



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 November
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Terry Brooks, Jeremy Clynes, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Brian Ingram, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), David Littaur, Max Petersen, Jonathan Seres and Richard Wakefield.
Visitors: Joyce Littaur

1. Apologies for absence and welcome to visiting residents

Peter Beesley, Alan Brudney, Douglas Blausten, Tony Brand, Stephanie Hurst, David Lewis, Rosalind Josephs, John Sells, Gary Shaw and Ann Spencer.

2. Resignation of Richard Wiseman and congratulations on his appointment as Chairman of the HGS Trust

Council affirmed their congratulations to Richard Wiseman on his appointment.

3. Questions from members notified in advance – There were none.

4. Questions from visiting residents – There were none.

5. Council & EC minutes

5a. Approval of Council Minutes of 3 September 2013 – These were approved.

5b. To receive the minutes of the Executive Committee of 18 September and the unconfirmed minutes of 9 October – These were received.

5c. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere) - There were none.

6. Financial Report and end of year arrangements

Jeremy Clynes had circulated the end September accounts in advance of the meeting. He reported that the figures are as anticipated and he expected that the RA will end the year on budget. The costs of the New Year's Eve fireworks had already been included in the budget as had £800 to Open House. However, £200 of this had been contributed by the Free Church, although a continuation of this contribution could not be assumed every year.

7. Membership

JE reported that the RA now has 1,940 families in membership. There had been three membership mailings/deliveries in 2013 and in 2012. However, the sequence had been different but the overall costs for 2013 had been almost identical except for an increase in postage in line with the increase in postal charges.

BI asked how many new members had joined this year as a result of the mailings and it was explained that at present such information could not be extracted but JC

would discuss with the new membership software supplier whether it would be possible to provide more information along these lines in future.

JC

8. Committee Reports and Issues:

Fellowship House

This topic was introduced by JS who reminded members that the Trust was using its wider consultation process regarding the current application from Fellowship for alterations to Fellowship House.

He drew attention to the latest Suburb News which contains an article on the proposal and that the plans had been displayed for some weeks at in the Gallery at Fellowship House and continue to be available at the Trust Offices and on its website.

JS had recently met with Andrew Botterill, who is the honorary project manager on behalf of Fellowship. AB wished the RA to be informed of their funding timetable and would appreciate the RA raising awareness of the proposal in conjunction with a suburb-wide appeal for funds which Fellowship will launch in the coming weeks. JS had mentioned the possibility of a reference in eNews. This was appreciated, so long as it did not detract from money raised every year for Fellowship via the RA's membership collection system, which was important to its revenue support.

Other issues raised in discussion included:

(a) What plans are in hand for relocation of RA Council meetings during any period of closure? EC will be discussing the availability of possible alternatives, in advance of precise knowledge of the timing of any temporary closure of Fellowship House. When the building is closed, it will be necessary for the RA to find a temporary home for the Gallery equipment and stocks of pictures, etc.

(b) The terms on which space is available for possible Gallery use after the rebuilding, will need to be negotiated.

(c) Certain aspects of the current application for alterations were raised including landscaping and the location of the proposed ramp for wheelchair access. Consam had looked at the plans for the front elevation of the building and had been happy with them. Richard Wakefield requested that access along the southern boundary be considered, as it has been shown on a previous plan. Council suggested that Consam consider the above concerns regarding the front garden and access. It was noted that there was no way that Consam could report to Council before the expiry of the consultation period (22 November). It was therefore delegated to the Chair of Consam, John Sells (or a Consam nominee of his) and Jonathan Seres to look at the landscaping and access plans. Consam member MaxP offered to assist with this if requested. Colin Gregory expressed the view that the RA did need to respond to the consultation; it was agreed that any draft would be circulated to EC before despatch.

JS/JSL

8.1 Consam:

Tea House

A new application has been made to the Trust on behalf of the current owners. Consam are looking at the plans which are for a proposed two storey rear extension, to understand the differences between the current and the January application which

had been explained at the RA's March open meeting. The Trust's extended consultation process closes on 20 November.

CPZ Poles

Consam had been successful, with help from Cllr Marshall, in persuading LB Barnet to use short poles for the pavement repeater signs for the new CPZ, and Barnet are looking into the cost of painting these green (from the existing grey). Consam are trying to have some existing high poles, which mark older yellow line areas, replaced by low poles at the rear of the pavements wherever practicable. High poles seem to be required at entry and exit points, as installed. Consam is also organising a survey of high poles generally on the Suburb to ascertain the extent of the visual problem.

Hill Rise

Consam are supporting HGS Trust's representations to LB Barnet to discuss the reinstatement of herring-bone bricks after the refurbishment of the pavement in Hill Rise.

8.2 Events:

End of Year Fireworks

Dlt said that the fireworks sub committee had met three times. He had, before this evening's RA Council meeting, attended the HB School fireworks where Alchemy, the firm who are also organising the RA's New Year's Eve fireworks, had carried out an excellent display. He was delighted that the fireworks are being re-instated and had received positive feedback from residents.

Events Committee had now budgeted the net total spend on the fireworks display at £4,000, so it was likely be well below the authorised £4,500.

