

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2nd February 2010
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair

Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, John Boulter, Carol Boulter, Bridget Cox, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), , Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Steve Morris, Max Petersen Gary Shaw, Richard Wakefield,

Visitors: Alan Jacobs, Joyce Littaur, Derek Epstein, Leonie Stephen

Janet Elliott told Council that Geoffrey Spyer had suffered a heart attack but was making an excellent recovery at home. Council sent him their best wishes In the interim Consam has asked Alan Jacobs to become its Acting Chairman

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| 1 | <p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Alan Brudney, Nicole Gerber, Richard Kemp, David Lewis, Judith Samson, Geoffrey Spyer, Ian Tutton, Alan Walker.</p> | |
| 2 | <p><u>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></p> | |
| 3 | <p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda</u></p> <p><u>Street Lighting – Minute 3</u></p> <p>Tony Ghilchik and another Consam member will be attending a second meeting with the HGS Trust and LB Barnet engineers to progress this matter.</p> <p><u>Consultation with Members re 2010 Action Programme – Minute 6</u></p> <p>Carol Boulter referred to the Minutes which had suggested that the presentation of this article should be livelier and she did not think that the article in Suburb News lived up to this. Richard Wakefield reported that he had also wanted to include a quiz as stated in the minutes but he had received very little response from Council members to his request for suitable questions. Bridget Cox thought that the article looked rather formal and it did not grasp your attention .She would have liked to see some colour.</p> <p><u>Selwyn Nakan resignation – Minute 8</u></p> <p>David Littaur asked for further information about SN's dissatisfaction with the risk assessment. Janet Elliott repeated that she was unable to answer all SN's questions in the absence of DLitt over the Christmas period. Council asked for their view be</p> | TG |

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| | recorded that they were satisfied that the Events Committee and the RA had carried out the risk assessment in a proper way. | |
| 4 | <p><u>Question Time</u></p> <p>Derek Epstein was concerned to ensure that Consam is dealing with ongoing matters that he was unable to complete before he left the Committee. Tony Ghilchik said that these were being dealt with by Geoffrey Spyer and other members of the Committee.</p> | |
| 5 | <p><u>Finance including taxation and end of year arrangements</u></p> <p>John Boulter said that the accounts were not quite finished but were already with the auditor. A surplus of around £1000 for the year was likely. This was after allowing for all expenditure and the writing off about £2,500 of bad debt provision outstanding from previous years.</p> <p>Rosalind Josephs had received an email from Basil Hillman about the need for replacement trees in certain locations near his home in Willifield Way. John Boulter confirmed that the RA has money available for the tree planting programme. Tony Ghilchik explained that the Suburb has been divided up into areas and members of the Trees & Open Spaces committee are identifying areas where there is a need for trees to be replaced or planted. Rosalind Josephs will send Tony Ghilchik a copy of the email for reply.</p> <p>Richard Wakefield said that he would like the Centenary Fund to be shown separately in the 2009 accounts. John Boulter said that he could not yet do this as he awaited further information before the final figure could be calculated and he has not yet had a reply about taxation from HMRC.</p> <p>When the accounts have been audited John Boulter will circulate them to Council</p> <p><u>Benefactors' Board</u></p> <p>Richard Wakefield said that he is progressing with this. However the final wording has still been to be agreed. Council authorised the EC to agree this.</p> | <p>RJ</p> <p>TG</p> <p>JB</p> <p>RWa</p> <p>+Exec</p> |
| 6 | <p><u>Arrangement for AGM</u></p> <p>David Littaur requires help from Council members, in addition to those on the Events Committee, with a range of activities at and immediately after the AGM. He will circulate a list to Council and ask for their assistance.</p> <p>Arrangements for the sound system and the refreshments are already in place.</p> | DLt |

