

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 July 2008
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Simon Abbott, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Carol Boulter, Janet Elliott, Derek Epstein, Colin Gregory, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Steve Morris, Max Petersen, Gary Shaw, Will Sowerbutts, Leonie Stephen, Richard Wakefield.

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Pia Duran, Tony Maguire

1	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u> Alan Brudney, Douglas Blausten, Nicole Gerber, Richard Kemp, Eva Jacobs, David Lewis, Leonie Stephen.</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>Michael Rowley Memorial</u> Richard Wakefield reported that there was a surplus of £90 on the amount allocated for this event.</p> <p>Richard Wakefield proposed and Simon Abbott seconded a Motion that the Michael Rowley Memorial event should be repeated next year. This was carried Nem Con.</p> <p><u>Walk around the Allotments</u> The Chairman said that this was an enjoyable walk although it was not well attended.</p> <p><u>Club House and Museum Project Update</u> Derek Epstein reported that John Hewson had reiterated that he does not want Fellowship House demolished as it would be too disruptive. Derek Epstein had spent two hours with Leonie Stephen explaining the proposal and showing her the proposed temporary location at the Free Church. He said that she was favourably impressed.</p> <p>There had been no response to the letter from Marjorie Harris, in Suburb News, asking for assistance. There could be a higher profile article in the next Suburb News seeking residents' views. Another possibility is that the Club House & Museum Committee may arrange a meeting with some Suburb architects to put forward proposals.</p> <p>Derek Epstein said that he will be moving out of the Suburb but will continue to chair Consam and the Working Party although he will have to resign from Council. He was thanked for all the work he had done whilst he had been on Council.</p> <p><u>Centenary Funds</u> The Chairman reported that the HGS Trust is being investigated by the</p>	

	<p>Inland Revenue over its Gift Aid Scheme. The Inland Revenue may disallow this.</p> <p><u>Willifield Way Roundabout and Speed Humps</u> Gary Shaw said that there was nothing further to report from LB Barnet.</p> <p><u>Builders Good Practice Guide</u> Simon Abbott said that he had sent a paper to the EC who thought that more work was required before it was submitted to Council, although this was only an early draft.</p> <p>It identified five sections which should be looked at and it cited examples of bad practice on the Suburb.</p> <p>He recommended that the RA raise this paper with the HGS Trust, LB Barnet, the EC and RA Subcommittees so that a relevant guidance paper of good practice and relationships during building work can be agreed.</p> <p>It was suggested that it is placed on the Suburb Web site The document was referred to Consam for its consideration.</p> <p><u>Street Clutter Project</u> Derek Epstein had been trying to agree design guidelines with LB Barnet regarding street clutter on the Suburb. The guidelines had been based on the Greening the Suburb document which the RA had thought LB Barnet had adopted. The recent meeting with LB Barnet representatives had not been as successful as he had hoped and he thought that pressure should now be put on the local councillors.</p> <p><u>Volunteers Party</u> Terry Brooks said that this will be held on the evening of 13 or 15 November at Fellowship House. 12 November was unavailable.</p> <p><u>Stationery and Photocopier</u> Brian Rivett had been asked to look after the RA photocopier and order paper He had been asked to ascertain whether the photocopier is still required, as with the use of emails less copying is now carried out.</p>	BR
4	<p><u>Question Time</u> Pia Duran said that Fellowship would be delighted to use the facilities of the Free Church provided that these could be made available for 6 days a week. She had visited Brentham and found that their Club House is a privately run organisation. Carol Boulter pointed out the expensive running costs of a redeveloped Fellowship House.</p>	
5	<p><u>Co-opton of New Council Members</u> A Motion was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Derek Epstein to co-opt Tony McGuire to Council. This was carried Nem Con He will continue to be a member of Consam</p> <p>A motion was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by John Boulter to</p>	

