



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3 January 2013
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, Tony Brand, Jeremy Clynes, Charles Gale, Colin Gregory, Stephanie Hurst, David Lewis, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Judith Samson, John Sells, Jonathan Seres, Gary Shaw, Will Sowerbutts, Ian Tutton Richard Wakefield and Richard Wiseman

Visitors: Limor Abramov, Judy Blendis, Tony Blendis, Ellen Gilbert, Brian Ingram, Basil Hillman, Chris Johnson, Richard Kemp, Joyce Littaur, Sue Prentice, Peter White and Susan Wright.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome to visiting residents

Apologies: Peter Beesley, Terry Brooks, Tony Ghilchik, Max Petersen and Eva Jacobs. The Chairman welcomed all visitors individually.

2. Notification of any urgent business not on the Agenda - none

3. Questions from residents

3a Notified in advance - none

3b Raised on the day by visiting residents

3.b.i Meadway/Hampstead Way

Ellen Gilbert reported that she has great difficulty trying to cross near this junction. Gary Shaw, Chairman Roads and Traffic agreed the committee would look into this issue to see if an effective solution could be found. **GS**

3.b.ii AGM and Notice Boards

Brian Ingram had three questions to put:

a) Whether the AGM could start at the earlier time of 7.30pm. However, the time and venue for the 2013 AGM had already been advertised, and the school hall would not be available earlier due to a prior event.

b) Whether there would be an opportunity for all chairmen of Standing Committees to address the Meeting. The Chairman responded that the business of the AGM is predominantly formal but that there is a time towards the end for questions. Committee Chairman present at the AGM would respond to questions as required and all have contributed their account of the past year to the printed Annual Report.

c) Why the number of notice boards on the north side of HGS was so few. In response it was agreed that the number on the north side of HGS is less than on the South Side. However, boards are allocated at the request of residents willing to have them outside their houses. BI was asked to forward to David Lewis the names and contacts for any residents who had clearly indicated they wished to have a notice

board. There about 50 currently available Suburb wide but more are current being made and others being renovated.

3.b.iii CPZ

Sue Wright who lives in Temple Fortune Hill felt that she was likely to be drawn into having a CPZ without full information from LB Barnet, and that the extension of CPZs was spreading the problem across the Suburb. She asked for confirmation that the introduction of a CPZ does not provide an exclusive right for residents to park outside their own home during the time it operated. It was confirmed that this is not the case.

3.b.iv Junction of Temple Fortune Hill and Willifield Way

Sue Prentice expressed her concern over the visibility at this junction when she tries to cross Willifield Way coming up Temple Fortune Hill. She mentioned that that there used to be a convex mirror to assist drivers. Roads and Traffic agreed to look into this.

GS

4. Approval of Council Minutes of meeting of 6 November 2012

These were approved subject to the two typing amendments.

5. Receipt of the minutes of Executive Meetings held on 14 November and 12 December 2012 - These were received.

6. Financial Report

6.1. End of year and interim accounts

The accounts for the 11 months to end November had been circulated in advance. The Hon Treasurer informed members that little change to the year end was expected as neither expenditure nor accruals in December would be large.

6.2 Suburb Gallery

Richard Wakefield reported that the Gallery had sufficient receipts at end 2012 to pay for the Achive (Visitor) Panels for Gallery use. Council thanked all volunteers who keep the gallery working.

6.3 Items for Budget for review

The Hon. Treasurer is currently working on the annual budget using the information supplied.

A motion that the RA again become a Silver Sponsor of the Proms at St.Jude's in 2013 including the sponsorship of the free Lunch-time Concerts at a cost of £2,750 was proposed by Janet Elliott and seconded by Jonathan Seres. After discussion the motion was agreed by 16 votes in favour and one against, with one member abstaining.

7. Annual Report and arrangements for AGM on Thursday, 21 March

7.1 The Chairman opened by confirming the date and day of the week and that it had already been advertised. The early date had been chosen because this year the dates for Easter and Passover meant it could not be held either on the last Monday in March or the first Monday in April.

The detailed administrative arrangements for the AGM were already in hand via the Events Committee. David Littaur mentioned that an improved sound system had been arranged and this will include a loop system. The production of the Annual Report and the arrangements for the associated mailing to members are in hand.