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| 7 | <p><u>Nominations of Officers for 2010</u> Richard Wakefield proposed and Simon Abbott seconded a Motion that the Council of the HGSRA nominate: Janet Elliott to stand as Chairman David Lewis to stand as vice-chairman John Boulter to stand as Hon Treasurer This was passed unanimously.</p> <p>As Gary Shaw is resigning from Council and as Hon Secretary and nominations are required for this position.</p> | |
| 8 | <p><u>Nomination for Council Members for election of Members retiring by rotation</u> Janet Elliott reported that not all Council members have yet confirmed whether or not they wish to stand and she asked those who have not contacted her to do so. Nicole Gerber wishes to resign from Council for personal reasons but would like to remain on Consam as a co-opted member.</p> <p>The following Council members have agreed to stand for re-election at the AGM:</p> <p>Bridget Cox, Tony Ghilchik, Ian Tutton and Geoffrey Spyer who were all co-opted to Council since the last AGM; and</p> <p>Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten, Alan Brudney, Steve Morris and Will Sowerbutts, who are due to retire by rotation.</p> <p>A letter from Janet Elliott had been reproduced in full in the December issues of the 'Norrice Leader'. It included a request for residents interested in joining the RA Council to contact her and set out some of the experience and expertise which would be particularly valuable. To date she has received no responses.</p> | |
| 9 | <p><u>Nominations for Honorary Membership and for the Alexander Stuart Gray Award</u> A proposal by John Boulter, seconded by Richard Wakefield to nominate Norma and Michael Milner as Honorary Life Members was passed unanimously. They have worked in the Suburb for Abbeyfield and Fellowship for many years</p> <p>Consam and the Trust are liaising over the process of choosing a winner of the Alexander Stuart Gray Award for this year.</p> | Consam |
| 10 | <p><u>Limited Liability Update</u> Peter Beesley is preparing the second draft of Memorandum and</p> | |

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| | <p>Articles of Association this time using the post October 2009 format. This he expects to be with Janet Elliott by 8th February. They will be discussed by the Executive and also looked at in detail by Colin Gregory, Steve Morris and Richard Wiseman. Some further editing is expected to be required before the documents come to the Council.</p> <p>There will be an explanation of this proposal included with the AGM mailing to residents. A brief announcement has already appeared in Suburb News.</p> | |
| 11 | <p><u>Report from Gary Shaw for discussion</u></p> <p>Gary Shaw reminded RA Council that the Suburb's refuse and recycling was not collected during the recent wintry January weather and that despite large increases in Council Tax and parking charges many of the Suburb's roads were not gritted in the snow. He pointed out that it was only our pre-paid Council services that were disrupted and that mail, grocery deliveries, courier services and deliveries from local small businesses continued unaffected.</p> <p>He explained that he was very concerned generally at the attitude of LB Barnet. He said that we are now governed by a bureaucratic and political class which has little understanding of history, tradition or conservation and which appears to hold in contempt the idea that the local community is able to solve its own problems. The Community is constantly being faced with new charges, restrictions and regulations created by LBB and these contribute to a general assault on the social environment. We have an increasing problem with this but the RA does not spend time concentrating on these issues. He was critical of the style of government and he felt that he could be more effective in mounting campaigns outside the RA as there is a division within the RA's membership on many issues, for example the parking campaign. He said there are many examples of inconsistencies in the Council's reasoning behind its policies which often appear to be motivated by revenue considerations above all else.</p> <p>Carol Boulter agreed with what he said and asked whether the RA is just a talking shop or a pressure group. She said that most of us feel powerless and if the RA does have the power, does it want to exercise it and how can this be done?</p> <p>Tony Ghilchik agreed with Gary Shaw about the problem but not the solution and thought that it would be better to try to work with LB Barnet and persuade them to change their views.</p> <p>Carol Boulter remembered how she had been treated with disdain and contempt by Council officers when she had met with them.</p> | |

Douglas Blausten said sometime ago he had taken LB Barnet to the High Court and won the case.

Simon Abbott asked what sort of RA do we want and he thought that we need to carry out a review. The RA is good at mounting major campaigns but cannot effect fundamental changes in the way LB Barnet work. We may need to reorganise the working group structure. He thought that the RA acting together is a stronger weapon than Gary Shaw acting on his own.

Douglas Blausten said that we cannot deal with this piecemeal and the RA needs a strategy. We need to formulate and adopt a strategy and then stick to it. We have lost our way and do not represent the community.

Steve Morris pointed out that we have a divided community with totally opposing views on the Suburb and we must remember that the Councillors have been democratically elected. We do not consult enough and we need a better sense of the views of residents on various issues that arise. Our strength is the weight of the membership.

