

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 February 2008
at Fellowship House at 8 pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, Carol Boulter, John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Dave Brown, Alan Brudney, Derek Chandler, Francois Crompton-Roberts, Janet Elliott, Derek Epstein, Nicole Gerber, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Richard Kemp, David Lewis (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Steve Morris, Selwyn Nakan, Gary Shaw, Leonie Stephen, Richard Wakefield (Hon Secretary).

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Sally Lewis, Susie Gregson, John Wheeler, David and Marjorie Harris, Pia Duran, Tony Brand, Michael Max.

1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Peter Beesley, Terry Brooks, Jean Barraclough, Colin Gregory, Rosalind Josephs, Georgina Malcolm, Max Petersen, 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 will seek to obtain revised drafts of the proposed Articles of Association etc from Peter Beesley and Colin Gregory</p> <p><u>Market Place Parking</u> Gary Shaw told Council that he is now assisting some 200 residents who had received parking tickets. Boris Johnson had delayed his proposed visit to the Suburb. The Hill Rise, red route loading bay had been derestricted and handed back to LB Barnet. Hill Rise and Northway have cycling boxes which are not yet mandatory but may be in the future.</p>	DBL
4	<p><u>Question Time</u> After the January Council Meeting Alan Brudney visited the Corringham Road Squares and gave some advice to Patricia Leonard. She was appreciative of what he had done.</p> <p>As a result of her comments at the Meeting, Janet Elliott checked the position regarding membership and gave Patricia Leonard information about RA membership on the Squares but she had not responded.</p>	

	<p><u>Suburb Film</u> The Chairman said that this will be edited and ready by Easter. Emails had been sent to the Phoenix cinema about the possibility of hosting the Premier of the film.</p>	
5	<p><u>Question Time</u></p> <p><u>St Jude's Proms</u> Susie Gregson asked why the RA 'is disassociating itself' from St Jude's. She said the proms are all run by volunteers and all profits are given to charity. The RA should be using the Proms to market itself. Sponsorship of the free lunchtime concerts had already been agreed as well as the opening night.</p> <p>The Chairman replied that the RA was not "disassociating itself" from the Proms at St Judes and said it was unfortunate that the Proms had allocated the Residents Association's usual night without prior discussion with the RA.</p> <p><u>Centenary Museum</u> Marjorie Harris referred to a letter she had written in the Suburb News where she had suggested that there should be a small museum on the Suburb to house a permanent display of Suburb archives and artefacts. The Horticultural Society had many items which they would like to display. She had received a positive response to her letter from residents. The Chairman thought that it was an excellent idea and Marjorie Harris said that she would be happy to serve on a small committee to progress this.</p> <p>Carol Boulter would like this proposal added to the list of possible projects which could include the rebuilding of Fellowship House rebuilt as a community centre as well as possibly housing the proposed museum. Eva Jacobs would like somewhere to store all the Suburb Archives and Simon Abbott supported the idea of having a community centre on the Suburb. Derek Epstein suggested that Council members prepare a list of projects for discussion at a future meeting.</p>	
6	<p><u>St Jude's Proms</u> The EC had proposed that as the Proms are now well established and making a surplus of £68,000 that it would be a better use of RA funds to offer seed money for new projects on the Suburb and to phase out the current RA grant. It proposed that a grant of £1,500 be made in 2008 to sponsor the free lunchtime concerts</p> <p>Richard Wakefield said that the EC minutes did not report his and David Littaur's opposition to the proposal. He spoke strongly in favour of raising the grant to the St Jude's Proms rather than reducing it.</p>	

David Littaur gave a detailed explanation of why he thought the Proms deserved to have its level of sponsorship maintained, not cut.

The Chairman told Council that he had asked the organising committee if he could make a speech at the Proms last year without success.

In reply to a question from Derek Chandler, Susie Gregson said that last year £52,000 had been given to Toynbee Hall and £17,000 to the North London Hospice

Douglas Blausten said that if it is not the RA's role to give money to charity for causes outside the Suburb, the organisers should give something to the RA by helping us to promote the RA in a more positive way. He suggested that the EC and the Proms committee discuss ways to give the RA a higher profile. He suggested that the relationship between the RA and the Proms committee should be a different one from that with other commercial sponsors.

