

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 December 2010
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, John Boulter, Carol Boulter, Terry Brooks, Charles Gale, Louise Felder, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, David Lewis, Steve Morris, Max Petersen, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Geoffrey Spyer, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield, Richard Wiseman.

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Andrew Botterill, Brian Ingram

Apologies:

These were received from Peter Beesley, Alan Brudney, Bridget, Cox, Tony Brand, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres.

2. **Confirmation of Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Approved

3. **To Receive the draft Minutes of the Executive Meeting on 22 November for information** - These were received

3.1 Centenary and Other Projects - Janet Elliott had circulated a list of these projects to all Council members as requested. Nothing further had been heard regarding the application for funding for the Centenary Playground in Northway Gardens. EJ will follow this up. **EJ**

3.2 Suburb Gallery - Steve Morris asked what the position was regarding the notice to terminate the lease of the Gallery. Janet Elliott explained that this was a precautionary measure in view of the projected loss of £2000 for 2010. Fellowship were fully informed of the position. Any decision on the future of the gallery would require the support of the RA Council. A more detailed report will come to the Council for information and consideration in due course.

4. **Financial Report**

4.1 Monies raised in 1980s to fight works then proposed for Henly's Corner

In this connection, John Boulter reported that the HGS Residents Association had received a cheque for £1,500 from Ken Murrell, Acting Secretary, on behalf of the Henly's Corner Joint Action Committee. The accompanying letter explained that the residual monies (£9,000) were being distributed equally to six organisations working for the benefit of the area around Henly's Corner, and requesting that "the donation is spent in a way that directly benefits the community, for example assisting in planting of street trees".

John Boulter reported that there was uncertainty as to whether the Henly's Corner Joint Action Committee and the Falloden Way Fighting Fund set up as a Trust, with an initial donation of £5,000 from the RA, were related or separate bodies. Janet Elliott undertook to write to Ken Murrell asking if he is able to clarify the position. **JE**

JB also referred to a bank account for the Falloden Way Fighting Fund which had two trustees, Lord Soper, who had since died, and the other, Clement Halfon, who now lives abroad. JB thought that there could still be between £2,300 and £1,250 in an as yet unidentified RA account, which he believed to have been with Barclays Bank. A letter had been sent to Clement

Halfon some time ago asking him to nominate another Trustee but nothing had happened. JB undertook to try to see if more information could be obtained from Barclays or other sources.

JB

5. Question Time

5.1 Concerned Residents Group - Andrew Botterill attended to report on the meeting held on 5th December that had been organised by this group of residents. They had previously organised 300/400 signatures for a petition which had involved the appointment of a surveyor to look into and decide the appropriateness of the HGS Trust's Management Charge in 2008-2009. The meeting agreed to try to reinstate the Freeholders Association to look after the interests of the Freeholders on the Suburb. AB also reported that the organisers had said that they had received no support from the RA, and asked what the RA was planning to do.

Terry Brooks responded that no assistance from the RA had been sought by the 'Concerned Residents' group and Janet Elliott confirmed that this was the case. However, she reminded Council that the RA had given space in Suburb News before the recent Trust Council elections to the 'Concerned Residents' candidates. In addition, though the RA had supported the poll organised in 2009 for the introduction of a tiered Management Charge, the Council had not supported any proposal for the challenge mounted by the 'Concerned Residents' to the absolute level of the Management Charge. She drew attention to the 2010 Trust AGM in September attended by over a hundred residents where the 'Concerned Residents' candidates had put a motion for the rejection of the 2009-2010 Trust Accounts and been allowed to speak to their proposal. However, only seven Management Charge payers present had voted for the motion whereas over a hundred voted against. The final figures for the vote included around 40 management charge payers who had given a proxy to the 'Concerned Residents' in support of the challenge. No action on this issue was agreed.

