum Media Awards and Richard Wakefield and the Publications committee were congratulated.</p> <p>Jean Barraclough asked for any mistakes in this year's Directory to be pointed out to Lorna Page as soon as possible together with any changes for next year's Directory.</p>	
7	<p><u>Income and Expenditure Projections for 2008</u> John Boulter said that he needs the figures for this year before he is able to prepare this. There will be a separate account of Centenary income and expenditure. He would like to know whether there are any unusual items for which money is required next year.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that the all money received from the Centenary Appeal has been spent together with the extra amount received from gift aid.</p> <p><u>Edwardian Evening</u> A profit was made from this event and the sum of £605 had been reimbursed to the RA. The Killins' wish to donate the surplus of £1,000 to Toynbee Hall.</p>	

	<p><u>With Regard to the Dame</u> This event made a profit and it had been suggested that the surplus of £950 should be divided between the Free Church, St Jude's and the Institute. The amount of £1,100 had been reimbursed to the RA.</p> <p>The Council discussed whether the seed money reimbursed to the RA should also be donated to similar charities. Jean Barraclough pointed out that the Free Church had made the Church available for rehearsals without any charge.</p> <p>The Chairman considered that the RA should not give money in an ad hoc way and money should be donated for a specific purpose through the normal procedures. He suggested there could be a special fund for charitable donations.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs said that the RA should make its own decisions about how this money is spent and we should have time to think about it. Max Petersen thought that the money should go to organisations on the Suburb. Toynee Hall benefits from a large amount of the money received from the St Jude's Proms which received 75% of the profits.</p> <p>The Chairman would like to see the RA's reserves boosted in case it had to fight a legal action in the future.</p> <p>David Littaur suggested agreeing a concrete figure for the RA's reserves.</p> <p>This will be an item for the February Council meeting and John Boulter considered that there is no hurry for decisions to be made regarding this.</p>	
8	<p><u>Annual General meeting, Annual Report and Accounts, recruitment of new members for RA Council and its committees</u> In the absence of Richard Wakefield this will be discussed at the January Meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman would like to see every committee recruiting at least two new members each year who could later be encouraged to join RA Council.</p>	
9	<p><u>Any other urgent Business</u></p> <p><u>Membership Prize</u> A ballot was drawn and the prize for a digital radio went to K and R Burr who live in Denman Drive North.</p> <p><u>Litter Collection</u> Rosalind Josephs asked for volunteers to collect rubbish at 11am on New Year's Day from Central Square.</p> <p><u>New Year's Eve</u> David Littaur would like help with serving drinks.</p>	

10	To confirm the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 8 January at <u>8.00pm</u> This will be a short meeting followed by wine and mince pies.	
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