

**Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on
4 January 2011 at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present: Janet Elliott in the Chair, Simon Abbott, John Boulter, Carol Boulter, Tony Brand, Alan Brudney, Bridget, Cox, Tony Ghilchik, Max Petersen, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, David Littaur, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres, Geoffrey Spyer, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield, Richard Wiseman.

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Lester Hillman, Alex Shattock.

1. Apologies:

These were received from Douglas Blausten, Terry Brooks, Louise Felder, Charles Gale, Colin Gregory, Rosalind Josephs, David Lewis, Steve Morris.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting - December 7th 2010. Agreed

3. Matters Arising from the December Minutes

Min 4.1 Monies Raised to Fight Henly's Corner

Janet Elliott had spoken and written to Ken Murrell who agreed to respond in writing shortly.

Min. 5.1 Concerned Residents Group

Council's attention was drawn to an article published by the Concerned Residents Group in the Ham & High of 23 December followed by a response from Jane Blackburn on behalf of the HGS Trust in the 30 December issue.

Min 6. Strategy Working Group Discussion

The Group had not met since the last Council Meeting.

Mins 7.3 Review of Library Services

Janet Elliott reported that there had been no response to her letter about the proposed closures.

4. Financial Report

4.1 End of Year Update

John Boulter said that the year has ended and the figures will be available in the next few weeks. Janet Elliott, said that the records indicated that the RA's gross income from membership will be roughly similar to last year and Fellowship's income will be within £150 of last year. John Boulter estimated a small loss for the year. Richard Wakefield asked whether there was yet a budget for next year but John Bolter said that he had not received the figures requested from all the committee chairmen for their proposed expenditure.

4.2 Suburb Gallery

Richard Wakefield had given the latest figures to John Boulter. There will be a loss of £1300 which is less than anticipated. The loss includes a one off cost of £470 for the purchase of a new sign for the Gallery outside Fellowship House. He also repeated the great difficulty in finding volunteers for the Gallery. The future of the

Gallery will be discussed at the next Council meeting when the Heritage Working Group will give their report.

4.3 Proms Sponsorship for 2011

Janet Elliott told Council that the EC had recommended to Council that the RA continue to support the Proms by again becoming silver sponsors of the Proms at a cost of £2,700 including the sponsorship of the lunch time concerts. She pointed out that these concerts give a platform within the Suburb to young musicians, encourage all age groups to attend the free events and are of especial benefit to the retired and young people who attend. The Proms also provide publicity for the Suburb and for the RA.

All Council members who spoke thought that the Proms were an excellent benefit to the Suburb.

There followed a discussion on the benefits received by the RA from the sponsorship package.

Max Petersen suggested that we ask for 6 free tickets which would be used to encourage residents to set up a standing order for the payment of their annual RA membership. There was support for this idea. However, Janet Elliott pointed out that as Silver Sponsors the RA gets 2 free and 2 half price tickets. In previous years these had been allocated to Hon. Life Members (the most recently appointed being the first choice assuming they were able to take up the offer). Ian Tutton said that the RA is different from other commercial sponsors and perhaps we could be looked at in a different way which would promote the RA.

David Littaur, a member of the organising committee of the Proms, reminded members that the sponsorship money raised each year was for the facilities and the payment of musicians and that the receipts from ticket sales were given to the supported charities (Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice). Sponsorship money was forthcoming because of the charitable purposes of the Proms, but had to be raised afresh each year.

Richard Wiseman suggested that the RA's future participation should be considered by the Strategy Group in terms of how the RA spends its money and whether it has sufficient funds. Eva Jacobs agreed that the Strategy Group should consider this and related issues as part of their ongoing considerations

A motion was proposed by Richard Wakefield, seconded by Ian Tutton and passed unanimously "to make £2700 available for Silver Sponsorship of the St Jude's Proms for 2011, to include the sponsorship of the Lunch Time concerts".

