

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 June 2011
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Simon Abbott, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Jeremy Clynes, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, David Lewis, 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, Patricia Leonard, David Attfield, Frank Kriawaczek

Janet Elliott reported that Carol Boulter had resigned from Council and she had written to thank her for all the work she had done for the RA over many years.

1. Apologies.

These were received from Douglas Blausten, Alan Brudney, Colin Gregory, Stephanie Hurst, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres.

2. Confirmation of Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 3 May

Min. 7.2 Consum
Garden Suburb School Planning Application
Add 'and others' after 'Geoffrey Spyer' to Line 1

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda

Min. 3 – An RA representative on HB School governors
David Lewis had met with Oliver Blond who is not against RA representation. He will discuss this with his governing body and report back. **DL**

4. Financial Report and Budget

Jeremy Clynes had circulated his first set of management accounts in a new format together with a budget which predicted a deficit for the year of over £2,000. One member, Douglas Blausten had recommended rejection in an email. JC explained that the budget was based on expenditure already incurred and the cost of activities already agreed by the Council. Members were in favour of a balanced budget but noted that the RA had reserves and Council had previously agreed that expenditure on events would likely be above average in the RA's centenary year.

It was noted that there had been no application form submitted for funding for the events at HB School in aid of Toynbee Hall and the date had passed for the events.

In reply to a question about the Michael Rowley Memorial Lecture it was thought that about 70/80 residents had attended and most had paid the requested voluntary contribution of £5 or more. Approximately £240 had been collected towards the costs.

In discussion it was agreed that a budget for 2012 would be considered in advance by the Executive so that Council could discuss the implications of various proposals for expenditure at the beginning of the year with the aim of avoiding a deficit.

After discussion the budget was approved and Jeremy Clynes thanked for the work he had done.

Banking

Jeremy Clynes told Council that he is changing the signatories on the RA's bank accounts. The main accounts and the gallery account would be transferred to HSBC. The present No2. Account with Barclays would be kept open for the receipt of membership payments from existing standing orders.

5. Question Time

5.1 Temple Fortune Notice Board

Joyce Littaur asked what progress had been made regarding the Temple Fortune Notice Board. Simon Abbott said that it is proceeding but very slowly. The work to the Hoop Lane notice board had been completed. Rosalind Josephs pointed out that the board in Wildwood Road is owned by the Water Board and the RA has no interest in it.

5.2 CPZ charges

Patricia Leonard, a resident of Corringham Road told the Council that she and a group of residents are trying to challenge the 400% increase in visitors parking charges which affected especially elderly or disabled people who relied on friends and relative for regular care services. She asked for support from the RA. Gary Shaw explained that there are three elements to LB Barnet's increase: resident's permits costs, removal of free spaces and increases in pay and display costs. The Roads and Traffic Committee had felt that they could only object to the free spaces and the increase in pay and display costs. The Committee was generally not in favour of CPZs but was aware that opinion in the Suburb was divided on this issue. They had warned residents that substantial increases would happen, if they asked Barnet to set up, or agreed to a scheme in their road.

David Atfield, a resident of East Finchley who is leading the campaign against the increase in residents' parking charges in CPZs in LBB, was also attending to ask if the RA would agree to support his campaign. He said that the aim of these increases is to pay for road repairs across the Borough and not just the administration of the parking CPZs which is the legal requirement. He had launched a judicial revue and wanted to raise awareness with the RA and to ask residents to help in raising funds to finance this.

Ian Tutton said that the RA should inform residents of this campaign on the RA web site and give them a contact point. Terry Brooks reminded the meeting. that these changes especially affect poor people in the Suburb and across the Borough.

Richard Wakefield will place an article about these challenges in Suburb News and Roads and Traffic will prepare an article for the web site. Consideration will also be given to the preparation of an email for the HGS discussion group. RW/WS/GS

5.3 Tony Mandelson Memorial Bench

Frank Kriawaczek wanted to know what had happened about the location of the bench. Tony Ghilchik said that the position of the bench had been agreed. Installation will be by the LBB.

