

**Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 February 2011**  
**at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present: Janet Elliott - in the Chair, Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, John Boulter, Carol Boulter, Tony Brand, Charles Gale, Louise Felder, Tony Ghilchik, David Lewis, Max Petersen, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Walter Pires, Bridget Waller, Melissa Hay

With great regret, Janet Elliott informed the Council of the recent deaths of former Chairmen of the RA, Gerard Mansell and Eileen Whelan and that Christopher Kellerman, who for many years had been Manager of the HGS Trust, had died last week.

**1. Apologies:**

Received from Peter Beesley, Alan Brudney, Bridget Cox, Colin Gregory, Terry Brooks, Colin Gregory, Steve Morris, Geoffrey Spyer and Richard Wiseman.

**2. Minutes**

2.1 Confirmation of Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – January 4th.  
Approved

2.2 To receive the draft Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting –January 18th. Noted

2.3 To note the Minutes of the 2020 AGM. These were noted. A summary will be prepared for approval at the 2011 AGM.

2.4 Correction to previously approved Minutes of the RA Council Meeting of 7 December 2010

The Council was informed that subsequent to the posting on the hgs website of the approved Minutes of the RA Council meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010, Andrew Botterill requested a factual correction to Minute 5.1 Question Time. The wording of the correction has now been agreed with AB and Council further agreed that the corrected first paragraph of the minute be posted as follows:

*"5.1 Concerned Residents Group - Andrew Botterill attended to ask what the RA is doing about the matter given that the group has gathered support via a petition of some 300/400 signatures and that therefore they represented a significant body of opinion within 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. "*

**3. Centenary Project Update – Proposed Northway Gardens Centenary Playgrounds**

Eva Jacobs reported that the application to the Community Spaces Fund for refurbishment of the pre-school age playground had been turned down but at a meeting with Tracy Sawyer the Open Spaces Officer for LB Barnet it had been agreed that on the assumption that the money from the Suburb Centenary of £20,000

and with £25,000 from the Free Church was available, the proposed children's playground for older children on the adjoining land could proceed. LB Barnet will prepare the plans for the playground for approval by the RA and the Free Church.

Eva Jacobs also proposed that although she and Sally Lewis had been progressing this project to date on behalf of the Trees & Open Spaces Committee it now needs a dedicated group of people to implement it.

John Boulter pointed out the need for controls and Ian Tutton said we need to establish a Working Group with the Free Church as 'senior partner'. He was, however, still concerned both about having a derelict pre-school age playground adjacent and to ensure that LB Barnet will pay for the future maintenance of the new playground.

Simon Abbott expressed his concern that the existing pre-school age playground in Northway Garden may close when the new playground is completed. Ian Tutton said that there had been no suggestion that this would happen and Evan Jacobs reported that the Trees & Open Spaces Committee were continuing to seek funding for its refurbishment

Council agreed that a small group be arranged between the Free Church and Trees & Open Spaces (on behalf of the RA) which would have responsibility for ensuring that the project was properly overseen and monitored. In the meantime, Eva Jacobs has been looking at various playgrounds with Sally Lewis to enable them to recommend some appropriate items of equipment. Jonathan Seres stressed the need for everything agreed to be in writing. **EJ&IT**

Eva Jacobs then proposed a Motion which was seconded by Jonathan Seres that the RA welcomed the project in its revised form and that it should proceed subject to successful final negotiations with a grant from the Suburb Centenary Fund of up to £20,000. This was passed nem con.

Carol Boulter asked the position about the Lyttelton Playing Field project and Tony Ghilchik said that this is a project of a different kind but confirmed he understood from published information that the organisers are still seeking considerable funding.

#### **4. Financial Report**

John Boulter said that the detailed actual figures for 2010 are not available as he was waiting to hear about the pay pal receipts. It did seem that there would be a surplus. Richard Wakefield said that he would like the figures by the end of the week for inclusion in the Annual Report **JB/SM**

#### **5. Question Time**

Bridget Waller and Melissa Hay asked the Council about street lights in Creswick Walk. They wanted to ensure that the lighting is proportionate for small cottages and to ensure that there is some unity amongst the small roads on the Suburb. Tony Ghilchik said that he was not aware of the specific proposals for this road but he had no reason to believe they would be other than the standard 6m posts, agreed for all roads except major through roads where there would be some 8m posts. The position in Meadway was still under discussion. TG also commented that if the residents of Creswick Walk wished to pay for special lighting Barnet would probably be happy to provide this and Consam will be pleased to give any advice if they can.