Simon Abbott opposed phasing out the RA support for the Proms and thought that at least £2,750 should be given this year.

Steve Morris supported the Proms but the difficult issue is the level of sponsorship by the RA. He thought that sponsorship of the lunchtime concerts were a good idea but unfortunately that sponsorship had also already been taken by another sponsor.

He considered that the RA should support new events on the Suburb and a significant donation to the Proms may take away the ability to seed and fund other events. He would support a limited donation.

Janet Elliott also personally supported the proms and she was well aware of the work involved artistically and financially. She pointed out that the RA is also run by the voluntary work of its members and often cannot get sponsorship for what it does. This year the Membership committee has tried very hard to raise money and get an increase in its subscriptions. If the RA gave £4000 to the proms it would be giving 20% of its subscription income which may not be a popular selling point for members

Eva Jacobs would like to know more about the finances of Toynbee Hall.

Selwyn Nakan said that the RA was instrumental in getting the Proms established at an early stage. Now that the organisers have found a number of other sponsors the RA should not be

	<p>joined together with them and we should have a special relationship.</p> <p>Susie Gregson said that the concert on the last night and the concert with the male voice choir are still available for sponsorship. The Chairman asked whether the RA could have gold sponsorship at the silver sponsorship rate.</p> <p>Richard Kemp said that the RA should seek the opportunity to be present at all concerts to present the work of the RA to the audience and run a venue membership recruitment campaign.</p> <p>Simon Abbott liked the idea of sponsoring the free lunchtime concerts and suggested that the RA put in a bid for next year.</p>	
	<p>A Motion was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Selwyn Nakan that the RA give the sum of £1,500 towards the St Jude's Proms for 2008. This was defeated by 8 votes in favour and 10 against.</p> <p>A Motion was proposed by Simon Abbott and seconded by Carol Boulter that the RA give the sum of £2,750 towards the St Jude's proms for 2008. This was passed by 12 votes in favour and 4 against.</p> <p>A Motion was proposed by Richard Wakefield and seconded by David Littaur that the RA give £4,000 towards the St Jude's Proms for 2008. This was defeated by 3 votes in favour and 10 against.</p>	
7	<p><u>Approval of draft Accounts for 2007</u></p> <p>John Boulter said that the accounts had been prepared in the same way but with more income and expenditure items. The computer was unable to break down the Centenary items into brochure, centenary events, memorabilia and appeals leaflet Derek Epstein suggested having two columns for normal operational and Centenary operations.</p> <p>The sum of £10,000 should be reserved for the removal of street clutter as had been previously agreed.</p> <p>John Boulter said that the RA must produce proper accounts and it is optional whether the Centenary items are shown separately When the Centenary figures are all available they can be presented in a separate table with a break down of all the figures and this can be published in the Suburb news.</p> <p>All the money donated to the Centenary Appeal through the Trust had been given back to the RA as a charitable donation with a few bills paid directly by the Trust.</p>	

	<p>John Boulter said that the question of taxation is being considered.</p>	
8	<p><u>Nomination of officers for 2008</u></p> <p>David B Lewis agreed to stand as Chairman for a further year although he said that it would be his last year David Lewis agreed to stand as Vice-Chairman Richard Wakefield is retiring as Hon Secretary Brian Rivett agreed to stand as Hon Secretary John Boulter agreed to stand as Hon Treasurer</p> <p>A Motion was proposed by Richard Wakefield and seconded by Leonie Stephen to nominate David B Lewis, David Lewis, Brian Rivett and John Boulter as officers. This was passed Nem Con</p> <p>The following members of Council retire by rotation and seek re-election</p> <p>Carol Boulter Terry Brooks Francois Crompton-Roberts Eva Jacobs Rosalind Josephs Georgina Malcolm - she will not stand for re-election Selwyn Nakan Gary Shaw</p> <p>A motion to nominate the seven Council members who wished to stand for re-election was proposed by Richard Wakefield and seconded by Alan Brudney This was passed Nem Con</p> <p>A Motion to nominate Richard Wakefield to stand for Council was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Eva Jacobs This was passed Nem Con.</p>	
9	<p><u>Implementation of the 6 year rule in 2008</u></p> <p>The Chairman explained that this rule had been formally suspended for each of the past 5 years. Any Council member who has been on a committee for 6 years or more can continue on the committee if successful in a secret ballot. The standing orders are ambiguous as to whether the rule applies also to co-opted members. If Council agreed to this Motion there would be a ballot in March</p> <p>Carol Boulter who has served on Consam for many years said that her committee always has had fresh blood and it is useful to have someone who has been on the committee for several years</p>	