6. To receive the Minutes of the Executive Committee of 19 May - received

7. Matters arising from the EC minutes

7.1 Open House in HGS in 2011

Alan Jacobs had negotiated a special rate for HGS to participate in the Open House scheme again this year. Ian Tutton said that the Free Church had agreed to contribute £200 this year. HGS Trust had also agreed to pay £800. It was confirmed that St Jude's had not contributed last year.

Council agreed to contribute £600 from the RA for Open House 2011.

JC

7.2 Security on the Suburb

As agreed at the May Council meeting the EC considered setting up a small group to carry out proposals made by Charles Gale to monitor the extent of the problems of anti-social behavior on and around Willifield Green. The EC thought that this was really a police matter and the RA should avoid taking any action whereby members of the group may put themselves at risk. The EC did not think it appropriate to set up a working group but Charles Gale, (with assistance from Gary Shaw and Ian Tutton) would help to monitor the position over the summer and report back in the autumn. . Council agreed the framework for monitoring was agreed as set out in the May EC minutes..

CG

8. Working Strategy Group

A report had been circulated to the Council prior to this meeting relating to the preparation of and procedures for amendments to Council Minutes and the format and number of Council meetings. The change would reflect more accurately the balance between Council and Executive meetings as set out in the Constitution. The EC had agreed to recommend this proposal to Council.

David Lewis had doubts about whether the reduction in Council Meetings would work but Ian Tutton said that it would change the balance between the EC and Council in line with the Constitution and the EC would have to take more responsibility. The Chairman pointed out that we have communication by email and not all members of Council can attend all meetings. Simon Abbott thought the change a good idea and he preferred shorter minutes.. He supported the proposal.

There was some support for the idea that the alternate months should be open meetings with or without a formal agenda, where a topic of interest to residents could be discussed and a feeling that this might stimulate greater interest in the RA and perhaps lead to wide membership and more volunteers. Such meetings could be advertised on the web and on notice boards and RA Councillors could be invited.

Terry Brooks proposed that the RA adopt this paper and that we trial alternate months for Council meetings with a residents' forum, for a period of one year. This was seconded by Max Petersen and carried nem con.

The EC will plan how this scheme should be operated and announced.

9. Proposal for possible independent inquiry into RA procedures in connection with the new building on the HB School site.

Simon Abbott had circulated a paper prior to this meeting setting out the purpose and process of the proposed inquiry and the terms of reference.

Discussion showed that not all Council members supported the proposal for an Inquiry and some uncertainty about what it could be expected to achieve, and whether it could be expected to bring closure, especially since the Council had already taken action to change the Council's procedures designed to prevent a similar situation arising in the future.

Richard Wiseman said that there is some resentment at the role of the RA in respect of the Henrietta Barnett development and the passing of the motion at the AGM, and the discussion at the April Council indicated that the RA needed to take some further action. Terry Brooks said that we have no alternative other than to have an Inquiry as the resentment will continue until we clear the air. Ian Tutton pointed out that the RA had never apologised to residents and the Council should never be afraid to create a forum for dissent. The question of perhaps allowing wider access to the consultant than proposed in the paper was raised but was left open for further consideration.

A motion that the RA proceed with the proposals as set out in Simon Abbott's paper but with a limit on the cost of the inquiry to £2000, was taken.

There were seven votes in favour and seven votes against with three abstentions. The Chairman gave her casting vote in favour of the motion which was then passed.

10 Committee Reports

These were not taken because of lack of time. However, minutes of Consam, Trees & Open Spaces, Publications and Events had been circulated to all Council members since the previous meeting.

11 Any Other Urgent Business

Janet Elliott raised the following matters:

11a Proposed Library Closure

Deborah Warland, who is leading a campaign against the proposed closure of the Library in Market Place, had sent a paper seeking further support for the campaign which had been forwarded by Janet Elliott to Council. This urged as many residents as possible to write to protest against this closure as individual protests carry more weight than group petitions.

11b Concerned Residents latest Newsletter

Janet Elliott had circulated this to EC members. She said that it contained numerous inaccuracies. Agreed she would email it to Council and ask for their comments and contributions to a possible RA response. This would be discussed at EC on 16 June and at the July Council meeting.

12 To confirm the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 5 July at 8.00pm at Fellowship House - confirmed