

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

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair

Simon Abbott, John Boulter, Terry Brooks, Bridget Cox, Louise Felder, Tony Ghilchik, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Lewis, David Littaur, Max Petersen, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres, Geoffrey Spyer, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield.

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Pia Duran.

Janet Elliott thanked David and Joyce Littaur and Richard Wakefield for their work for the reception for the formal unveiling of the donors' plaque which had preceded this meeting and Eddie Caplin for performing the unveiling.

1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten, Carol Boulter, Tony Brand, Alan Brudney, Charles Gale. Steve Morris, Will Sowerbutts, Richard Wiseman.</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting 7 September</u> – the minutes were approved.</p>	
3	<p><u>To receive the draft minutes of the Executive Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> September</u> - The minutes were received.</p>	
4	<p><u>Financial Report</u></p> <p><u>Outline of End of Year Arrangements</u> John Boulter will write to the committee and working party chairmen asking them to let him know of any new or large payments or receipts which are expected this year and to provide information on the expected levels of expenditure for next year.</p> <p><u>Centenary Fund Projects Update</u> Janet Elliott drew the attention of the Council to the reports on possible projects which might result in a permanent legacy of the Suburb Centenary, as well as to the limitations of the funds available. There had been discussions at EC and at Council. In particular she referred to the Executive Minutes of 16 September. Currently, one project, a 'Centenary Celebrations Playground' in Northway Gardens, strongly supported by the Trees &amp; Open Spaces Committee, was being actively pursued, and EC had noted that the Allotments Committee had indicated their intention to submit a request for money as a contribution to their next project to bring water to another of the Trust owned Suburb Allotments. Other suggestions such the Henrietta Barnett Walk (which was not necessarily dependent on Centenary money), memorial wall plaques, a centenary publication, were still under consideration. A proposed Music Olympiad had been ruled out as being outside the terms published when the request for money was initiated.</p> <p>However, since the most recent discussions at the EC, the position in respect of a possible 'Centenary Celebration' Children's Playground in Northway Gardens had undergone a change in size and in timescale, as a result of the possible availability of money from two other sources which would, together with the RA money, provide about £95,000</p>	JB

covering in full the estimated total costs.

Eva Jacobs was asked to outline the project on which she and Sally Lewis (on behalf of the EC and Trees & Open Spaces) were currently working with the active backing of the LB Barnet's Open Spaces Officer, Tracy Sawyer.

The project is the refurbishment of the pre-school age children's playground in Northway Gardens which is nearly derelict, and the creation alongside it of a 'Centenary' playground for older primary school age children. To allow this to happen the LB Barnet would donate a piece of land adjacent to the baby playground and the Trees & Open Spaces committee would need to get RA and the Free Church money to develop a play area for older children. The older children's playground would extend into the trees area but all the trees would remain. The ground would be covered with rubber matting through which grass would grow.

To bring this combined project about, the RA has been asked to make an application for Stage 1 funding to the Community Spaces Fund which is a subsidiary of the Big Lottery Fund. An amount of up to £50,000 could be available, and applications have to be submitted by January 2011. Assuming the money is agreed in principle, the precise details of the plans for the playground would have to be submitted under Stage 2. When final authorisation is obtained, it will take a matter of weeks for the project to be implemented, and it should be completed during 2011, the RA's own centenary year.

The major part of the Lottery money would be spent on the renovation, and the RA and Free Church centenary money would largely fund the extension of the playground for the older age group.

Ian Tutton explained that the Free Church is celebrating its Centenary year and confirmed that he supported allocating Free Church funds to this project as it would raise the profile of the Church and provide a legacy for their Centenary.

The two projects had been costed and the major part of the monies would be spent on the equipment which LB Barnet could obtain at competitive prices and without VAT. The definitive choice of equipment for both parts of the site had yet to be agreed.

A discussion of related issues then took place during which the following issues were raised.

Did this project conflict in any way with a proposed refurbishment of play areas in Lyttelton Playing Fields which has already received stage one approval. Tony Ghilchik explained that this was not the case.

Simon Abbott said he would have liked to see a playground project in the Central Square area. It was explained that there had been support for this in principle, but it had been investigated at an earlier stage and it had not proved possible for a variety of reasons including questions of land ownership.

SA also asked for a list of all applications which had been received, including those that have been rejected, to come to the Council.