#### **6. Arrangements for Annual Report and AGM**

#### 6.1 Committee Chairmen's Summaries for work in 2010

These had been circulated. Chairmen were now being asked to edit them for inclusion in the Annual Report. Richard Wakefield would like these revised drafts by 7 February.

#### 6.2 Proposal for Special General Meeting

Jonathan Seres proposed that if a resident wishes to bring a motion to the AGM s/he should have the support of a number (say 30) of residents and that the amount of time spent on the discussion of the Motion and the number of speakers should be set out. This would mean a change to the Constitution.

Simon Abbott suggested that this waited for the outcome of the Strategy Review in case there were other changes they wished to propose. At an AGM the Chairman could always limit the time spent on discussing a Motion.

Carol Boulter said that this may be denying residents their rights.

The proposal was withdrawn after a discussion.

#### 6.3 Proposal for a Special Presentation at the AGM

Jonathan Seres said that this had been raised at an earlier meeting by Bridget Cox and he suggested some suitable items for discussion.

Carol Boulter thought that the AGM should give members an opportunity to ask questions and find out what is happening.

Simon Abbott said that most organisations he is involved with do have a keynote speaker at their AGMs which provides interest and is a spring board for discussion.

Douglas Blausten asked how many opportunities are available to residents to air their concerns.

Louise Felder suggested that residents are asked to submit questions in advance.

Richard Wakefield said that this has been done in the past without success but it was agreed that it should be tried again for 2010.

David Littaur supported a discussion on a particular topic but suggested it could be a problem if the time available was limited.

It was agreed to have badges worn at the AGM by all council members to enable them to be identified and residents could approach them before and after the formal meeting.

**RW**

The proposal was withdrawn.

#### 6.4. Officers and RA Council Members for 2011

Janet Elliott and David Lewis agreed to stand for re-election as Chairmen and Vice-Chairman. The nomination was endorsed by Council.

John Boulter is not standing again as Hon Treasurer nor is he standing for the RA Council in 2011.

Bridget Cox, Steve Morris and Louise Felder will not stand for re-election at the AGM.

Steve Morris is resigning as Chairman of Membership

A new Hon Treasurer and Hon. Secretary are still required.

Roads and Traffic have called their first meeting this year on February 3rd. Gary

Shaw is helping Will Sowerbutts to revitalise the committee.

### **7. Strategy Working Group**

A progress paper on the second interim report had been circulated in advance to Council members and was introduced by Jonathan Seres. The report will be issued in March.

The Working Party Committee is keen to proceed quickly begin the proposal in item 8 of the report.- short meetings with representatives from the Trust and LB Barnet, probably at Fellowship House which would have a social nature but also operate with a pre-arranged informal agenda. An informal implementation sub-group of the Working Party, with a brief to facilitate these meetings, was already in place. A motion that this proposal should be implemented was proposed by Simon Abbott and seconded by Richard Wakefield and passed nem con.

The report overall was noted. The Working Party was also inviting further nominations from Council and existing Committees to help with carrying further their work.

## **8 Recent live issues in Committee Areas**

### 8.1 Consam

Eva Jacobs reported (on behalf of Alan Jacobs and in the absence of Geoff Spyers) on the attempts by Consam to obtain the removal of an large BT installation on the verge in Temple Fortune Hill which had been erected without the consent of LB Barnet.

### 8.2 Events

David Littaur repeated that he would like to hear from Council members who are available to help at the AGM.

### 8.3 Roads and Traffic issues

Janet Elliott reported that she has been working with Will Sowerbutts and Gary Shaw on various issues as well as making an attempt to get the Committee fully operational again. As a result notices have been posted on the HGS web site and Councillors have been written to about proposed removal the free parking bays with the Golders Green and East Finchley CPZs and the large proposed increases in charges for parking at meters. Will Sowerbutts attended a meeting at the Town Hall where Councillors were discussing proposed increases in charges including those associated with parking. Resident and shop-keepers had expressed strong opposition to the proposals which were nevertheless passed for onward approval by the Council.