	<p>The Chairman had analysed the Standing Committees and the percentage of members who had been on the same committee for eight years or more. The results were as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="349 352 795 598"> <tr> <td>Publications</td> <td>75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Events</td> <td>71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trees</td> <td>69%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consam</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Executive</td> <td>22%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roads & Traffic</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership</td> <td>none</td> </tr> </table> <p>Alan Brudney pointed out that the RA could lose some very valuable members and Leonie Stephen agreed and said that, for example, on her committee it is useful to have members who have experience in dealing with LB Barnet.</p> <p>Selwyn Nakan said that the committee must look and decide who is not adding value and maybe there will be no change. Perhaps it would be better to only review the council members and not the co-opted members.</p> <p>There is also the problem of council members not knowing how effective a council member is on another committee and council members may not even know a co-optee on another standing committee.</p> <p>After a lively discussion a Motion was proposed by Derek Chandler and seconded by Carol Boulter that the 6 year rule be suspended for a further year. This was passed with 14 votes in favour and 4 against.</p> <p>Janet Elliott suggested that during the 2008 a process should be agreed to enable committee chairmen to review their committees next year.</p> <p>The EC will discuss this.</p>	Publications	75%	Events	71%	Trees	69%	Consam	33%	Executive	22%	Roads & Traffic	20%	Membership	none	
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10	<p><u>Gallery</u> Richard Wakefield said that more volunteers are needed and so far no one from Fellowship had volunteered to help as had been anticipated. January had been a quiet month.</p>															
11	<p><u>Other matters arising out of the draft Executive Committee minutes</u></p> <p><u>AGM Matters</u></p> <p><u>Stuart Gray Memorial Award</u></p>	DE														

	<p>Consam will discuss possible recipients for this Award.</p> <p><u>Honorary Life Membership</u> A Motion was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by David Lewis that Joan Laurence and Eddie Caplin be appointed Honorary Life Members of the RA This was passed Nem Con Richard Wakefield will talk to them.</p> <p><u>Proposal to Close Golders Green Police Station</u> A consultation paper had been circulated to Council members by Derek Chandler about the future policing of the Borough and the proposal to close Golders Green Police Station.</p> <p>At present there are three Safer Neighbourhood teams at Golders Green police station but the Safer Neighbourhood team for the Suburb operates from High Road East Finchley. These premises are not open to the Public. Council would like to have the Safer Neighbourhood team operating within the Suburb.</p> <p>The consultation document said that that the Golders Green police station front office will not close until replacement premises are found with a front desk.</p> <p>The EC will formulate a view on these proposals. The consultation paper will be posted on the HGS Discussion Group with the form for completion. There is a period of three months for responding to these proposals</p> <p><u>Petitions</u> Derek Chandler had prepared a paper which had been emailed to Council together with a Consultative paper issued by the Government. This concerns local petition submitted to local authorities and it places a duty on the local authority to respond constructively. He said that it would be useful to support a move to ensure that local authorities give a constructive response to a petition and are not be able to ignore it Individuals are asked to respond and comments should be sent in by 20 March.</p> <p>Derek Chandler agreed to draft a response on behalf of the RA which will be discussed by the EC.</p>	RW
12	<p><u>To Confirm the date of the Next Meeting on Tuesday 4 March at 8.00pm at Fellowship House</u> This was confirmed.</p>	