

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

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Simon Abbott, Terry Brooks, Douglas Blausten, Alan Brudney, Jeremy Clynes, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, David Lewis, Max Petersen, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), David Littaur, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres, Gary Shaw, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield, Richard Wiseman

Visitors: Joyce Littaur,

1. **Apologies:** Rosalind Josephs, Stephanie Hurst, Tony Brand, Geoffrey Spyer
2. **Questions notified in advance** - none
3. **Questions from visiting residents** - none
4. **Formal Approval of Minutes of September 2011 Council meeting.**
Alan Brudney had given his apologies.

5. Financial Report & Membership

Jeremy Clynes had previously circulated the accounts to Council which were noted. Janet Elliott said that the income from membership was now closer to last year's and there are 1989 members at present.

Alan Brudney reported providing the water supply to the Asmunds Hill allotments, to which the RA had contributed, had cost much more than originally estimated. However, the HGS Trust had agreed to pay the additional amount needed.

JC asked committee chairmen and others with budget responsibilities to send him their budget figures for 2012 as a matter of urgency.

Membership Software

Jeremy Clynes had circulated a progress report on the acquisition of new software - the Club Master Software package from Art Software. He had recently spoken to another residents association in London who use the package and who are happy with it. The initial cost including software modifications will cost from £300-£600.

Jeremy Clynes proposed and Tony Ghilchik seconded a Motion that the RA adopts this package which was agreed nem con. .

6. Independent Enquiry

Simon Abbott said that Gary Shaw and Richard Wiseman will continue to work with him as a small reference group for the enquiry. The John Cohen Foundation had agreed to make a grant of £1000 towards the cost. He confirmed that Dr Margaret Harris had agreed to carry out the work in December and January on the terms originally agreed by the Council which he will recirculate to members of the Council.

SA again stressed that it is to be an independent enquiry about the role of the RA during the period when planning permission was applied for and granted.

An invitation to contribute will be circulated to current and past Council and committee members and to residents who have expressed interest, and that all information will be treated as non attributable and confidential. Colin Gregory asked that the HGS Trust and HB School be informed.

7. Update on campaign to save Market place Library

Jonathan Seres and Jeremy Clynes had circulated in advance a paper to Council members detailing the progress made on the community initiative for keeping the Library open which had been discussed with LB Barnet officials and had met with a positive response. Although it had been stated by LBB that bids had to be in by 31 October, LBB were not yet ready to receive formal bids, but had said that the library will not close while discussions continue. It would be prudent to have a public record of having submitted an outline proposal. JS asked the Council to agree the draft outline for a proposal for despatch to LBB immediately. The outline was based on Plan A approved in principle by the RA Council in September. The alternative 'B' plan had been abandoned as it did not have the support of the volunteers who were crucial to the proposal.

Some of the outline's principal proposals are:

- Confirmation that a volunteer staff to man the library (with limited professional help provided by Barnet) would ensure that the library is kept open but the Library would remain the liability of LB Barnet;
- No financial liability would fall on the RA;
- A not for profit company HGS Library Support Ltd (LS) would be incorporated, with shares held by nominated RA Council members under a succession agreement, and a board of directors to include at least two RA Council members. LS would offer to contract with LBB to:
 - a) Maintain the volunteer rota and to ensure that volunteers sign appropriate Data Protection and other commitments and, where applicable, undertake CRB checks; and;
 - b) Open and close the premises in accordance with procedures.
- The LS agreement would run until September 2016, with provisions for review and termination in specified circumstances.
- 38 residents had volunteered from only 2 email requests. The parents of children at the four Suburb schools had not yet been approached for volunteers, and Jonathan Seres was reasonably sure that they would add to the support.

JS was able to report that up to £1,500 from a resident's charitable body had been made available to the project to cover potential initial costs. The two members of Council who would become directors; would initially be Jonathan Seres and Jeremy Clynes, plus four others intended to be residents or supporters with suitable qualifications. Insurance for the directors will be taken out at an expected low cost while cover for volunteers whilst on duty would be expected to be provided by LBB, but if not would also be insured. If it proves to be beneficial at a future date a charity could be created. JS noted that Unions in another London Borough had accepted volunteers as the decision not to continue to provide paid staff had already been taken. JS hoped that LB Barnet would meet the maintenance costs of the building, as they had the liability while the lease continued, and the alternative chance of a subletting by LBB was low (even if the lease permitted) since eight shops were vacant in the better part of the Market Place.

Council agreed that if this plan were accepted it would raise the profile of the RA

A Motion was proposed by Jonathan Seres and seconded by Tony Ghilchik to submit the outline of a proposed bid to LB Barnet as detailed in the paper submitted to Council. This was passed by 19 votes in favour and with 1 abstention

8. Report on final meeting of RA Strategy Working party

Richard Wiseman reported that the Working Party is putting together a final report which will reiterate what it recommends needs to be done to rejuvenate the RA and its committees. This should be ready by the end of November. **RWi**

Richard Wiseman will then resign from the EC as he will be travelling much of next year. RWi was thanked for all the work he had done.