7.2 Elections at AGM - nominations of Officers and Council Members

The Council supported the nomination for re-election of the RA's current Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer, who have each agreed to offer themselves for re-election. There are to date no nominations for Honorary Secretary. Two members of Council, Eva Jacobs and Judith Samson are not seeking re-election and the Council thanked them for their many years of service to the RA.

Richard Wakefield is preparing the list of the one third of existing Council members who must retire and seek re-election under the three year rule, which he will circulate. **RWa**

The Chairman stressed that there were vacancies for new Council members (who would also be expected to serve on a committee) and it was hoped nominations would come forward.

8. Harris Report follow up – progress on implementation

The Vice Chairman presented a report on progress towards implementation of the proposals arising from the Harris Report (as set out in the November EC minutes). Work is now being undertaken as follows: the Buddy System and the Induction Pack are being progressed; the Committees are reviewing their terms of reference and recommendations on any changes will come to Council after a collective appraisal of the suggestions has been undertaken by the Executive. An assessment of the implications for committees of the 6 year rule is underway. Further reports will be made to Council both before and at the March Council meeting as matters are developed.

9. Committee Reports and issues

9.1 Motion from Roads and Traffic on a CPZ policy

As a result of the discussion which took place at the Open Meeting and the very strong possibility of an extension to the Temple Fortune CPZ anyway, a revised Motion, in place of the deferred November motion, had been circulated to Council, as follows:

“The RA Council remains opposed in principle to the extension of the Suburb CPZs as currently operated, and calls upon the London Borough of Barnet to introduce a revised approach to local parking problems which better balances the needs of different groups of road users. Nonetheless, it recognises the parking problems experienced by residents of Hampstead Way (and some neighbouring roads) and acknowledges that a CPZ may satisfy their immediate requirements.”

GS introduced the motion (and mentioned a minority view on his committee). The circulated R&T paper covered the committee's key points. He mentioned particularly that following the introduction of a CPZ there may be adjacent areas where a majority of residents had few parking problems but will start to suffer from traffic displaced if their roads are not also controlled.

The question is whether it is a good thing and whether the RA should support it. A CPZ will take away parking spaces in roads where there is no problem at present. As a result such roads may then have problems as well as potentially uncontrolled costs.

RWi suggested suspending the Motion, as the Council had an existing policy, adopted prior to his time, and no doubt studied prior to adoption. Currently that and four other discussion options had been considered at the Open meeting, but as yet there had been no such study of these other options, and the fifth one had been barely discussed, perhaps on account of the opening remarks. Council was reminded of these options, which were on the website report of the open meeting. DB opposed the Motion and saw no point in options without research. He proposed an amended Motion which he read to the meeting.

After discussion, the following amended Motion was proposed by Douglas Blausten and seconded by Colin Gregory.

"The RA Council recognises the majority views expressed at the recent Open Meeting and the parking problems experienced by residents of Hampstead Way and neighbouring roads. It acknowledges that a CPZ may satisfy their immediate requirements. The Residents Association needs to endeavour to develop and adopt a strategy with regards to these matters.

"The RA Council therefore requests the Executive Council to establish a Working Party, in consultation with the Roads and Traffic Committee, to research and put forward proposals for the RA Council to consider adopting as its strategy for an RA Council Policy on Parking and related traffic issues in the Suburb.

The Executive should recommend terms of reference for the Working Party, a budget and a timeline for reporting back to Council, which should not be more than 6 months from the formal establishment of the Working party and agreement of its members. Members of the Working Party should include as far as possible experts in the subject."

The amended Motion was defeated by 8 votes in favour and 9 against, with 2 abstentions.

The Motion from Roads and Traffic Committee, set out at the beginning of this Minute, was proposed by Gary Shaw, seconded by Will Sowerbutts, and carried by 11 votes in favour, and four against, with four abstentions.

After the vote and discussions Gary Shaw on behalf of the Roads and Traffic Committee mentioned that they would consider the content of the Motion proposed by Douglas Blausten and discuss with members of the Executive whether any further action is recommended.

GS

9.2 Events Committee and Executive:

Proposed expansion of summer picnic

There had been some misunderstanding about the proposal and how it was to be taken forward. The committee had discussed both June and July dates. DLtt, RWa and JS had met and had discussed possible ideas which JS would present for discussion at the 16 January Events Committee meeting.

