

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5th January 2010
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair

Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, John Boulter, Carol Boulter, Tony Brand, Alan Brudney, Charles Gale, Colin Gregory, Judith Samson, Gary Shaw, Tony Ghilchik, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Steve Morris, Geoffrey Spyer, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield, Alan Walker, Richard Wiseman.

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Derek Epstein

1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Peter Beesley, Terry Brooks, Bridget Cox, Nicole Gerber, Richard Kemp, David Lewis, Max Petersen.</p>	
2	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting</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>Report from Committees and Working Groups</u></p> <p><u>Events</u></p> <p>David Littaur reported that the HGS Trust had agreed to pay for the drinks prior to the New Year's Eve fireworks event.</p> <p>The Council thanked David Littaur and his team, especially Tony Brand, Simon Abbott and Dave Brown, for a very successful and enjoyable evening. £445.37 had been collected from residents who had attended.</p> <p>Rosalind Josephs said that the site had been left much cleaner and tidier than usual, the following morning when she went to clear the litter, the next morning. She had been disappointed in the nil response from her plea for help from those on the hgs.list.</p> <p>Colin Gregory would have liked to see the posters advertising the fireworks circulated around the Suburb a little earlier.</p> <p><u>HB School Development</u></p> <p>Geoffrey Spyer reported that David Lewis had spoken to the site architects, who said that the builders are working according to arrangements that had been agreed in the planning approval document, but they will look at the timings to try to ensure that deliveries do not coincide with the times that children are arriving</p>	

	<p>and leaving the playgroup.</p> <p><u>Procedural Issues</u></p> <p>Council agreed that Colin Gregory, the RA's representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and Eva Jacobs the RA's representative on the Kenwood Landscape Forum, should continue to report direct to the Trees and Open Spaces Committee.</p> <p><u>Street Lighting</u></p> <p>Richard Wakefield pointed out that nine years ago when the question of 8m lampposts had been raised by LB Barnet the RA had considered holding a public meeting to fight this proposal.</p> <p>Tony Ghilchik replied that the majority of the proposed lampposts are 6m. It had been made very clear to LB Barnet that the RA would like low lampposts but the detailed scheme has yet to be seen.</p> <p>Douglas Blausten said that this issue was of great importance to the Suburb when it came up the last time. Should the RA wait to see LB Barnet's proposals or state their views before they are presented to the RA?</p> <p>Geoffrey Spyer said that the HGS Trust and the RA have both already given their views on lampposts to LB Barnet. Meadway is a crucial road and probably together with Winnington Road, the only roads on the Suburb where 8m posts will be recommended by LB of Barnet for some sections.</p> <p>Colin Gregory proposed and Eva Jacobs seconded a Motion 'That the RA Council reinforced the views expressed by the RA and the HGS Trust to LB Barnet that they do not wish to see new lampposts on the Suburb more than 6m high.'</p> <p>This was passed by 19 votes in favour and 1 against.</p> <p>Janet Elliott will write to LB Barnet reflecting this position and indicating that the RA understand that there are government guidelines regarding the number, spacing and height of lampposts.</p>	JE
4	<p><u>Question Time</u></p> <p>There were none.</p>	
5	<p><u>Limited Liability</u></p> <p>As a result of a request from Council members Janet Elliott had circulated a paper setting out the background and reasons for the proposal to incorporate the RA as a company limited by guarantee Richard Wakefield thanked Janet Elliott for this paper which will be summarised for the Suburb News.</p>	

	Colin Gregory, Richard Wiseman and Janet Elliott are meeting with Peter Beesley on 6 th January to progress this.	
6	<p><u>Consultation with Members re 2010 Action Programme</u> The following article which Richard Wakefield proposed to include in the next edition of the Suburb News, had been circulated to Council</p> <p>“The Residents Association Council has resolved this year to encourage greater participation by Suburb residents.</p> <p>“Founded in 1911, it is believed to be, with more than 2000 households in membership, the largest such association anywhere in the UK. With your help your association can be an even more effective voice.</p> <p>“The Council, through its committees, will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work to conserve the built environment and preserve amenities for those living here, including fielding a 100 strong volunteer litter team. • Augment the social life of the community by arranging or facilitating events. In addition to the popular New Year’s Eve fireworks party, we have plans for a giant picnic on Central Square in July. • Renew our efforts to ensure everyone knows what the RA does and to make it easy for them to join and take part. • Use Suburb News, the Directory, and the web site to keep everyone in touch with what is going on and encourage you to join in. The web site will be improved during the year and an additional facility will allow selected Suburb organisations to add details of events, and for members to add their comments. • Provide advice on subsidence problems for Suburb Residents, including how to deal with insurers. • Continue to do all we can to stop the authorities spoiling our Suburb with inappropriate parking solutions, signage and road-markings. • Do all we can to protect Suburb trees and open spaces including continuing, for the thirteenth year, to fund an extra 30 or so street trees. Otherwise we lend our support via our representatives on committees responsible for the running of the Heath and Kenwood. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With others, to investigate and work towards the provision of a much needed Visitor centre and improved space for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Archive. • Provide practical help and encouragement to residents keeping allotments on the Suburb.” <p>After a lengthy discussion Council agreed the content of the programme in principle but that there should also be a reference to the decision of the Council to seek limited liability.</p> <p>However Council considered that the presentation in ‘Suburb News’ should be more lively and Richard Wakefield undertook to do this and to develop the idea of a quiz, most probably for use in a later edition. For this purpose he asked each Council member to email him their idea of a suitable question for inclusion in the quiz.</p> <p>Simon Abbott suggested that the RA should develop a method of evaluating its work. To this end Steve Morris suggested that the membership renewal mail shot could be used to get feedback.</p> <p>Richard Wakefield was thanked for his work on this paper.</p> <p>.</p>	
7	<p><u>To Receive the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 14 December</u></p> <p>Simon Abbott raised the question of the EC not agreeing to a proposal that residents who reach 90 and had lived on the Suburb for more than 30 years should have free membership of the RA.</p> <p>Some members felt that this would be ‘a nice thing to do’ but Janet Elliott stated that the Suburb had a large elderly population. Such a scheme would involve collecting personal information to identify those eligible and that would be difficult to monitor. However, the RA allows residents who are unable to pay the £15 annual subscription to pay less.</p> <p>Rosalind Josephs said that this proposal would be an administrative nightmare.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs said that this could be misinterpreted and could be considered condescending.</p> <p>The Council agreed with the EC’s decision and Janet Elliott undertook to inform the resident who had suggested it and explain the reasons.</p>	JE

8	<p><u>Any Other Urgent Business</u></p> <p><u>Roads and Traffic</u> Gary Shaw had circulated a lengthy paper explaining the background and the reasons why he wishes to resign as Chairman of Roads and Traffic, Secretary of the RA and from Council, at the AGM. He has agreed to continue to help suburb motorists who have been unjustly fined on the Suburb and this will be noted in the Yellow Directory.</p> <p>Carol Boulter said that this paper had raised many important issues and Douglas Blausten suggested that it should be included on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.</p> <p>Colin Gregory was very sorry to hear that Gary Shaw was leaving and he would like the RA to have a better dialogue with LB Barnet Councillors.</p> <p><u>Selwyn Nakan</u> Janet Elliott told Council that Selwyn Nakan had resigned from the RA Executive and Council. He was concerned about the issue of liability for RA Council members and how the risk assessment for RA events is dealt with. Both Janet Elliott and the Council thanked Selwyn Nakan and expressed their appreciation of his strong contribution to the RA.</p>	
9	<p><u>To note that the next RA Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd February 2010 at 8.00pm,</u> Noted</p>	