



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4 September 2012
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, Terry Brooks, Jeremy Clynes, Tony Ghilchik, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Judith Samson, John Sells, Jonathan Seres, Gary Shaw and Richard Wakefield,

Visitors: Joyce Littaur

Janet Elliott welcomed John Sells, Chairman of Consam, to his first meeting as a member of the Council.

1. Apologies for absence

Tony Brand, Alan Brudney, Charles Gale, David Lewis, Max Petersen and Richard Wiseman.

2. Notification of any urgent business not on the Agenda – None.

3a Questions notified in advance - None.

3b Questions from visiting residents – None.

4. Approval of Council Minutes of Meeting of 3 July 2012 – approved
Subject to an amendment to Minute 11b – Suburb picnic, the end timing of which should read 4.30pm.

5. Unconfirmed minutes of the Executive Meeting of 18 July

These were received and noted.

6 Financial Report

Jeremy Clynes reported the appointment of a new book-keeper, Jack Miller, who had started work in August. Good progress had been made on various aspects of the accounts.

7. Library

Jeremy Clynes reported on a very successful summer with the library membership reaching 700. Jonathan Seres said that Wednesday seems to be the busiest day and weekly numbers have risen from 160 in April to 300 in August. Because of the increased attendance, it is now thought to be necessary for three volunteers to be present at some of the library sessions,

Other developments over the summer included participating in the LB Barnet reading scheme and an art morning for children. Plans are also in hand for the setting up of an adult Book Reading Group

Charitable Status

Jonathan Seres said that charitable status will become financially useful when the licence granted by LB Barnet is changed to become a formal under-lease, as it will enable the Library to get business rates' relief. Also, although LB Barnet is funding an annual grant for three years it is necessary to begin thinking about raising alternative funding. It will be easier to raise funds if the library is a registered charity.

A formal application had been made to the Charity Commissioner and various queries raised by them are being dealt with.

Eva Jacobs reported on a very successful and enjoyable barbecue party in July, partly funded by the RA, to say 'Thank you' to the many volunteers.

8. Independent Enquiry

An open meeting will be held on 11 October to discuss Part Three of the Harris Report and the further measures it was recommended be taken by the RA Council to clarify its procedures and avoid any future repetition of the events of 2008. The measures had been set out in the paper recently circulated to the Council. The paper, including the recommendation for action were the result of considerably work by the Executive Committee.

Richard Wakefield congratulated the chairman and the Executive on a masterly document and proposed that it be accepted by Council without further amendment.

However, Simon Abbott raised a number of points which he considered lacking in the paper as presented, including: (a) a ranking of priorities with target dates; (b) clarification of who is taking action; (c) the need for the paper for the Open meeting to be shorter paper; (d) reference to the bi-monthly meetings; (e) a commitment to implementation of the 6 year rule; (f) a renewed effort to find an Hon Secretary; and (g) more specific reference to further work on the clarification of the RA's identity.

Tony Ghilchik wanted the Council to reaffirm the basis on which the committees are operating and if practicable to highlight its response to Section 3.2.1 in the Harris Report, more effectively in the Initial Proposals.

In response to these comments the Vice Chairman explained that the paper as submitted already contained timeframes and responsibilities for the execution of the proposals as set out. It was not the purpose of the Initial Proposals to cover in detail all the issues set out in the earlier Strategy Group report, though where there was overlap between those recommendations and those in Part Three of Dr Harris's Report both had been taken into account.

The Council discussed how the Open Meeting should be conducted and how to respond to any attempts to discuss either the quality or design of the new buildings or to name individuals. Richard Wiseman would be chairing the Open Meeting and Janet Elliott would be willing, if so decided, to make a short statement, explaining briefly actions already taken in 2008-9, to prevent a repetition of any perceived failures in procedures at the time of the Henrietta Barnett School planning application.

Council agreed that the Chairman would work with the Vice Chairman on the points made, and the revised version would be discussed and agreed at the Executive Meeting planned for 19 September. The result would be published on the RA website.

JE

Posters advertising the event will also be in place before the meeting and an edition of Suburb eNews circulated prior to 11 October.

RWa

9. Committee Reports

9a Consam

John Sells told Council that Consam had met in July and the approved Minutes would be circulated after the September meeting. It was agreed by the Council that where (as over the summer period) there was a bigger gap between meetings, Consam should initially agree the minutes via email circulation so that they could be circulated in a timely way. Any subsequent changes could be notified after the formal approval. JS agreed on this occasion to circulate the draft minutes to Council members in the near future.

