

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on September 7th 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, Alan Brudney, Bridget Cox, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council) Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Steve Morris, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres, Geoffrey Spyer, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield, Richard Wiseman.

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Léonie Stephen, Pia Duran

1	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Peter Beesley, David Lewis, Louise Felder, Max Petersen, Will Sowerbutts.	
2	<u>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting, 6 July</u> These were approved.	
3	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda</u> There were none.	
4	<u>To receive the draft Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on 19 July</u>  <u>Trust Issues Update</u> This should refer to 38, not 58, Erskine Hill.  <u>Events</u> Jonathan Seres asked about the cost of delivering leaflets. Richard Wakefield said that the RA is unable to get this done by volunteers and the cost is £50/80 per thousand copies. Copy costs are extra.  <u>Henrietta Barnett Walk and Memorial Plaques</u> In reply to Carol Boulter's question, Richard Wakefield said that the walk proposal was no further forward but the matter is expected to be discussed by the EC at their September meeting.  The Centenary plaque is now in position in the entrance hall at Fellowship House.	
5	<u>Financial Report</u>  <u>Open House</u> John Boulter said that the Free Church had kindly contributed £200 towards the £800 that the RA had paid. Janet Elliott reported that St Jude's is still considering the RA's approach for support.	

	<p><u>Budget</u> John Boulter said that he will prepare a budget for the RA.</p> <p>Janet Elliott reported that a donation was expected from the company which had recently shot excerpts for the film of 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' in HGS.</p> <p>Steve Morris confirmed that as usual he is planning a third round membership mailing which will cost £2000. This mailing had previously always more than covered its costs and helped keep up the membership numbers. There are currently 1861 families in membership for 2010.</p>	JB
6.	<p><u>Question Time</u> Joyce Littaur asked when the new lampposts on the path across the Heath will be lit and the old lampposts which are still in position alongside the new ones, removed. Colin Gregory said that he had discussed this with Superintendent of Hampstead Heath who does not yet have a date for this.</p>	
7	<p><u>HGS Trust Issues and AGM</u></p> <p><u>25 Ingram Avenue</u> Janet Elliott said she was very pleased to report that the Trust had won this case which should stand as a precedent against infill developments.</p> <p><u>AGM 15<sup>th</sup> September</u> Janet Elliott told Council that the surveyor's report on the Trust Management Charge instigated by the 'concerned residents' challenge had not yet been completed.</p> <p>Geoffrey Marriott and Angus Walker, both elected Trustees are standing for re-election this year by rotation. The election will be a contested one as Bill Asprey and Anne Fenton are standing as 'concerned residents' candidates. Janet Elliott pointed out that these candidates seem to have a single issue agenda, ie the desire to reduce the level of the Trust Management Charge.</p> <p>Terry Brooks informed Council that there could be a call at the AGM for a vote against the approval of the Trust Report and Accounts. Should this happen proxy votes can be arranged for any members of the Trust Company who go to the Trust Office to collect the appropriate forms. There are still 400 vacancies on the Trust Company and he encouraged Council members to join.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs asked what were the implications if the Report and Accounts were not to be approved. Jonathan Seres said that the Charity Commissioners might need to be informed and that the Trust could only be asked to amend their Accounts if the financial statement were proved inaccurate. He considered that for the efficient running of the Suburb, there should be a vote in favour of approving the Report and Accounts.</p>	
8	<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p>	

Allotments

Pia Duran reported that:  
the Allotments Committee had recently inspected all the sites and prepared a shortlist for the Phyllis Young Trophy, the winner of which will be announced at the Committee's autumn dinner;  
there is a waiting list of 12 residents for allotments, most of whom the Committee hoped to accommodate on quarter plots by January;  
the waiting list continues to grow; and  
that water has been an important issue during this year as were gates to allotment sites and the height of hedges.

PD also thanked Steve Morris again for having set up an email group for the use of allotment holders.

Consam

Brunner Close and basements

The planning application was for the extension of this semi-detached property at the end of a cul de sac and including, a loft conversion and a basement. It had been approved by the L B Barnet and was now under consideration by the Trust Council.

