



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3 January 2012 at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten, Tony Brand, Jeremy Clynes, Tony Ghilchik, Stephanie Hurst, Eva Jacobs, David Lewis, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), David Littaur, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres, Gary Shaw, Ian Tutton and Richard Wakefield.

Visitors: Brian Ingram for Item 3 only and Joyce Littaur.

The Council sent their best wishes to Geoffrey Spyer and Simon Abbott who were both unwell.

1. **Apologies:**

Simon Abbott, Terry Brooks, Charles Gale, Colin Gregory, Rosalind Josephs, Max Petersen, Geoffrey Spyer, Richard Wiseman.

2. **Questions notified in advance** None notified.

3. **Questions from visiting residents**

Brian Ingram had obtained copies of letters from English Heritage and The Lutyens Trust pertaining to the planning application for the extensions to the Henrietta Barnett School, written during August 2008, from which he read several short extracts. He asked the Council whether they considered these letters contained material about the views of these bodies which was contrary to what had been previously understood to be the position and asked whether the Lutyens Trust letter revealed a possible conflict of interest. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Council was not in a position to comment on the letters at the meeting. BI agreed to provide copies to the Chairman. No commitment to specific action was given.

4. **Council and EC Minutes**

4a **Formal Approval of Council Minutes of 1 November 2011** - the minutes were approved subject to the following amendments

Minute 7 Update on campaign to save Market Place Library – paragraph 3:

Agreed that for clarification the extract in {} brackets be added to the first sentence of this minute: 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 *[subject to a matching donation or payment by LBB] and subject to the recipient being a registered charity or routed through one such as Fellowship or Heritage*].

Minutes 10f - Trees and Open Spaces - Lyttelton Playing Fields

Cost of 2 trees should read £500.

4b. **To receive the minutes of the Executive Committee of 17 November and 15 December 2011** – minutes were received.

5. **Financial Report and Budget**

Jeremy Clynes had previously circulated copies of the draft accounts for 2011 together with the Budget for 2012.

Financial Report

It was agreed that there should be an accrual in the year accounts for the cost of the Tony Mandelson bench. There are some items such as fireworks and trees where Jeremy Clynes had not received final figures and he will circulate updates to Council when he receives them. **JC**

The Gallery figures were not yet included.

Jeremy Clynes estimated that the accounts would probably be neutral for the year.

Budget

Douglas Blausten suggested that the RA should not accept the budget until the Strategy Committee's Report had been considered as this contained proposals with financial implications which should be considered.

Jonathan Seres proposed that the budget is approved at the March meeting. He said that it had been agreed by the RA that their financial contribution to the Proms should be discussed.

The postage and printing costs will be broken down to indicate the activity on which major costs of this kind were incurred.

It was agreed that Richard Wakefield will provide an estimated figure for the Gallery which will be included in the budget. **RW**

The RA council agreed that the budget will lie on the table and an updated budget will be considered at the March Council Meeting.

6 **Formal Submission to LB Barnet re Market Place Library**

Jonathan Seres had circulated the Proposal in advance to Council members. This must be submitted to LB Barnet by the evening of 8 January. He informed Council that the structure is similar to the outline approved by Council in November and it raises no new material issues, except the extra cost to LBB of £7000 for the continued use of the Market Place of the LBB computer system network.

Janet Elliott proposed a motion which was seconded by Jeremy Clynes

"That the proposal be approved, with possible minor last minute changes, however, any significant changes would be circulated to Council prior to submission".

This was passed by 14 votes in favour with one abstention.

It was understood that an alternative proposal to LBB will be submitted by Brian Ingram and the Friends of the HGS Library.

There will be no ongoing financial commitment for the RA resulting from the proposal should it be accepted. However, Jonathan Seres said that there may be an application to the RA for a small sum of money.

Jonathan Seres and Jeremy Clynes were congratulated for all the work they had carried out to produce this proposal.

7. **Final Report of RA Strategy Working Party**

Agreed this will be discussed at a closed meeting on February 7. Written questions and comments from Council members should be submitted in advance in advance to the RA Chairman.