JSel

Other actions on behalf of Consam over the summer reported by John Sells included:

- (i) an objection submitted to LBBarnet to the planning application for a proposed development in Temple Fortune Lane, which, among other things, was considered disproportionate for the site;
- (ii) Jonathan Rowley had been confirmed as the second RA representative on the Trust Property and Plans Committee (in addition to already appointed former Consam Chairman, Geoffrey Spyer) and David Lewis was confirmed as the alternate;
- (iii) a submission had been made to the listed building consultation from the Department of the Environment regarding planning consents for listed buildings;
- (iv) It had been decided that it was too soon for any comment on LB Barnet's new privatisation process in respect of planning responsibilities as insufficient information was available.

In response to a question regarding the committee's work on energy efficiency Jonathan Seres said that it is ongoing and progress had been made by the sub committee until mid-July, but other priorities had prevented work since. The Trust had previously expressed interest in producing leaflets but had been unable to progress this due to pressure of work. He hoped that a draft could be submitted by the end of the year to Consam and subsequently to the HGS Trust for their comments on the section on windows. An offer from Douglas Blausten to make available to the Consam sub committee information on certain energy efficiency matters arising out of the work of a committee of which he was the Chairman, was accepted.

9b Trees and Open Spaces

Tony Ghilchik said that the minutes of the last meeting had been circulated.

Bigwood Work Day

The next date for coppicing in the Woods is 29 September and Council members were urged to attend and invite other to do so.

Central Square Plaque

A plaque had been found in Central Square which seems to refer to two trees planted during Environment Week in 1988. RWa is looking into the history of this and it was hoped that the plaque could be restored to its correct location.

RWa

Tony Mandelson Memorial Bench

There had been no response to the most recent approach on this.

Committee Members

Eva Jacobs was hopeful that a new, younger member had been found to join the committee

Asmunds Place

Eva Jacobs asked Council members to protest at the proposed felling of an oak tree on the Asmunds Place allotment site.

9c Publications

Terry Brooks reported on the latest meeting where possible improvement in advertising and promotion were discussed. The meeting had recommended that more frequent circulations of eNews was not the answer. However, a larger number of RA notice boards in strategic places on the Suburb would be beneficial. This would be discussed with David Lewis who has taken over from Simon Abbott in respect of the smaller boards. Costs to be discussed with the Treasurer. **TB/JC/DL**

The Committee discussed the Face Book site which had been set up by David Brown when he was a member of the RA Council and had been in part colonised by commercial interests. It was agreed that this should be discussed with the website administrator and that efforts should be made to identify someone to take control of an official RA Facebook site.

9d Roads and Traffic

Gary Shaw reported on the meeting held in July, the minutes of which had recently been circulated. The majority of the Roads Committee member present had agreed that they oppose the extension of any CPZ in HGS and GS wished to put a formal proposal to the RA Council that this should be adopted as official RA policy.

Council noted the recommendation and agreed to a more detailed discussion at the November Council. However, in view of the known strong feelings which existed both for and against CPZs, the commitment of LBB to a policy of CPZ's in many parts of the Borough, the RA Council had to consider carefully the practicality of any public statement made on behalf of the RA as there are strongly held views on both sides.

9e Events

New Residents' Party

This will be held on Thursday 6 September at Fellowship House and will be hosted by John Sells and Jonathan Seres, who had undertaken the organisation for the event.

Open House 2012

This will take place on 22-23 September. The booklets are now available in the Library and will shortly also be available in the Gallery. It was reinforced that the RA's financial support for this event (in the absence of support from LBB) was of benefit both in encouraging visitors to HGS and to make known to HGS and other Barnet residents, the opportunities provided for them to visit buildings of historic and architectural interest throughout the London area, which are not open to the public at other times in the year.

10. Any Other Business Janet Elliott reminded all present that the Trust AGM will be held on Wednesday, 12 September in the Henrietta Barnett School hall at 7.30 for 8.00pm.

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11. Dates of future meetings

The next meeting of the RA Council will be on Tuesday 6 November 2012 at 8pm at Fellowship House.

The first meeting in 2013 will be on Thursday, 3 January also at 8pm at Fellowship House. **(Note change of date and day of the week as first Tuesday in January is a Bank Holiday.)**