Colin Gregory thought there should be consultation with residents before any work is carried out. It was agreed that Consultation with nearby

	<p>residents would be undertaken by Barnet and/or the RA.</p> <p>Finally a proposal was made that the RA Council agree to the submission of an application to the Lottery Fund on the assumption that, if funding is forthcoming, the RA would be committed to providing £20,000 from its Centenary Fund for this project.</p> <p>The proposal was passed Nem Con</p> <p>Eva Jacobs will complete the form and submit the application.</p>	EJ
5	<p><u>Question Time</u></p> <p><u>Fellowship</u> Pia Duran circulated brochures which had been prepared by Fellowship containing details of a programme of concerts at Fellowship House on Sunday afternoons and details of other activities taking place at Fellowship House.</p> <p>She asked whether it would be possible to have a central calendar of Suburb events to avoid a clash of events on the same day. Members were reminded that Steve Morris has already put in place a new facility which enabled event organisers who had registered to post their events directly on to the hgs website. The website can be accessed by all residents and the new service enables both organisers and other residents to avoid clashing dates wherever practicable.</p> <p><u>Allotments</u> Pia Duran confirmed that that the Allotments Committee would shortly be submitting an application for a grant from the RA towards providing a water supply to a further group of allotments.</p>	
6	<p><u>Trust Issues and AGM</u></p> <p>Janet Elliott reported that the Trust AGM had been a lively meeting. The election to the Trust Council resulted in the re-election of Angus Walker and Geoffrey Marriott who were the clear winners. The two 'Concerned Residents' candidates had however polled a considerable number of votes.</p> <p>Richard Wakefield commented that only one half of the members of the Trust company had voted and again encouraged members who are freeholders to get themselves on the list of Trust members.</p> <p>The Trust is setting up an Estates Committee to guide them on maintenance of property and land owned or maintained by them. Jane Blackburn had asked the Council to nominate two representatives from the RA. After discussion at EC it had been agreed to asked the Council to support the nomination of Pia Duran, Chair of the Allotments Committee and Rosalind Josephs, proposed by Consam. Council agreed that these nominations be forwarded to the Trust.</p>	JE
7	<p><u>Strategy Working Group</u></p> <p>As Richard Wiseman is out of the country there was no further update. However, a press release asking for residents to comment on levels of RA consultation with residents, among other matters, had been published in the Ham and High and Suburb News. A small number of replies have been received. The consultation is proceeding.</p>	
8	<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p>	

