

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2009
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair
 Simon Abbott, John Boulter, Carol Boulter, Terry Brooks, Bridget Cox, Tony Ghilchik, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, Richard Kemp, David Lewis, David Littaur, Steve Morris Selwyn Nakan, Max Petersen, Geoffrey Spyer, Ian Tutton,

Visitors: Joyce Littaur,

Council wished Richard Wakefield a speedy recovery from his recent operation

1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Alan Brudney, Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten, Tony Brand, Charles Gale, Colin Gregory, Judith Samson, Gary Shaw, Richard Wakefield, Alan Walker, Richard Wiseman.</p>	
2	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – November 2009</u></p> <p>The minutes were approved</p>	
3	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda</u></p> <p><u>Question Time</u></p> <p>Following the question asked at the previous Council meeting, Tony Ghilchik had looked at the stump protruding from the overhanging branch. The tree is on the grass verge very near the entrance to Fellowship House. He considered it not necessary to ask for major surgery on the tree. Bridget Cox said that only the knob needed to be removed and that this could quite easily be done. Carol Boulter suggested asking Fellowship for their comments as it may be their members are most affected by this. Tony Ghilchik will talk to Peter Falk,</p> <p><u>Proms at St Jude's</u></p> <p>Janet Elliott has told the organisers of the Proms of the sponsorship decision made by RA Council at the last meeting and it has been agreed that this will include sponsorship of the Lunchtime Concerts.</p> <p><u>New Council members only email Group</u></p> <p>Janet Elliot thanked Steve Morris for the work he had done in setting this up. Steve Morris asked any Council member who had</p>	TG

	not received any communication from this list to contact him as he wanted to be sure that the system was working fully for all Council members.	
4	<u>Question Time</u> There were none.	
5	<u>Finance</u> John Boulter confirmed the receipt of advice from Kingston Smith on the RA's possible tax liabilities. Tax returns for 2007 and 2008 would be submitted shortly to HMRC. The recommendation was that there was a small tax liability for the RA to pay for 2007. Members asked about the position in respect of 2006, for which it as understood that the date for submissions had passed. However, the Kingston Smith advice was there was probably no tax liability for 2006, unless HMRC imposed a fine over the missed dates.	
6	<u>Graduated Management Charge</u> Janet Elliott had spoken to the HGS Trust and 227 votes against banding and 271 in favour of banding had been received as at 30 November. <u>Challenge by Dr Papadopoulos</u> Janet Elliott reminded members that Dr Papadopoulos and other had organised a petition signed by around 250 residents who wished to challenge the level of the Trust's Management Charge for the year 2008-2009 under clause 7(iii) of the Scheme. This provides for the appointment by the President of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors of a surveyor to determine the disputed Charge. The Trust had decided that the Petition, submitted in the name of Mr W Asprey, satisfied the requirements of Clause 7(iii) of the Scheme and that they had no alternative but to take action as required. Terry Brooks said that he understood a challenge under Clause 7(iii) could cost in the region of £15,000/£20,000. These costs would be added to those which determine the level of the Management Charge in a future year.	
7	<u>Limited Liability</u> Janet Elliott informed Council that since the previous meeting when	

	<p>the Council reconfirmed its decision to seek incorporation as a company limited by guarantee, further letters had been exchanged with Colin Gregory and Peter Beesley who were advising on the legal requirements which would have to be met.</p> <p>A lengthy discussion took place on the best way of informing residents of the background and reasons for the change as it was important that they understood why the Council believe it to be necessary.</p> <p>It was agreed that Janet Elliott will prepare a paper for the January meeting, setting out the case to be made and indicating the processes and time scale. There would also be an article in the January issue of Suburb News making the case for the need for changes.</p> <p>There would be a need for the RA to wind up the present organisation and to transfer the asset to the new body. Approval for this will be put to the AGM on 22 March 2009. Approval of the formal new Memorandum and Articles of Association would then be put to a Special General Meeting at a date to be agreed.</p>	JE
8	<p><u>Procedural Issues</u></p> <p>Following lengthy debate in Council and in the Executive Committee and contributions by email from members of Council, the EC recommended the changes to the Council's Standing Orders as set out in bold type below</p> <p>A Motion to this effect was proposed by Janet Elliott and seconded by David Lewis and passed Nem Con.</p> <p>“The Council agrees with immediate effect the modifications set out below which clarify the eligibility of members to become Chairmen of Standing Committees (standing order 21), and the role and responsibility of RA Representatives on other Bodies (standing orders Nos 27 and 28).</p> <p>COMMITTEES 21(a) Each Standing Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Secretary</p> <p>PROVIDED THAT:- (b) No person who is neither already a member of the Council nor eligible to become one shall hold the office of Chairman of a Standing Committee under this paragraph.</p> <p>REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES 27(a) The Council may appoint a person (who need not be a member of the Council) to, or nominate a person to represent the RA on, any body or to serve as a member of a joint committee, due notice having been given;</p>	