8. **Independent Enquiry**

This is under way with the conclusion date in February. Information is going out in the Suburb e/News, to RA Council members, the HGS List, Suburb News, and to the Trust etc. Some interviews have been arranged and an invitation for written submissions will be going out shortly including to all Council members and people who have expressed interest.

9. **Lyttelton Playing Fields**

Jonathan Seres had previously circulated a report and a proposed letter to LB Barnet asking for Lyttelton Playing Fields to be excluded from LB Barnet's proposals to hire out open spaces for private functions. A meeting had been held at HGS Synagogue on 7 December and residents in the adjoining streets had been circularised. There were 43 attendees from 39 houses.

The consultation period had been extended by LBB until 16 January. Eighteen points had been raised against the use of the Playing Fields for private events. Two points in favour were restricted to small events without sound systems which, if "communal events", could take place under the existing policy.

A discussion took place and points were raised about the number of events proposed, whether the general public would be excluded from the Playing Fields and whether it was reasonable for LB Barnet to raise funds from the hire of Lyttelton Playing Fields

Council passed a motion "that the proposed letter be submitted to LB Barnet on behalf of the RA" was passed with 12 votes in favour and 3 against.

Jonathan Seres undertook to look again at some of the points raised and see whether they can be included in the letter without weakening the RA's case. **JS**

10 **Reports from RA Committees**

Janet Elliott had written to the Committee Chairmen asking for their End of Year Report. She would like these as soon as possible.

10a HGS Heritage

Simon Abbott had submitted a short written report in his absence, informing the Council that to the effect that HGS.Heritage has now been established as a charitable company. The Patrons are: Martin Bell, Jane Goldman, Sir Roderick Braithwaite, and Lord Winston. Following further discussion with HGS Trust, plans are being prepared for an application from Fellowship and HGS Heritage to develop the Fellowship building to house HGS Heritage.

10b Consam

It was reported that Geoffrey Spyer is working on a paper on energy saving possibilities in domestic property within HGS. The latest minutes of the Consam meeting will be circulated to Council shortly. GS

Another local architect has been invited to attend the next meeting of Consam with a view to the possibility of his joining the committee.

10c Events

AGM

David Littaur reported that the AGM will be held in the Free Church on 26 March.

Fireworks

David Littaur referred to the very hard work involved in preparing and running this event and thanking all the volunteers who had made the event possible. There were a record number of people attending and £670 had been collected in donations. Although there had been professional management, this event also dependant on volunteers and more helpers are needed if such events are to continue. Council members were urged to assist in future years.

David Littaur and his team were thanked for a very successful event.

10d Publications

Richard Wakefield said that the next Suburb news will be published at the end of January and he would like to have more copy. Meanwhile two issues of the new Suburb e/News had been sent out one in early December and one before New Year. He drew attention to the report received from the company despatching the emails that only about one half of the 1307 emails had been opened.

10e Roads and Traffic

Gary Shaw said that the Temple Fortune traders had reported poor trading around Christmas and a group had been formed, led by the owner of 'Temptations' shop, protesting about parking arrangements and costs. GS has been in touch and awaits a response from the group how they would like the RA to assist them.

The Councillors are well aware of the difficulties faced by the traders.

There is a borough-wide protest at the new parking costs, restrictions and cashless meters.

Henlys Corner

This work had been completed and the traffic seems to be running well.

11. **To note future programme of Council and Open Meetings**

Council Meetings

Tuesday 7 February – Closed Meeting to discuss Final Report of the Strategy Working Party and agree a way forward

Tuesday 6 March - Council Meeting

Tuesday 3 April - Council Meeting to confirm Committees/RA Representatives for 2012-13

AGM and Open Meetings

Tuesday 14 February - Mike Freer MP at Fellowship House at 8.00pm.

Monday 26 March - AGM at Free Church

Mid April Hustings meeting with GLA candidates - tbc. Richard Wakefield will prepare the posters.