

**Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 July 2011
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Simon Abbott, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Jeremy Clynes, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, Stephanie Hurst, David Lewis, David Littaur, Max Petersen, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Jonathan Seres Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield, Richard Wiseman.

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Andrew Botterill, Josh Pettit

1 Apologies

Tony Brand, Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, Judith Samson, and Geoffrey Spyer.

2. Confirmation of Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were approved

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3a. RA Representative on HB School Governing Body

David Lewis confirmed that the issue of RA representation on the Board of Governors of HBS (including what form that might take) was still under discussion.

3b. Temple Fortune Notice Board

Simon Abbott reported that this has been renovated and the distributors have been informed.

4. Update on Proposal for an Independent Inquiry into RA procedures in connection with the new building on the HB School site

Simon Abbott reported that he, Gary Shaw and Richard Wiseman were considering possible candidates to hold the Inquiry. A proposal would come to Council in September.

5. Financial Report

Council considered the Treasurer's report for year to 9 June. Previously agreed extra expenditure of about £900 on Notice Boards was noted and an initial £500 of the agreed budget for the Heritage Working Group. Council would have a final 2012 budget for the December meeting. Early figures from Committee Chairmen would be helpful so that any necessary adjustments could be made to prevent a further deficit in 2012.

6. Question Time

Andrew Botterill asked Council to support the call he and a number of other residents had made to the Trust that some particular motions be included in the Trust AGM and be debated there. The motions related to the new buildings at HBS and were recommending changes in Trust procedures. While misgivings were expressed about the motions themselves Council supported the proposal that in the interests of transparency they should be discussed at the AGM. A motion proposed by Ian Tutton and seconded by Jonathan Seres that the Chairman would write to the Trust to support the motions being included in the business of the AGM, was agreed nem con.

Richard Wakefield said that under the Article 12 the Trust can refuse to agree to this. There has been a budget for the Scheme of Management since 2005 and most freeholders seem happy with the level of the charge. Many leaseholders make a voluntary donation and some freeholders make an extra voluntary donation.

Janet Elliott said that there is a strong possibility that the Trust will be reviewing their Memorandum and Articles of Association next year and they would be unlikely to make a change to one article at this stage.

Simon Abbott thought that a vacuum had developed enabling this group to emerge but he supported the idea that the Trust deals with issues raised by residents.

7. Minutes of the Executive Committee of 17 June - received.

8. Programme for Council Meetings and meeting with residents from September 2011

Richard Wiseman tabled a draft of an article he had prepared for Suburb News which had been approved by EC. He explained the distinction between Question Time and the open meetings planned to be held from time to time on evenings on which the Council would previously have met. QT would continue to be used for matters of immediate concern raised by individual or groups of residents. The open meetings would be on subjects of the Council's choosing and would more likely to relate to longer term issues of general interest. It was agreed that candidates for local elections would be invited to use the meeting in April 2012 as a hustings.

9. "Concerned Residents" and The Trust

The discussion was prompted by the recent circulation of a newsletter by the "Concerned Residents". The general sentiment of the meeting was unsympathetic to the views put forward by "Concerned Residents" and it was agreed that the "facts" they relied on were inaccurately and misleadingly expressed. It was thought that the RA should not be seen to be acting as the Trust's advocate in the matter and the Trust should do more to put its case. However, it was agreed that Suburb News should continue to allow both sides to put their cases and that the RA should, through Suburb News encourage residents to join the Trust, go to its AGM and vote. Material in Suburb News setting out the RA's position must be approved by the Chairman.

11. Committee Reports

11a. Events

David Littaur reported on the success of the Centenary celebrations on 2/3 July combining the picnic on Central Square and the Creative Arts Festival in the Free Church. This had been a wonderful weekend with a particularly good atmosphere. He thanked all concerned. The meeting expressed its gratitude to David Littaur for the immense effort he had personally put into the event to secure its success.

He also reminded members that three Suburb walks were being organised by the Events committee in September, October and November. Details will be on the website and in Suburb News.

The need for still greater publicity for RA events using the various means available to us was noted,

11b Publications

Terry Brooks reported that the next Suburb News will be published in July. Richard Wakefield said that this will be an eight page edition with its costs covered from advertising revenue. Copy to RWA as soon as possible.

11c. Consam

Tony Ghilchik said that Consam had met the previous evening. They are trying to put pressure on LB Barnet who has not yet come back about the proposed 31/2m posts on Central Square but he was optimistic that they will agree to this.

11d. Roads and Traffic

Gary Shaw told the Council that a R&T meeting will be taking place in a fortnight's time. He is continuing to assist residents with their parking tickets with a high level of success. Charles Gale reported no instances of unruly behaviour so far this season on Willifield Green.

12 Any Other Business

12a. Saving HGS Library in Market Place

The Chairman reminded Council that the Libraries Committee was meeting on Monday 11 July at 7.00pm to discuss proposals for closures. The support of as many HGS residents as possible present at that meeting would help the Suburb's case.

12b. Security on the Suburb

The Safer Neighbourhood Team, who have reported a large increase in residential burglaries and thefts of and from cars in the Suburb, are organising a series of meetings in Suburb Roads where they will discuss local concerns. Residents should be encouraged to support these. If any member of the Council wishes to become involved with the liaison with the Police they should contact Derek Chandler. Charles Gale will be attending a Barnet wide-meeting next week and will report back.

Ian Tutton reported that Jean Barraclough, former Vice Chairman of the RA Council, is seriously ill.

Janet Elliott reported that Bridget Cox is also seriously ill at the Royal Free Hospital. It was agreed that the RA will send a message.

13. To confirm the date of the next meeting on Tuesday, 6 September at 8.00pm at Fellowship house - confirmed