	<p>co-opt Judith Sampson to Council This was passed Nem Con She had said that she would be happy to become a member of the Publications Committee.</p>	
6	<p><u>Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees - Report from Trees & Open Spaces Committee on the new Policy for assessing the worth of trees.</u> Colin Gregory explained that CAVAT is a system for putting a monetary value on trees to reduce the number of claims. A strategy had been issued to look at the way Local Authorities should manage claims from insurers. When writing the report it had been realised that trees appeared in a balance sheet as a drain on resources but they are really an asset. The scheme had been developed in the USA. The cost of replacement of the tree, its health, its life term and whether it is in a prominent position are all issues to be considered. He gave example of values placed on trees. As well as a valuation, negotiation takes place with insurers and there is a joint mitigation protocol. There is an agreed procedure for claims with local authorities and the amount of evidence which needs to be produced. The higher the value of the tree the more evidence is required. The scheme seems to be working well in LB Barnet and it only applies to trees owned by LB Barnet It was pointed out that if LB Barnet was able to maintain trees properly they may not have so many claims. Colin Gregory was thanked for his report.</p>	
7	<p><u>Informal Discussion of proposals for Central Square as exhibited at the Proms at St. Jude's</u></p> <p>Residents had been asked to comment on three alternatives. Although the pre-amble had stated the need for Central Square to be better used, Janet Elliott thought that none of the projects dealt with this issue.</p> <p>Simon Abbott was a bit confused. There were aspects from the three schemes that he liked but others that he did not think were appropriate.</p> <p>The Chairman said that all three schemes included more garden and less space for people to sit around. This would increase the cost of maintenance and require talented supervision of gardening which was unlikely under the present ownership.</p> <p>Richard Wakefield said that the detailed proposals will appear in the September Suburb News.</p> <p>Derek Epstein pointed out that the project included the proposal that 46 matures trees would be felled.</p> <p>Carol Boulter thought that Central Square is no longer central to the Suburb and nobody is taking account of the running costs. She could not see where the money to build and maintain the square was going to come from.</p> <p>David Littaur found the presentation arid and formal and it needed more colour.</p>	

	<p>The Chairman said that he had been interviewed by consultants. He had been told that if people cannot be brought back to the Square, the application for a grant would not be successful. There used to be more benches on Central Square but he was informed that they had been stolen. He said he told the Consultant that he was concerned about the loss of trees which was likely to be opposed by many residents.</p> <p>Council will be updated when there is some progress.</p>	
8	<p><u>Consideration of Simon Abbott's paper on Youth Facilities on the Suburb</u></p> <p>This paper had been circulated to Council members. Simon Abbott told the Council about his long and varied experience with youth. He said that facilities for young people are important and the RA could make a difference. Young people and their parents do not themselves tend to submit proposals and they should be encouraged to do so. He did not expect the RA Council to create support or to run a project but they could encourage and support a project. He explained in detail the interest that Dame Henrietta Barnett took in youth projects which was part of her ideals. He was considering facilities for the age group of 9-19. The Chairman wondered whether Lyttelton Playing Fields Pavilion may be used for this purpose. Rosalind Josephs pointed out that there are various activities for youth on the Suburb, including the Institute who run special courses. Pia Duran suggested talking to the LB Barnet Youth Council. Carol Boulter said that they have the resources and can do the 'leg work'. She suggested an internet social network to generate discussion. Simon Abbott said that it is necessary to involve local people. A youth club had been set up with a grant from LB Barnet in the Free Church Rooms which offered various activities but this closed due to the lack of help from parents. Both Alyth synagogue and Norrice Lea Synagoge have youth groups. Simon Abbott will prepare an article for the next Suburb News and invite proposals for work with young people and if any individuals wish to assist this would be appreciated.</p>	SA
9	<p><u>Any Other Urgent Business</u></p> <p><u>DVD for Residents Signing Standing Orders</u> The Chairman said that this project had gone over budget. The Centenary film had been cut and edited and the 1975 Suburb film had been digitally restored by the original editor and included on the DVD. It was proposed to make 1000 copies which will cost £1300 plus vat to include the art work for the cover design</p> <p>A Motion was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Steve Morris that the sum of £1300 plus vat be made available to produce 1000 DVDs to give to residents who have signed Standing Orders for payment of their subscription to the RA This was carried Nem Con</p> <p><u>Yellow Directory</u></p>	

	<p>Terry Brooks asked Committee chairmen to provide feed back on the Yellow Directory.</p> <p>He will ascertain the position regarding the Chess Club at Brookland School and whether this is open to all children on the Suburb.</p> <p>He will discuss with Publications Committee the possibility of naming the litter pickers in next year's Directory</p>	
10	<p>To confirm the date of the next Meeting on <u>Tuesday September 2 at Fellowship House at 8.00pm</u></p> <p>This was confirmed</p>	