

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on June 1 2010
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair
 Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, John Boulter, Carol Boulter, Tony Brand
 Terry Brooks, Bridget Cox, Tony Ghilchik, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to
 the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Lewis, David Littaur,
 Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres, Will Sowerbutts, Geoffrey Spyer, Ian Tutton,
 Richard Wakefield, Richard Wiseman.

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Léonie Stephen

1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Alan Brudney, Louise Felder, Charles Gale, Colin Gregory. Tony McGuire, Steve Morris, Max Petersen</p>	
2	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting</u> The minutes were approved.</p>	
3	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda</u> <u>31 Hill Rise Banner</u> Geoffrey Spyer said that he had contacted Brill Owen to request removal of the banner, which may have been put up without his knowledge and emphasising that the Alexander Gray Award is made for the works carried out on named properties as stated on the certificates to the owner and architect. He had also written that while it may be appropriate for reference to the award being made in publications and even advertisements, it is inappropriate to use it on a large banner which itself is contrary to Suburb guidelines. Nicholas Brill replied that he was not aware of the banner and it had now been removed but he was puzzled why this was considered to be contentious when the builder was very proud of being granted the Award and did not see what harm had been caused. Council agreed that no further action should be taken.</p> <p><u>Reports from other Committees</u> <u>Consam – Open House Weekend</u> Janet Elliott will write to LB Barnet expressing the RA's concern. However, she had been awaiting further information before proceeding. Carol Boulter asked for the old system whereby copies of</p>	

	<p>correspondence from the RA Chairman or Committees was circulated in a file to Council members during the Council meeting. Janet Elliott said that this would be a distraction and it would be preferable if copies of letters are sent out electronically. She also questioned the need for all correspondence to be so circulated.</p> <p>Simon Abbott said that he would not be prepared to chair a committee where copies of every letter sent and received are circulated to Council.</p> <p>Richard Wiseman proposed and Jonathan Seres seconded a Motion</p> <p>That any letter where Council had particularly requested action to be taken on behalf of the RA Council, should be circulated to Council members by email or by the most appropriate method.</p> <p>This was passed unanimously.</p> <p><u>Report from Publications</u></p> <p><u>Circulation of Council Minutes</u></p> <p>Carol Boulter wanted to ensure that Council received regular reports of what is happening at Committees & sub-committees. She commented that she had kept quite long enough about what had happened on the Publications Committee. Terry Brooks said that the Minutes of the last meeting had not yet be produced but undertook to circulate when available and to produce a report for the next Council meeting.</p> <p>Richard Wakefield was thanked for the latest edition of Suburb news</p> <p>The Council requested that Steve Morris, who was not present, be asked to ensure the closed email list is fully up to date as some members were uncertain whether they had received minutes from Committees as agreed at the previous meeting. It was confirmed that only one set of minutes, from Trees & Open Spaces had been circulated since the May Council meeting.</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>SM</p>
4	<p><u>Question Time</u></p> <p><u>Hedges</u></p> <p>Joyce Littaur asked Council who is responsible for ensuring that overgrown hedges are cut.</p> <p>Tony Ghilchik said that if a hedge is too high it is the Trust's policy to deal with this but this policy seems to be 'withering away'. If the hedge obstructs the pavement this can be referred to LB Barnet. David Lewis said he understood that Barnet would deal with these issues. In answer to a question, Rosalind Josephs said that the house owners are responsible for the hedges where there is a twitten alongside their property.</p>	

5	<p><u>To receive the draft minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on 20 May 2010</u></p> <p>These were approved with minor spelling corrections.</p> <p><u>St Jude's Proms</u></p> <p>Honorary members Tim and Jean Neal had accepted the offer of free tickets for one of the concerts.</p>	
6	<p><u>Financial Report</u></p> <p>John Boulter had sent the annual returns to the Inland Revenue He awaits budgets from some standing committees</p> <p><u>Litter pickers</u></p> <p>Rosalind Josephs asked Council to approve the purchase of some new litter pickers as she had none left. She had been offered a supply at a very favourable price and asked for the RA to make the sum of £282.24 available for this.</p> <p>Council agreed.</p> <p><u>Notice Boards</u></p> <p>Simon Abbott had circulated a paper on the replacement and refurbishment of notice boards and asking the Council to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of 12 new notice boards at £25 each Refurbishing 12 A4 Boards at £15 each Refurbishing the large Temple Fortune Board and replacing the derelict Hoop Lane Board £210 5 wire retainers estimate £20 each Logos £250 <p>Approval had previously been given by Council for £900 of expenditure, so a further £350 was requested. This was approved by Council.</p>	
7	<p><u>Strategy Plans</u></p> <p>Following a detailed discussion at the Executive Meeting, Janet Elliott had circulated a paper recommending on behalf of the EC, that the RA set up a small working party. The paper set out ideas which the working party might explore for workable options for the Council to discuss.</p> <p>The EC recommended that Richard Wiseman chair the working party and Janet Elliott explained that the EC also thought it was inappropriate for other EC members to be involved as members of</p>	