Jonathan Seres proposed and Charles Gale seconded a Motion that the RA deplored the large increase in residents parking fees in the CPZ and considered that residents should be able to park their cars on the road at a minimum cost. This was passed by 13 votes in favour and 5 against.

Road works are about to start at Henlys Corner. Janet Elliott had written to remind tfl about the Council's earlier objection to the proposed size of the gantries when the current plans were proposed two years ago.

The residents of Hogarth Hill, Addison Way and Creswick Walk were concerned at the extra traffic flow but tfl have said that there are no plans to close these roads. A public exhibition, where engineers will provide information about issues such as diversion routes and measures to mitigate traffic queues and rat running will take place from 16-20 March at Chalgrove Primary School.

### 8.4 Trees and Open Spaces

Tony Ghilchik reported that there is a proposal to replace the existing flower beds with herbaceous plants in Golders Hill Park, to save costs. There will be a Bigwood Open Day on 12 February from 10am-1.00pm and residents were invited to attend.

Eva Jacobs said that progress is at last being made on the replacement of the Tony Mandelson Memorial Bench. Rosalind Josephs reported that LBBarnet had replaced benches by Emmott Close and Meadway/Heath Close.

## **9 Heritage Working Group**

Simon Abbott had circulated a paper prior to the meeting. He explained that the proposed the Heritage Centre may need to have more than one site. Because of this the name will be changed to "HGS Heritage". Membership of the Working Group is representative of the main Suburb organisations.

Under current plans the Archive Trust is hoping to be housed within the HGS Trust Offices but this accommodation will not be available for about two years. In the meantime the Society of Friends has offered temporary storage. It was hoped that a gallery and visitors reception will be housed at Fellowship House (partly replacing the existing RA Gallery) but negotiations are still at an early stage. He reminded the Council that they had already agreed in principle to allocate up to £5,000 towards the possible development of a permanent heritage display at the RA Gallery at Fellowship House.

A draft constitution had been submitted to the Charity Commission to obtain charitable status and patrons are being acquired. No site has been found for a suburb museum, with the Tea House remaining out of reach. £1,000 has been requested from the RA to cover the set up costs associated with the Charity. Steve Morris had agreed to assist setting up its own web site.

The Working Group has agreed to investigate the setting up of a "Community Learning Network". The Institute has withdrawn classes from the Suburb and new classes are appearing, some run by former Institute tutors. The Suburb web site can include a section listing these details and the site manager has agreed to help with this.

Also proposed is a survey could collect information on what the existing organisations do and how they can work together to support and strengthen the social fabric of the Suburb.

Jonathan Seres proposed a Motion which was seconded by Rosalind Josephs that Council approve in principle the expenditure of up to £1000 to cover the costs of setting up the HGS Heritage as a charitable company. This was passed nem con.

## **10. Any Other Urgent Business**

### 10a. Suburb News

Carol Boulter made the following statement 'I want to protest at the misrepresentation in the latest Suburb News that the views of Andrew Botterill were at variance with those of the RA when neither the views of Council members have ever been asked for on this matter, nor those of other members of the Residents' Association. The silence at the meeting of the Council tonight at this misrepresentation of its views and of the RA in general is deafening - and deadly for the future health of the RA'.

Richard Wakefield pointed out that every issue of Suburb News carried a statement that Suburb News was published by the Residents Association and that views expressed are not necessarily those of the publishers'.

### 10b. Burglaries and Policing

Janet Elliott had been in touch with Derek Chandler, the Chairman of the Garden Suburb Safer Neighbourhood Team Community Panel, and with the Community Police groups covering the Suburb, and she will be attending a meeting about the future of community policing on Monday 7 February.

10c. Confidentiality on HGS discussion group

The question of confidentiality of emails sent to RA Council members via the closed email list and it was agreed the issue of confidentiality should be discussed by the EC.

**11. To confirm the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 1 March at 8.00pm at Fellowship House. Confirmed**