5. Question Time

Lester Hillman explained that he had not attended to ask a question but to draw the attention of the Council to a particular event. He and other residents in Creswick Walk are organising an exhibition at the Gallery from 6 February to celebrate the centenary of the naming of their street and the bi-centenary of the birth of artist Thomas Creswick. They are also holding a reception for Creswick Walk residents at the Gallery on 5 February.

As Thomas Creswick was one of the lesser known artists recognised by street names in HGS, this would give residents a chance to learn more about him. LH also felt that the formula could be used by residents of other streets named after artists or famous individuals, to organise mini-centenary events as occasion arose.

6 Overview of RA Activities in 2010

Janet Elliott said that the RA should not underestimate their recent achievements. In Suburb News in January 2010 the RA had set out a broad plan of what it planned to do in 2010. She believed that we had gone a long way to fulfil this. There remained work to be done in the field of communicating with residents but that was being considered in detail by the Strategy Working Party and by the development of the HGS website. Members were informed that the next Suburb News will be published on 22 January. The AGM would be on Monday, 28 March and the AGM mailing to members together with the Annual Report, will be sent out during February.

7. Recent Live Committee Issues

7.1 Possible removal of oak trees

Trees and Open Spaces had objected to the removal of the oaks on EDF site by Tea House and a decision by the LBBarnet is awaited. Tony Ghilchik had asked LB Barnet to consult with residents if they change their plans for the oaks in Erskine Hill and it was understood this would happen.

7.2 Street Lighting

LB Barnet had sent a letter to Meadway residents regarding the proposed 8m lamp posts. The RA and Douglas Blausten had also sent their own letters to residents informing them how to object to this proposal.

7.3 Consam - BT Boxes

Geoffrey Spyer said that BT had withdrawn its planning applications for all but four of the new boxes. He will inform Richard Wakefield of their location to include in Suburb News and will send an email to Council.

7.4 Gas Pipes in Kingsley Way area

In reply to a question from Jonathan Seres, Geoffrey Spyer confirmed the gas pipes are being monitored.

7.5 Roads & Traffic

Janet Elliott said that the Roads and Traffic Committee had still not met. She had tried to deal with some issues aided by Gary Shaw.

7.6 Free Parking Bays

LB Barnet is proposing to remove free spaces from CPZs where they now exist and turn them into residents' or paying bays. She had written to LB Barnet on behalf of R&T to object to this proposal.

7.7 Review of Temple Fortune CPZ

Alan Brudney said that a review had been promised by LB Barnet but this had not yet happened. He wanted the RA's support for Asmunds Hill residents when this is done. Janet Elliott commented that the RA did not know with certainty what these residents wanted. Richard Wiseman said that this is an ideal opportunity to consult with residents. Council was informed that the Government is understood to be changing the rules to stop some parking restrictions which drive shoppers to use out of town shopping centres instead of local shops.

7.8 Pot Holes

Janet Elliott reported that Mr. Simmons of Ossulton Way had asked to meet the Roads & Traffic Committee to discuss these. She had told him that the Committee is in transition and gave him some information which would assist him.

8. Any Other Urgent Business

8.1 AGM

Bridget Cox asked whether it would be possible for the RA Council to advertise in advance a serious topic for discussion at the AGM in addition to the formal agenda. Janet Elliott said that this could of course be considered but the Council is not in control of the subjects raised by Motions from members that are put to Council and there is a limited amount of time for the AGM.

8.2 Misc. Letters

Council members requested that letters are sent to Jo Velleman on her retirement, Susie Gregson on her MBE and a letter of condolence to Gerry Mansell's son on his death. He had been Chairman of the RA and then became Chairman of the Trust. **JE**

8.3 New Year's Eve Fireworks

Janet Elliott thanked everyone who had helped with this event which had been a great success. £550 had been collected on the evening towards the cost, considerably above previous years. The engagement of Dave Brown in a professional capacity to manage the event had considerably added to the smooth running of the event on the night. .

9. To confirm the date of the next Meeting on Tuesday 1 February at 8.00pm at Fellowship house. Confirmed