9 Trust Issues

Janet Elliott had met with Dr Zadka who had been elected to the Trust Council.

Development of Garage behind the Trust offices

The Trust hopes to hold a meeting at the HGS Synagogue to discuss planning issues using this proposed development as a focal point.

The Trust had said that they have taken steps to review certain of their procedures and the October Basement meeting had been helpful in this connection.

Janet Elliott has had correspondence with Chartered Surveyor, Richard Hargreaves, who is preparing the report on the management charge resulting from the petition by the group of 'Concerned Residents'. Richard Hargreaves had asked for a tour of the Suburb and a meeting with Janet Elliott.

Council discussed this request and agreed that the RA would be not be compromised if Janet Elliott met and provided a tour of the Suburb.

10. Futures Programme for Council and Open Meetings

Richard Wiseman thought that it is a pity to lose the momentum gained at the October meeting and that the RA should hold an open Meeting in December. Traffic and Parking was suggested as it is a recurring theme. LB Barnet officials and the Police would be invited to attend. Councillors would be informed but not invited to participate. Council were in favour of this proposal. RWi will contact LBB and the local police and liaise with Richard Wakefield regarding publicity and posters. **RWi**

Negotiations were ongoing for Mike Freer, MP, to attend a future Open Forum, but most probably not held on a Tuesday, and a hustings for the GLA candidates for Barnet and Camden was being planned for mid April.

Richard Wakefield asked if possible to have the information on the next open meetings to insert in 'What's On' in the next edition of Suburb News to be published on 29 January.

10a. Executive Committee Minutes

The Council noted the minutes of the September and October Minutes.

Colin Gregory s asked for more information about Energisebarnet which was included in the October EC minutes. Janet Elliott replied that she had spoken to the Trust which is organising a meeting to discuss this company's proposals for energy

saving ideas and mass purchasing of energy saving equipment although some of the proposals are not compatible with a conservation area.

Strong support was expressed for the idea that the RA take action to evolve a policy on energy conservation matters appropriate for the Suburb. TG on behalf of Consam agreed they would consider this issue and provide recommendations. Meanwhile, the Chairman would explore the work done in the area by the Trust so that action is taken to move forward on this issue at an early date. **JE/GS/TG**

10b. Consam

Tony Ghilchik said that Consam are trying to arrange a meeting on planning procedures with LB Barnet executives and Councillors.

TG

10c. Events

The Events committee would like to have an information table and put up posters at various events but the EC considered that this is the responsibility of Membership. The Events committee suggested asking the great granddaughter of Edwin Lutyens, Jane Ridley, to speak at one of the RA's events. David Littaur reported on the walk to be conducted by Judith Cheney on 13 November which will be held at 2.00pm as advertised.

Events will organise the hustings meeting in April in the Free Church Hall, the Michael Rowley lecture in May and a summer picnic in July with a 50s theme to link in with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Colin Gregory suggested fireworks to celebrate the Jubilee weekend.

Simon Abbott said that the EC should not override suggestions of the Events committee and pointed out that we do not have adequate PR.

10d. Publications

Terry Brooks said that Jonathan Seres had bought the committee news up to date on the website. The updating of e-mail addresses for the newsletter was continuing although many members had chosen not to enter their email details as requested in the membership renewal receipt. The monthly email newsletter aims to promote forthcoming events and highlight topics of interest and a volunteer to edit this is being sought.

10e Gallery

Richard Wakefield reported on the series of exhibitions, etc at the Gallery in the coming few months and that the Gallery is expected to break even for 2011.

10f Trees & Open Spaces Committee

Bigwood Work day

Tony Ghilchik said that fewer people than usual had attended this event but a great deal of clearance had been done.

Northway Gardens

A Cyprus tree had been vandalised and the Committee wishes to involve the police to prevent future problems..

Lyttelton Playing Fields

Two trees had been purchased for £400 using funds from the Joy Edelman legacy.

Tony Mandelson Memorial Bench

There was no further news. Janet Elliott had written some time ago to Peter Mandelson but he had yet to reply.

12. To confirm the dates of future RA meetings

Tuesday, 6 December 2011 - Open meeting on Roads and Traffic

Tuesday, 3 January Council meeting Tuesday 7 February Open meeting

February Open Meeting – date to be confirmed

Tuesday, 6 March - Council meeting

Monday, 26 March AGM

Tuesday, 3 April Council Meeting (including to confirm committees for 2012-2013)

Mid April – GLA Hustings – date to be confirmed