In making their decision the LB Barnet had sought legal opinion on the aspect of the new Design Guidelines and were now of the opinion that these would have to be amended as L B Barnet has no power to discriminate in respect of applications for basements on the grounds of the size or type of property. This means that the LB Barnet is now not prepared to adopt the new Design Guidelines unless this section is amended.

The Trust is now reviewing its position as it has also sought legal advice on this issue. It is understood that David Davidson would welcome any suggestions from Council members for amending the Guidelines. Alan Jacobs, CONSAM, has spoken to Cllr. John Marshall and reported that the Barnet planning committee members had visited Brunner Close. They agreed that they had to consider the appearance of the specific property and cannot take other issues into account, such as the immediate environment, disruption during building works or the general character of the property in the area. Out of the 13 households in Brunner Close there were 10 objections excluding the applicant and one rented property.

Council members asked what action Barnet or the Trust could take to limit the disturbance during building works and were reminded that LB Barnet can restrict the times when work is permitted and can ask for an access plan to be prepared and agreed.

In discussion the RA agreed that it should try and learn from what happened in Camden where numerous basements had been approved and many had been constructed or were being constructed. The Trust, Consam and LB Barnet are arranging to meet and to talk about this issue.

Douglas Blausten suggested that if the RA thinks that basements are a major issue with social consequences, we should start a campaign and

perhaps join up with other organisations to get a change in legislation.

Colin Gregory suggested that Consam bring a report for discussion to the next Council meeting which was agreed

Eva Jacobs said that the RA has a duty to take such action as might be open to it, to protect neighbours from the noise and disruption that a new basement would involve.

Steve Morris pointed out that the Trust already accepts garage conversions and loft conversions on the Suburb.

Council members wishing to make suggestions on this issue should send them to Geoffrey Spyer within the next two weeks.

#### Street Lighting

Tony Ghilchik reminded Council that the RA had been invited by LB Barnet to advise on the suitability of areas where new 8' high lampposts were proposed. Consam had recommended 6' lampposts rather than 8' in some parts of Meadway, noting that a larger number of the shorter lampposts would be needed. It had been understood that this had been agreed but now LB Barnet had suggested that the RA contribute over £28,000 to enable 6m rather than 8m replacement lampposts to be erected.

Tony Ghilchik had written to LB Barnet to say that a Conservation Area should not be expected to pay for this and copied it to Cllr Marshall, who had agreed. After discussion the RA Council expressed the view that if money is the issue then there is no need to change the lighting.

#### Leaf Blowers

Richard Wakefield was concerned that no further action is being taken. Leaf blowers are banned from 20 cities in the USA and in California.

Jonathan Seres said that there is no existing regulation to invoke and residents cannot control what gardeners do. Some members disagreed and thought those who paid gardeners were in a position to insist they did not use leaf blowers.

Perhaps a letter to Boris Johnson would be appropriate. Richard Wakefield will bring up the question of the Trust's own contractors using blowers, for discussion by the Trust and Consam was asked by Janet Elliott to look at this issue again.

RWa

#### Events

David Littaur said that there will be an Events Committee meeting on 8 September and a report will be given to the next Council meeting.

#### Publications

Terry Brooks reported that although he had found two new volunteers to help with Suburb News but not so far an found an editor or help with obtaining advertisements. His appeal for a volunteer will be repeated.

Carol Boulter reiterated her view that the RA advertisements for volunteers should be made more attractive.