<p><u>Consam</u></p> <p><u>Street Lighting</u></p> <p>Tony Ghilchik returned to the problem which had arisen in respect of the request by Consam on behalf of the RA, for 6m rather than 8m lampposts in Meadway, for which LB Barnet had proposed a contribution of £28,000 from the residents and from the Trust. He had today received a further email from LB Barnet proposing consultation on the number and height of the new posts with Meadway residents. Tony expressed the view of Consam that the RA should be involved in this consultation and would prefer to work with Barnet to agree the details of the questionnaire rather than prepare a separate RA questionnaire. The Council agreed that this approach be adopted initially in the hope that an acceptable agreement could be reached.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs said that the lighting in Meadway impacts on the whole Suburb and she did not want to see Meadway being treated as if it were a main thoroughfare.</p> <p>Jonathan Seres suggested posting an article on the email list and in Suburb News and the local press explaining the position.</p> <p>Louise Felder pointed out that the twitten between Church Mount and Winnington Road is to have four new lampposts and it will be closed for 10 days. This is inconvenient as residents use it to walk to East Finchley station.</p> <p><u>Basements</u></p> <p>Geoffrey Spyer reported on a meeting of Consam members with Tony Hillier, from the Heath and Hampstead Society (HHS) and Angus Walker, Chairman of the Trust, to discuss the lack of clarity over planning laws, which do not mention basements. The meeting had disclosed that HHS are trying to set up a meeting with the Government minister Eric Pickles to discuss issues, including the structural impact of basements on adjoining property. The HHS are also trying to ensure that a proper independent geological survey is prepared as part of a planning application.</p> <p>Consam had sent letters to Angus Walker and to LB Barnet executive member Cllr Cornelius opposing the application for a basement at 14 Brunner Close, and drawing attention to the original statement in the Design Guidelines which had been ignored by L B Barnet and to the fact that the CAAC had also opposed the application.</p> <p>Colin Gregory was surprised that the letters had already been sent as he was hoping for a report and a discussion at this Council meeting as mentioned in the September minutes. He referred to the paper sent by Douglas Blausten to Council, which had argued for the adoption of a political approach to the problem. CG stressed the need for the Council to articulate why the RA is opposed to basements. Geoffrey Spyer responded that the Trust is delaying their decision and it had been important to send in a response from the RA as soon as possible.</p> <p>Tony Ghilchik said that the legal argument revolves around whether basements are specified as permitted development.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs said that we must stress the character of the Suburb and Jonathan Seres wanted to set aside time at the next Council meeting to discuss RA policy.</p>	<p>TG</p>
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<p>Bridget Cox considered this matter very important and would like an opportunity to comment and discuss it at length.</p> <p>Colin Gregory said that the RA should adopt a policy document. In response Geoffrey Spyer pointed out that Consam had been working hard on this issue and any Council member is welcome to attend a Consam meeting. He agreed that Consam will prepare a draft policy document but could not yet give a precise timescale.</p> <p><u>Events Committee</u></p> <p>David Littaur told the Council that Events had been considering various dates to celebrate the centenary of the RA in 2011: 17 January, 20 March and 19 October all had significance but the Council agreed that it would be better to have the principal celebrations in the summer when the weather is better. Suggestions from the Events Committee so far included a picnic on Central Square, a pageant (possibly linked to the picnic), inauguration of the replacement Tony Mandelson bench on Willifield Green, a sundial, a statue from Antony Gormley (who had in the past had Suburb connections), a black tie event or dinner, a commemorative book, a specially commissioned piece of music, and a recital. The Chairman reminded members that fund raising to support the RA Centenary was not currently planned and that some events or proposals would only be practicable if they could be self financing.</p> <p>In seeking agreement on preferred dates, David Littaur explained that the Committee had considered recommending a summer weekend of events, but had rejected this as some Jewish residents would not be able to participate in activities on a Saturday.</p> <p>Ian Tutton supported a weekend of events and offered the suggestion that a weekend arts and crafts event could be held in the Free Church, alongside which the 'picnic' style event could be held on the Sunday afternoon. There was general support for this proposal. IT was not in favour of an evening event on the same day, and in particular he did not want a black tie as that would not be inclusive.</p> <p>It was noted that past events had mostly avoided Saturday/Sunday mornings so as to permit worship and to be inclusive and agreed that events on Jewish Festival days (including 19 October 2011) would be avoided. However, after lengthy discussion it was agreed that both Saturday and Sunday afternoon events could be built into the programme. For Saturday events, it would be helpful if spending cash on the day were optional.</p> <p>It was noted that Henrietta Barnett School also have their centenary starting late in 2011 and that liaison with the school was necessary so that clashes of dates were avoided wherever possible.</p> <p><u>Publications</u></p> <p>Terry Brooks had previously circulated minutes of the Publications Committee.</p> <p>Janet Elliott suggested talking to the editor of The Archer to find out their approach to the organisation and recruitment of volunteers in the production of their paper.</p> <p><u>Roads and Traffic</u></p> <p>Janet Elliott had spoken to Will Sowerbutts who had still been unable to organise a meeting of the Road and Traffic Committee. He is, however,</p>	<p>GS</p>
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	<p>following up a proposal for the possible removal of the traffic light at the junction of East End Road and Ossulton Way with both the LB Barnet and Transport for London. Louise Felder said that the timing of those traffic light should be also looked at.</p> <p>Richard Wakefield said that as the committee had not met since the AGM last year, it should meet and elect a Chairman and Secretary as soon as possible. Judith Samson, an R&amp;T member, said that she will try to organise a meeting.</p> <p>It was reported that Gary Shaw had successfully helped a resident get a parking fine issued in The Bishops Avenue cancelled because the signage was unclear.</p> <p>Following discussion at the last Council meeting, Janet Elliott had written to Oliver Blond about the school buses. He had replied that the School had had very few complaints about the buses and those all from the same person. The buses were from a private company and there was no evidence to support the allegation. However OB would make the RA concern known to the operators.</p> <p><u>Trees &amp; Open Spaces</u></p> <p><u>Tony Mandelson Bench</u> Eva Jacobs is progressing this. She is hoping to have a meeting with LB Barnet as soon as practicable to discuss the provision and siting of a replacement bench.</p> <p><u>Erskine Hill Trees</u> Tony Ghilchik confirmed that a letter had been sent to all the households affected. To date he had only heard from three residents who all wanted the affected trees near their property to be replaced. LB Barnet will be writing to residents to explain what they are planning.</p>	EJ
9	<p><u>Community Facilities and Heritage Working Group</u> This Committee is meeting next week.</p>	
10	<p><u>Open House – 18/19 September</u> Janet Elliott said that numbers visiting HGS had been encouraging and again congratulated everyone involved in the open house week-end, particularly Alan Jacobs</p> <p>Ian Tutton said that he was pleased to see many visitors from South London at the Free Church.</p>	
11	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Council and EC Minutes not already discussed</u> Richard Wakefield pointed out that the Consam minutes do not mention the noise from the leaf blowers. Geoffrey Spyer replied that Consam had been very involved in street lighting and basements since the last meeting but would be following up the issues of leaf blowers as soon as practicable.</p>	GS
12	<p><u>Any Other Urgent Business</u> <u>38 Erskine Hill</u> Janet Elliott reported that the squatters had left.</p>	
13	<p><u>To confirm the date of the next meeting on Tuesday, 2 November at 8.00pm at Fellowship House at 8.00pm</u> This was confirmed.</p>	