

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2 September 2008
at Fellowship House at 8 pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair
John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Douglas Blausten, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks,
Dave Brown, Alan Brudney, Carol Boulter, Janet Elliott, Nicole Gerber,
Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind
Josephs, David Littaur, Max Petersen, Richard Kemp, Brian Rivett, Gary
Shaw, Leonie Stephen, Richard Wakefield, Alan Walker

Visitors: Derek Epstein, Joyce Littaur, Angus Walker, Jane Blackburn, Pia
Duran and Georgina Malcolm from HGS Trust

1	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Simon Abbott, Colin Gregory, David Lewis, Selwyn Nakan, Judith Sampson.	
2	<u>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting 1 July</u>	
3	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda</u></p> <p><u>Club House and Museum Project Update</u> There was nothing further to report</p> <p><u>Centenary Funds</u> The HGS Trust has written a strong letter to the Inland Revenue and a reply is awaited.</p> <p><u>Street Clutter Project</u> Derek Epstein said that LB Barnet is reaching a conclusion but this is a slow process.</p> <p><u>DVD for Residents Signing Standing Orders</u> The Chairman gave a copy of the DVD to Council members.</p>	
4	<p><u>Question Time</u></p> <p><u>HGS Trust</u> Jane Blackburn explained that the latest edition of the Trust Gazette had given the reasons for the increase in the Management Charge and also to explain the finances of the Trust and get feed back from residents. Angus Walker said that until recently the Trust's reserves were in decline and it had decided to cease subsidising the Management Charge. In 2006 the Trust mortgaged its office building to meet its cash flow difficulties. Its finances are now improving and it is now able to make budgets and increasingly accurate estimates of the level of the Charge for future years. It is important for the Trust to</p>	

take seriously and provide for. litigation from 'overenthusiastic' developers who are its principal threat.

The Trust's rights and obligations are dependent on statute law and where there are differences of opinion its only remedy lies with the Courts. It does not litigate enthusiastically but it has to uphold principals. There are two cases in Ingram Avenue which are going to litigation but Jane Blackburn was unable to expand on these for legal reasons.

One point of concern with the Scheme of Management was the possibility that the Trust could charge whatever it requires. There is no formula for calculating this and the Trust wishes address this issue. It calculates the long run charge to be between £80 and £140 at 2008 prices

The Trust's reserves have risen from £200,000 to £500,000. The Trust is able to borrow from these reserves if necessary and repay the loan over a period of years.

Contribution towards upkeep of green spaces

Janet Elliott referred to a letter sent to residents of Temple Fortune Lane regarding the circle of green and footpath which had been previously maintained at the Trust's expense, asking residents to contribute to its upkeep. She said that this footpath is also used by other residents. Jane Blackburn pointed out that the Freeholders have an obligation to pay for this and the Trust is looking at all pieces of open spaces which it maintains to decide whether some of the costs should be paid by the local residents and she is happy to hold a meeting to discuss this. She thought that it was unfair for residents of the flats in Finchley Road to be responsible towards open spaces on the Suburb that they were very unlikely to use.

Douglas Blausten said that if there is a legal obligation to pay for this it should be stated in the letter to residents. Eva Jacobs thought that this discussion was sad as it seemed to be 'creeping privatisation' Jane Blackburn said that it is all a question of balancing the rights of the local residents with that of Suburb residents in general. She pointed out that it is only the cost of gardening that is being charged and other related charges were included in the Management Charge

Central Square

Council members had been sent a plan of this proposal prior to the meeting and there had been consultation with residents over the summer. Jane Blackburn said that the main point of contention is the trees and no one has yet made up their mind about these. It is accepted that there are two sides to the argument. A costed

	<p>application is being prepared and will be submitted.</p> <p>The Chairman asked how much money would be required from suburb residents to implement this scheme but Jane Blackburn did not know at this stage. There could be a staged programme over a period of ten years but the drainage is the priority and she is dealing with a team that are experts in their field.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs said that the Trees Committee had considered this and balanced their love of trees against their appreciation of their heritage. They decided that if a radical plan was put forward to fell the trees they would not oppose it. Their biggest caveat would be the maintenance of any new trees and LB Barnet must take on this responsibility.</p> <p>Richard Kemp raised the matter of drainage and the effect on the neighbouring properties.</p> <p>Richard Wakefield said that LA21 committee had concluded that the children's play area should not be in the wooded area but should be beside the tennis courts in the open section.</p> <p><u>Roundabout in Asmunds Hill</u> In response to a question from a local resident, Gary Shaw said that he thought that this roundabout will eventually be replaced Max Petersen said that the police have been asked to do regular speed checks</p> <p>Leonie Stephen had received a letter from Cllr Mike Freer from LB Barnet inviting her to a meeting he is holding on 16th September at 6.30pm at HB School to discuss traffic calming in Willifield Way. Consam was asked to see that the details of this meeting are posted on the HGS Discussion Group.</p>	
5	<p><u>Authorisation of expenditure for further membership mailings as recommended by the Executive and Membership Committee</u> Janet Elliott told the Council that there are at present 1,869 member households which amount to 35% of the Suburb but the same amount of money had already been raised as last year through annual subscriptions.</p> <p>There are additional 30-45 members who have set up Standing Orders which have not yet been paid. Last year 41% of Suburb households joined the RA after two mailings.</p> <p>If this second mail shot can produce 140 new members it will have paid for itself.</p> <p>A Motion was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Eva Jacobs to make the sum of up to £2,000 available to fund a further</p>	