	<p>(b) The representative shall use his best judgement in representing the RA or serving as a member, at all times taking care to represent any common position of the RA;</p> <p>(c) After six consecutive years' service, Council may annually nominate a person to any body or to serve as a member of a joint committee for a further year by secret ballot at a Council meeting for which notice of the election has been given on the agenda and at which the reasons for the person serving a further year are given.</p> <p>28. Such persons shall unless otherwise directed by the Council report in the first instance to the Executive committee in respect of any matters of concern to the Association, except that such persons shall not be required to break any condition of confidence or of membership of the other body. Such persons shall supply to the Executive at the end of each calendar year a brief written statement of their involvement in the other body.</p> <p>The Council further takes the opportunity to correct minor grammatical changes of single words in standing order number 19(c) "fewer" to replace "less" and in nos, 22 and 27(c), where "years' " replaces "year's".</p>	
9	<p><u>Report from Committees and Working Groups</u></p> <p><u>Events</u></p> <p>David Littaur told council that the plans for the fireworks for New Year's Eve were proceeding satisfactorily but he urgently needed more volunteers. He had received a poor response to his email request on the discussion group. Ian Tutton will ask members of his congregation and Alan Walker was asked to do the same. Simon Abbott had found two young people to assist and Bridget Cox will ask the local scout group. Richard Wakefield will prepare posters, Cava and soft drinks will be purchased and David Littaur has asked the Trust if they will pay for this as in other recent years. The risk assessment is being prepared, insurance obtained, indemnities have been supplied to LB Barnet and St John's ambulance has been booked. Simon Abbott emphasised the importance of recruiting sufficient volunteers otherwise the event could be in jeopardy.</p> <p><u>Consam</u></p> <p><u>Street Lighting</u></p> <p>Geoffrey Spyer reported on a meeting he and Tony Ghilchik had</p>	<p>IT AW</p> <p>GS</p>

	<p>attended with the Trust and LB Barnet regarding new street lighting. Nearly all the Suburb will have new street lights. There will mainly be 6m columns but in some streets such as Meadway the columns will be 8m high. There will be new lighting on Central Square but the lighting will not change in the twittens and footpaths. It was acknowledged as important to avoid additional street clutter. Residents will be informed before the work is commenced and they will be able to comment on the proposals and siting of the posts in their roads.</p> <p><u>Athlone House</u></p> <p>Geoffrey Spyer reported that Consam had written a letter to support the Highgate Society's objection to the proposal to demolish the existing house and build a new mansion two and a half times the size.</p> <p><u>HB School Development</u></p> <p>Ian Tutton expressed concern at the opening of a new 'works' entrance to the HB School on Northway where heavy lorries are delivering material. These timings have been at the same times as the children are arriving or leaving the playgroup which operates in the Free Church Hall which is opposite the new entrance. He said that residents had been told that all entry to the site would be from Central Square only but when he spoke recently to the School he was told that planning permission had been obtained for this additional opening.</p> <p>Geoffrey Spyer will ascertain what had been agreed and try to make representations and seek a solution to this.</p> <p><u>Roads and Traffic</u></p> <p><u>Southway</u></p> <p>Simon Abbott had been told that there was a proposal to put a one way system around the HB School. He was unsure whether this is to be permanent or temporary. Richard Kemp will discuss this with Gary Shaw and report back.</p> <p><u>Membership</u></p> <p>Steve Morris said that the further mailing had now been sent out to members who had not rejoined this year.</p> <p><u>Publications</u></p> <p>Terry Brooks reported that an email will be sent out to Council regarding plans Suburb News content and advertising.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>GS</p>
10	<u>Executive Committee Meeting 16 November</u>	

	The Minutes were received. .	
11	<u>Any Other Business</u> <u>Tree Planting</u> Eva Jacobs said that there would be a tree planting ceremony on Central Square on 2 December to celebrate the 125 anniversary of Toynbee Hall.	
12	<u>To note that the next RA Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 5 January 2010</u> This will be a short meeting followed by wine and mince pies.	