Gary Shaw said that he has always had the support of Council but that the RA was brought into being in a very different era and that to be effective today it may have to change and be a different sort of organisation. He did not like the way the public seem to be treated as criminals or potential criminals by the local authority and that he was very concerned at the large number of cases he had seen in which elderly or vulnerable people were threatened with draconian action such as bailiff visits over minor parking matters. He felt this was an unacceptable way for the state to treat its citizens and that great efforts should be made to stop the Council using its powers in this way.

Simon Abbott said that Gary Shaw is posing a challenge to the RA which we should look into and the EC should come forward with a proposal.

Carol Boutler wanted the EC to produce a strategy paper for discussion. Janet Elliott stressed that the RA, as a multipurpose organisation with a remit to protect and preserve the Suburb and work for the benefit of the Suburb residents, is dependent on volunteers to implement any strategy and policies agreed on. The RA has does not have powers in most areas which give rise to controversies. Formal powers lie mainly with the Trust and the LB of Barnet. The RA has to work by exerting influence.

Janet Elliott did not think that now was the time for the EC to write a strategy paper. She did not want the RA to adopt a policy which would be impossible to implement

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| | <p>Janet Elliott reminded Council about its decision to ask residents to vote on whether or not they wanted a change from a flat rate to a banded management charge. However, despite this initiative the RA Council decided that there would be no direct face-to-face canvassing of residents to vote which resulted in a less effective campaign.</p> <p>Tony Ghilchik said that the RA must decide what their policy is on various issues and then ask residents for their views. Simon Abbott considered that we should look at the style of the RA and decide whether the RA should take on a more campaigning agenda.</p> <p>Douglas Blausten said that we need younger people to be involved and that if the RA have the right strategy it will attract the right people on to the Council</p> <p>Janet Elliott suggested that members get personally involved in the development of an appropriate strategy. To that end members individually were asked to write short statements from which the EC could evolve an overall strategy to put to the Council. Such a strategy must be one that the RA has the financial, legal, manpower and other resources to carry out</p> | <p>ALL JE + Exec</p> |
| <p>12</p> | <p><u>Report from Roads and Traffic about Parking on north side of Market Place</u></p> <p>Gary Shaw told Council that there is a loading bay sign located on the north side of Market Place in front of the Bathroom Centre. The sign is obstructed when a bus draws up. He is taking this up with TfL on behalf of a resident who had received a fine for parking there.</p> | |
| <p>13</p> | <p><u>To receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 18th January 2010</u></p> <p><u>Subsidence Report</u> This report is nearly complete and the EC will discuss it at their next meeting.</p> <p><u>24 Ingram Avenue</u> The findings of the appeal by HG Trust to the Lands Tribunal has not yet been published.</p> <p><u>End of year Reports from Chairmen of Committees and Working Parties</u> Janet Elliott thanked the members of Committees for all the work they had done over the year.</p> | |

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| 14 | <p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>13 Hampstead Way</u> Janet Elliott reported that there had been many enquires and reports on the hgs.list about this house. It was understood that work had gone beyond the remit of the planning permission and it had been virtually demolished. Alan Jacobs had spoken to David Davidson who said that the Trust had instructed the owners to restore it. The HGS Trust and LB Barnet are working together to ensure that the house will be reinstated in its original form.</p> <p>Carol Boulter said that this is a good example of where the residents should be informed of what is happening. It should be reported in the next issue of Suburb News.</p> <p><u>Willifield Way Parking</u> There had been a long ongoing discussion on the HGS email list about the problems of parking and traffic around the Willifield Road entrance to Garden Suburb School, which is a danger to children arriving and leaving. The police have said that illegal parking is not a criminal offence and only the LB Barnet has authority to issue any fines. The Council agreed that the school and authority must find a way of dealing with this.</p> <p>Steve Morris said that there are some 600 children at the Garden Suburb School and there is nowhere to drop off so many children in a safe way within the short time scale of 15 minutes in the mornings and afternoons.</p> <p><u>Appeal against the Level of Management Charge</u> Eva Jacobs asked whether it would be appropriate and helpful for Council members to write in an individual capacity to the surveyor who has been appointed to look into the HGS Trust's Management Charge. Richard Wakefield thought that this would be a good idea. He pointed out that the Management Charge may have to be increased by £6 next year to pay for the costs associated with this application instigated by Mr. Papadopoulos and others.</p> | |
| 14 | <p><u>To note that the next RA Council meeting will be on Tuesday, 2 March at 8.00pm at Fellowship House</u> This was noted.</p> | |