5.2 Traffic problems near Brooklands School and street marking issues - Brian Ingram attended to voice his concern about traffic in the north of the Suburb in the Brooklands area. He particularly raised the question of a pending planning application for the proposed development of a further classroom at Brooklands School. He believes there is already a problem with parking and the LB Barnet now wish to place double yellow lines in a section of Brookland Rise which will make it impossible for some the residents to continue to park in front of their houses and to which he understands these residents object. Brian Ingram had signatures from about 300 residents supporting an objection and he wanted the support of the Roads and Traffic Committee. Earlier in the year on a related but not identical issue he had contacted Will Sowerbutts on three occasions but had not been able to obtain a response. He had spoken to Janet Elliott about his concerns, and JE had asked him to put his points in writing which BI had declined to do. This exchange was before the current planning application for an additional classroom had been applied for.

Richard Wiseman acknowledged that the RA does not have a working and effective Roads Committee at present. Douglas Blausten said that this is a major failing by the RA. Simon Abbott proposed and Council agreed that the EC should now deal with this matter.

Brian Ingram also commented that he thought that the north side of the Suburb was becoming isolated. Without crossing the Market Place to Lyttelton Playing Fields, there is no playground for children bearing in mind that families with young children tend to live on the north side. Eva Jacobs, who is as a member of the EC, asked Brian Ingram to prepare a note setting out the exact situation.

6. **Strategy Working Group discussion** - Richard Wiseman chaired this part of the Meeting. He introduced the Report of his Working Group which had previously been circulated to Council for their consideration. A comprehensive discussion took place on the Report and it was agreed that Richard Wiseman will take away all the comments by Council members for further discussion by the Working Group, who will again report back.

Terry Brooks proposed and Max Petersen seconded a motion 'That the sum of up to £500 should be made available to the Strategy Working Group towards costs associated with putting the e-mail addresses of members already held on the RA database into a format that can be used as a distribution list'. This would enable better communication with residents, possibly in the form of a monthly newsletter.' This was passed unanimously.

Before closing the debate, Richard Wiseman asked Andrew Botterill for his comments. AB replied that he was still horrified at the new extension at HB School and how the Trust and the RA had dealt with this, and the RA's failure to hold the Trust to account. The central part of the RA's constitution states that the RA must be proactive and ascertain what residents want and then represent them at the Trust and LBB. It is not for the RA to decide what issues they wish to take up.

There followed a further discussion on the workload of RA Council members and other volunteers acting for the RA via their membership of committees and on other projects, many of whom undertake many hours of work each week on a regular basis.

7. **Any Other Business**

7.1 David Lewis asked Council join him in thanking Janet Elliott for all the work she is doing as Ra Chairman.

7.2 Roads and Traffic

Charles Gale wanted to propose a Motion regarding the Roads and Traffic Committee which he withdrew due to the lack of time available for discussion.

7.3 Telephone Box

Rosalind Josephs told Council that the light had been fixed in the telephone box outside Fellowship House.

7.4 Review of Library Services by LBB – RA response

Janet Elliott said that the letter supporting the preservation of Library Services had been sent. JE thanked Council members for their input.

7.5 Basements

Three Consam members, Geoffrey Spyer, Tony Ghilchik and Alan Jacobs, together with Janet Elliott, had attended a meeting on Monday, 6 December with Cllr. Cornelius, Cabinet Member for Planning, at which Martin Cowie, LBB Head of Planning, had also been present. Cllr. Cornelius confirmed that the Design Guidelines were now in place and would be adhered to. The issue of the problems with current planning legislation in respect of planning applications for basements was discussed. Cllr. Cornelius stated that the issue of basements had moved up the Barnet agenda and, in addition to HGS, he was aware of a growing number of applications

for basements in other, less well protected areas including Totteridge which he represented. It was agreed that active liaison with LBB involving the Trust, RA Consam and CAAC on this issue would continue.

7.6 Centenary Logo

The Council approved the new logo to be used for the Suburb Centenary, which Richard Wakefield had previously circulated to Council.

8. **To Confirm the date of the next Meeting on Tuesday 4 January 2010 at 8.00pm at Fellowship House to be followed by wine and mince pies at 9.30pm. Confirmed**