The Council remained in favour of an enlarged event. It was appreciated that time is short, and early publicity essential.

Ian Tutton, had agreed alternative dates for use of the Free Church in principle but early booking was essential as it was on a first come basis. Both IT and SA spoke of the work needed for the intended involvement of other Suburb organisations, and that the clock was ticking.

RWa briefly mentioned an offer from a company based on the Suburb who could help with decorations and assistance and would charge £2000 for what would normally cost £5000.

Council noted that It was expected that the matter would move forward after the meeting of Events Committee on 16 January.

Fireworks

CG said that he would like to revive the New Year fireworks next year. It was agreed that this was a matter for discussion well in advance, probably in the spring or early summer.

9.3 Consam

John Sells said that Consam had discussed their terms of reference, put in an objection to a partial demolition of 31 Ingram Avenue and tried to engage with LB Barnet regarding the dropped kerb in Brookland Rise.

9.4 Publications – January Suburb News

RWa would like more copy for the next issue of Suburb News. The copy date is 10/11 January.

9.5. Trees and Open Spaces

9.5.1 HGS Tree Survey - no further news to report

9.5.2 Future of Flower Beds – no further news to report

9.5.3 Possible Revival of Centenary Plans – Northway Playground

In the absence of Tony Ghilchik and Eva Jacobs, JE reminded the Council that the earlier Centenary project for refurbishing the playground for young children in Northway Gardens had been abandoned, because the partner funding had in the end not been available. However, the project was believed to remain the most favoured use among those previously considered for RA Centenary funding, given that the Council had agreed that Centenary money should be spent on a legacy project.

Recently a group of parents, including some based just outside the Suburb have indicated their wish to revive the scheme. They believe that that will be able to raise the money (an estimated £75-£80,000 in total) and are already in touch with both LB Barnet and the RA Trees and Open Spaces Committee. It is understood that there is a possibility that LB Barnet may be prepared to contribute £10,000.

Answering DB regarding the late discussion of potentially major expenditure, JS said that the use of Centenary funding for this playground had been agreed in principle *18 months previously and the discussion tonight was to inform Council regarding its possible modified revival and confirm that the principle remains open. [*Post meeting note: Confirmed that original agreement was in October 2010.*]

Colin Gregory, a T&OS member, reported that the parents' group would like the playground to be complementary to the new one for older children in Lyttelton Playing Fields and that T&OS were in favour of the proposal and accepted that it would be less extensive than the previous proposal.

Ian Tutton and RWiseman both spoke strongly that the RA should not commit to any expenditure without long-term maintenance by one of the parties; CG confirmed that the point had been made.

At the end of the discussion it was agreed the proposal be explored further on behalf of the RA via T&OS and that the Executive Committee would also be kept fully informed in advance should the possibility of a formal contribution from the RA become part of any discussions.

10. Open meeting for Tuesday 5 February or Thursday 7 March

JS said that the Sub Group on Open Meetings proposed either Tuesday 5 February or Thursday 7 March (the only available dates for Fellowship House) on LBB's 'One Barnet' outsourcing and the announced insourcing of recycling. The proposal is for a factual explanation and the implications of a long term contract.

The attendance of elected Barnet Councillors is essential, and there is still uncertainty about their availability. Council supported the proposal. If it doesn't prove possible, the sub-group would consider other ideas and email to Council a new proposal. [*Post meeting note:* The Deputy Leader of LBB Council, Cllr Daniel Thomas, has agreed to speak on 5 February.]

11. Any Other Business

Pergola at Meadway Gate

Rosalind Joseph, the Consam lead regarding the Pergola, reported that remedial work by a specialist company engaged by LBB is due to start on 14 January, and that the Trust was aware of this.

12. To re-confirm, the dates for future Council meetings for 2013

The Council re-confirmed the following dates for meetings in 2013: Tuesday 5 March, 2 April (meeting to reappoint Standing Committees and RA representatives) 7 May, 2 July, 3 September and 5 November all 8.00pm at Fellowship House.

No Council meetings are scheduled for February, June, October and December 2013, and that the first Tuesday of these months continues to be held provisionally for Open Meetings.