	<p>mail shot to non-members of the HGS Residents Association.</p> <p>This was passed Nem. Con.</p>	
6	<p><u>New Year's Eve Fireworks and Possible Party</u></p> <p>David Littaur said that the Events committee will be holding a meeting on 11th September to discuss the various options and these will be brought to the next Council meeting. The Council thought that the sum of £2,000 plus vat, which was the amount paid for the previous fireworks, may be made available.</p>	
7	<p><u>Letter of Support for the New Building at HB School</u></p> <p>It had been suggested that the RA give support to the proposals for two new additional wings to be built at HB School</p> <p>It was explained that Consam had considered these proposals at the end of July and three members who also sat on the Trust PPC had been basically in favour of the proposals, but at a subsequent meeting of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee (on which three RA Council members served) where Carol Boulter was present the papers had been presented without any notice and the response to the plans was not favourable. The proposals will be considered at a further meeting to be held on 10th September.</p> <p>Derek Epstein said that the project was resurrected when the Dept for Education renewed its grant to HB School provided that planning permission was obtained by the end of October 2008. If permission is not given, the Portacabins will probably remain.</p> <p>Douglas Blausten thought that it was extraordinary that there had been no consultation, no models or drawings bearing in mind the importance of this listed building. There was a duty and obligation to the community to act in a responsible way and it was noted that there is not a senior officer at LB Barnet dealing with this.</p> <p>Some Council members pointed out that there had been wide consultation for previous proposals which had not proceeded and even wider discussion and consultation on the new Institute building which is on the border of the Suburb. It was said that Central Square is the most important architectural site in LB Barnet.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that the end of July and August was not a suitable time of the year to introduce these proposals as so many residents are on holiday.</p> <p>Ivor Hall, a suburb Architect had looked at the plans and had had written to LB Barnet recommending that the proposals be changed. He considered that:</p>	

	<p>The two new wings set back no more than 3m from the North and South boundaries of the site will be overbearing. They are to be used for 'noisy' classes and students will have to walk along external corridors adding to the noise. These will be cold and drafty in winter. He considered the 'columns' heavy but they hide the three panel bay windows 'which bear no relationship to the window treatment of the existing building'. He thought that the wings parallel to the North and South boundary frontages seem excessively long.</p> <p>The Chairman pointed out that the HGS Trust also have to approve the plans/</p> <p>It was stated that some of the formal notices placed outside the School informing residents about these proposals were incorrectly dated. LB Barnet will have to reissue these notices and give further time for comments.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs pointed out that any comments on plans are subjective and the Council has a right to express dismay and concern providing they divorce the content from the process.</p> <p>A Motion was proposed by Douglas Blausten and seconded by Leonie Stephen</p> <p>The Council of the HGS Residents Association deplores the lack of public consultation on the most important Listed Building and Heritage site in the London Borough of Barnet and the Garden Suburb next to one of the Borough's two Grade I Listed Buildings and a Grade II* Listed Building. Until such proper consultation is undertaken we request that this important planning application is not put to the Planning Committee.</p> <p>This was passed by 13 votes in favour with five abstentions</p> <p>It was suggested by Douglas Blausten that the Chairman should send copies of this Motion to the Department of Education, Councillors, English Heritage, Rudy Vis MP, HB School and LB Barnet.</p> <p>It was suggested that HB School is invited to make a presentation to Council in October.</p>	<p>DBL</p> <p>DBL</p>
8	<p><u>Any Other Urgent Business</u></p> <p><u>Parking Notices</u> Rosalind Josephs handed over a copy of the parking notice she had been issuing to offending cars, to Gary Shaw. This had been issued in the name of the HGS Residents Association. He and Richard Wakefield will agree the wording for the new notices and Publications Committee will agree the design</p>	<p>GS RW</p>

	<p><u>Market Place</u> Gary Shaw informed Council that the loading bay outside the post office will be converted to an ordinary parking bay. Transport for London will refund fines which had been paid and objected to. All fines given to cars parked in Hill Rise will also be refunded. It had been agreed that LB Barnet will take over the 'wrap around' at the corners of Market Place but Transport for London have yet to remove the red lines so any tickets given will also be refunded. Gary Shaw was congratulated for all his work and the successful outcome.</p>	
9	<p><u>To confirm the date of the Next Meeting on Tuesday 7 October at 8 pm at Fellowship House</u> This was confirmed</p>	