	<p><u>Benefactors' Board</u> This will be inaugurated on 5 October at 6.30pm before the Council Meeting. Unfortunately David B Lewis (who had agreed to this date) is now unable to attend.</p> <p><u>142 Hampstead Way</u> This plaque commemorating the visits of Lord Mayors of London is being updated.</p> <p><u>Roads and Traffic</u> Janet Elliott reported that Will Sowerbutts had been unable to arrange a meeting in July as had been hoped, but he had told her that he will shortly organise one. She will pursue this.</p> <p>Alan Brudney had spoken to Cllr Seal who had said that Barnet is still exceptionally busy with repairing pot holes and the Review of the CPZ is not at present active.</p> <p>Both Ian Tutton and Alan Brudney were concerned that the buses which bring the girls from outside HGS to and from school from elsewhere in London drive too fast and dangerously. He had taken this up with Jo Velleman who has not been able to help. In view of the current inactivity of the Roads and Traffic Committee, it was agreed that Alan Brudney will draft a letter to the Head Teacher for the Chairman to sign.</p> <p><u>Trees and Open Spaces</u> Tony Ghilchik reported that there is a list of replacement trees which has been sent to LB Barnet and the RA had agreed to pay for 15 trees.</p> <p><u>Erskine Hill Oaks</u> It has been agreed that the diseased American oaks will be replaced with limes and there is a cyclical programme of reducing the trees. LB Barnet is now speeding up the cycle. In view of the problems caused in the past when oak trees were cut down in Erskine Hill there was the question of whether the RA should notify residents of the position. There are two trees which need to be replaced and the rest need a reduction to their crowns. Colin Gregory had discussed this with Ann Spencer who thought that residents should be notified.</p> <p>A motion that Council supports a request to the Trees Committee that a letter should be written to inform residents of the position was passed with one vote against.</p>	<p>WS</p> <p>AB/J E</p> <p>TG</p>
9	<p><u>Community Facilities and Heritage Working Group</u> Simon Abbott said he assumed that Council members had read the latest minutes on email and were aware of the up-to-date position. He reiterated that all possible available sites for the relocation of the archives on the Suburb had been looked at.</p> <p><u>Lyttelton Playing Fields</u> The transformation of these playing fields is being organised by a group of parents with support from the LB Barnet and Lottery money. Tony</p>	

	<p>Ghilchik attended a meeting in August to look at the proposed project. He said that there are outstanding concerns which are being looked into. Janet Elliott will keep Simon Abbott informed of any developments in respect of playing fields which may form part of the on-going RA centenary project discussion.</p>	JE
10	<p><u>Strategy Working Group</u>  Richard Wiseman spoke about the email he had previously sent to all Council members. He added that in addition to the written statement, Janet Elliott has regular meetings with Jane Blackburn and Angus Walker. In addition, the RA needs to be cautious about offering public meetings due to the time effort and cost.</p> <p>Council agreed that the Working Party could issue an email to HGS List, Suburb News, Hendon Times, The Archer and The Press, with such modifications as they consider appropriate, taking into account any views submitted by Council members sent to the Strategy Working Party within the next 7 days.</p> <p>Steve Morris said that in future the community will be able to update the web site rather than him having to do it.</p> <p>Overall Richard Wiseman recommended that the RA Council should devote a whole Council meeting to discussing the RA strategy and it was agreed that the Council Meeting on 7 December will be devoted to RA Strategy. Nearer the time it will be decided how to accommodate any urgent matters which need to be discussed around that time.</p>	RWi
11	<p><u>Open House</u>  Alan Jacobs was thanked for all the work he had done on the Open House event, as was Ian Tutton.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs said that the RA the HGS Trust and the Free Church had spent a great deal of money and residents and their friends and family should be encouraged to attend to justify this.</p> <p>A Hampstead Heath calendar prepared by the City of London Corporation will be on sale at £9 at the Suburb Gallery stand at St Jude's.</p>	
12	<p><u>Any Other Urgent Business</u></p> <p><u>Litter in Central Square</u>  Rosalind Josephs said that she had contacted John Marshall who had spoken to Barnet officer, Dave Ward. He confirmed he had no instructions to remove any litter bins and there are currently five bins placed around the Square. DW agreed to monitor the position. It was reported that HBS school do empty the two bins in front of their building. Rosalind Josephs will keep Council informed</p>	RJ
13	<p><u>To confirm the date of the next Meeting on Tuesday 5 October at 8.00pm at Fellowship House – preceded at 6.30pm by the official unveiling of the Centenary Plaque. Confirmed</u></p>	