	<p>the working party, though they could be submit ideas or be called up to discuss specific issues, as indeed could all other Council members.</p> <p>Douglas Blausten asked whether the Working Party would look at the objects of the Constitution and noted that there was no reference to the handling of money. He asked whether the working party should have the powers to co-opt members and whether the RA should represent or formulate opinions on behalf of members.</p> <p>Richard Wiseman said that residents would have an opportunity to comment on the Objects in the Constitution and reminded members that the Council had at the end of 2009 approved them as fit for purpose when the question of limited liability had been looked into.</p> <p>Learning how and when to consult is important and it was noted that the RA is an elected body and can act on behalf of residents.</p> <p>The recommendation was for the Working Party to complete its work in time to report back to the EC & then the Council at its November meeting.</p> <p>Ian Tutton proposed a Motion to adopt the Report and its recommendations in its entirety. This was seconded by Simon Abbott and passed Nem Con.</p> <p>Council discussed how to enlist members of the working party. Richard Wiseman agreed to send an email to all Council members inviting them to volunteer themselves. He would like to finalise the membership next week. He will give his proposals to the Hon. Officers for their approval.</p>	<p>RWi + ALL</p>
<p>8</p>	<p><u>HGS Trust and other Recent issues</u></p> <p><u>24 and 25 Ingram Avenue</u></p> <p>Concern had been expressed that the report in Suburb News stated that Council members were ‘unanimous’ in agreeing that Jane Blackburn gave a convincing address on the Trust’s reasons for defending its decisions to go to the Lands Tribunal in these two cases, as no vote on the issue had been taken.</p> <p>Terry Brooks agreed to issue a correction in the next Suburb News and to circulate all Council members copies of his correspondence with John Boulter on this matter.</p> <p>Janet Elliott up-dated members on recent information she had from Jane Blackburn, viz:</p> <p>a. In respect of 24 Ingram Avenue, it had recently been adjudicated that the Trust is not responsible for the legal costs of the developers but Vertical properties have until the end of the current week to appeal against this decision, should they wish to do so.</p>	

b The decision on the 25 Ingram Avenue appeal is still awaited and that this may take longer than anticipated because documents requested by the adjudicator by end April from the appellant had not yet been received.

Call for a Public Meeting and/or Survey

The EC were not in favour of a survey or public meeting on the issues raised by Andrew Botterill and others, both of which they thought were premature. The Trust will be presenting their case once the final outcome of the two cases is known and also the decision of the Surveyor appointed to review the level of the Management Charge for 2009.

There was a suggestion that perhaps the Council should wait until the newly proposed RA Working Party had reported.

However, Janet Elliott said the Trust may report before the Working Party and the Council needed to reserve the right to act earlier on these specific issues. It was important that close contact with the Trust on timing was maintained.

Carol Boulter raised the issue of the disagreement of some residents with the Trust on these issues and commented that Suburb News had presented only the case for the Trust. Richard Wakefield in reply stressed that the report in Suburb News clearly set out some of the opposing views on these issues and not just the view of the Trust.

25 Asmunds Hill

In respect of the gate at 25 Asmunds Hill, raised by Ivor Hall, it was understood that the Chairman of the Trust had written to him direct.

Reynolds Close

The Trust had confirmed that defects outstanding on the repairs undertaken to Reynolds Close, under the Scheme of Management, would be dealt with within the next week or so.

Tea House

An interim report had been circulated to Council by Jonathan Seres on behalf of Consam.

Jane Blackburn said that the Trust had not yet received an application for change of use. LB Barnet had previously given consent to a change but this had expired and a renewed application would have to be made. JS point out that the Trust was concerned both to maintain the tree canopy and not let the Tea House fall into disrepair.

Carol Boulter reminded the Council of the previous North Square planning application in respect of the EDF site, when Andrew Botterill organised a survey of residents asking for their views on the proposal. The residents were not in favour and she asked whether the Trust will consult this time. Simon Abbott said that the

	<p>Trust have no control of how EDF will dispose of their lease of this site.</p> <p>Jonathan Seres said that assuming that the sub station is still needed it could possibly be moved into one of the garages which the Trust own at the rear of the site.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs said that the RA could reiterate its view that there should be no infill on this site and that the Tea House is not so valuable without a good size garden.</p> <p>Ian Tutton pointed out that the Tea House is in a bad condition and this should continue to be closely monitored. He also drew the Council's attention to a possible dilemma were it to arise that sacrifice of the EDF site may be the price the Suburb would have to pay for a Heritage Centre.</p> <p>It was agreed that when the time is right the views of the residents should be sought.</p>	
10	<p><u>Publications Report</u></p> <p>Richard Wakefield said that the publication of the report of the subsidence Working Party is now in hand and ideas for presentation have been circulated to those involved. The new style Suburb Directory is now being circulated.</p> <p>Terry Brooks said that the Minutes from the last meeting are not yet available but will be circulated as soon as practicable.</p> <p><u>Consam</u></p> <p>Geoffrey Spyer reported on success with the renewal of the pavement edges in Willifield Way/Temple Fortune Hill</p> <p><u>Events</u></p> <p>David Littaur said that the latest Minutes will be sent out next week.</p>	
11	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Following a suggestion from Ian Tutton, and agreed by the Council, Janet Elliott was asked to send letters on behalf of the RA to the following:</p> <p>Mike Freer on his election as MP</p> <p>The widow of Rudi Vis following his death earlier this week, and to Rabbi Livingstone who had left Norrice Lea Synagogue.</p>	
12	<p><u>To confirm the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 6 July at 8.00pm at Fellowship House</u></p> <p>This was confirmed.</p>	