Summer Fun Day

DLt reported that a meeting had been held with two representatives of the Proms Committee and RA Officers to discuss the date. EC would review the possibilities and discuss with Events Committee, but it was now generally agreed that it will not be held on the first Sunday of the Proms.

Toddlers Party.

The Council had earlier expressed an interest in pursuing this new venture. The Party is expected to be held early in 2014 (date and venue to be agreed) with two mothers of toddlers working under Events' aegis. Details to be discussed further and a Report will be given to EC and the Council in due course.

8.3 Gallery

RW reported that there is a new exhibition of the works of Harland Hinchliffe and there will be a further exhibition in the run up to Christmas. In answer to a question, RW said he understood that the 2014 Hampstead Heath calendars would shortly be delivered to the Gallery.

8.4 Publications:

Suburb News & eNews

TB reported that the latest Suburb News has been distributed. BI raised his concern that it had too many articles on the Trust and none specifically about the RA. RW pointed out that the Trust was currently particularly news worthy, following the recent election of two of the four HGS representatives, one of whom had since also been chosen by the Trust Council as their new Chairman.

An eNews will be sent out to include the Gallery exhibitions and some Library matters. As reported (min.8) above Fellowship was looking for RA support in publicising their fund raising for the development of Fellowship House. This might be included in the forthcoming issue or may need to be delayed to a December issue to coincide with Fellowship's launch of this campaign. **RW**

TB would be circulating minutes shortly. The next committee meeting will be held in December. **TB**

Publications are also considering changes to the Web site and TB will meet with Steve Morris to discuss this. They are also working on the development of the RA's presence on Facebook. **TB**

8.5 Roads & Traffic including introduction of Suburb CPZ.

In the absence of GS, CPG said that the Committee had discussed the CPZ and its impact in detail at the last Meeting. He also reported the good news that they had two new committee members.

JE reported that the R&T Chairman had written to LBB expressing concern about a proposal to introduce all day, 7 days a week, parking restrictions on the houses' side of Wildwood Road facing the Heath Extension. Further details had been requested.

8.6 Trees & Open Spaces

TG had circulated the latest minutes prior to the Meeting.

Northway Gardens Playground Refurbishment

A paper had been circulated prior to this meeting. Since the July conditional agreement of the RA to part fund the new playground with a £20,000 donation from the Centenary Fund, LBBarnet had applied for a further boundary extension beyond that proposed by them in September. After being alerted by Brian Ingram and a number of concerned Oakwood Road residents, the RA had met with LBB and representatives of the organising committee on 24 October and learned that LBB considered the extension necessary to meet the health and safety requirements arising from the new equipment and to provide space for the young children (toddlers and up to age 6) to run around within the safe boundaries of the playground. In discussion, LBB authorised a new design to seek the minimum extension while retaining some of the key new equipment, and to ensure a diagonal corner parallel to the present boundary so that, by comparison with LBB's square proposal, fewer gardens in Oakwood Road would be close to it.

The RA had subsequently convened a public Q/A meeting for nearby residents on 4th November in the Free Church, attended by 16 residents (from 10 local families). The revised plans were presented by the chairman of the organising committee who then took questions.

The equipment currently being proposed had been selected following the analysis of a survey of users and residents to which 160 replies had been received, 84% from families living within a 10 minute walking distance.

The plans from the Q/A meeting were circulated to Council and explained. JS reported that the majority of residents at the Q/A meeting now understand and are content with the compromises made, but the RA is conscious that there are some who may not be, and Council needs to weigh that up. JS mentioned the committee

chairman's reference, in Q/A, to the balance between the concerns of adjacent houses and the expressed wishes of the majority of users of a communal amenity. The Council was informed that LBB will now begin a new consultation process in respect of the revised boundary line, and a discussion followed.

BI raised the views of some Oakwood Road residents regarding the existing level of parking in their road and their concern that the refurbishment may encourage more visitors. In response it was explained that, as the playground is aimed at the narrow age range of 6 and under, it was unlikely that large families would drive from surrounding areas to use it.

Council was informed that the Free Church had also agreed to make a grant of £1,000 towards the playground.

The motion, previously emailed, was proposed by JE, and seconded by Tony Ghilchik, as follows:

"That Janet Elliott, Tony Ghilchik and Jonathan Seres be authorised to review any updated plans and indicate to Barnet that the outline design is satisfactory for the purpose of the RA funding provision, if satisfied that plans remained on the lines now seen (and subject:

- (a) to Barnet maintenance etc as previously required, and
- (b) to the outcome of the public planning consent process, regarding the boundary extension).

A marker to Barnet, at or before the time of the outline design confirmation, would indicate that the text of the maintenance provision would need prior RA approval."

This was passed unanimously.

Rose Garden in Northway Gardens

The new leaflet prepared by Colin Gregory to try to recruit volunteers to form a working group to help maintain the Rose Garden is being printed and distributed.

Central Square replanting

TG reported that a meeting had been held with representatives from Golders Hill Park to discuss their offer of surplus plants and to ascertain the type of plants that might be available. Useful information became available but it was also ascertained that the exchange of plants this will not take place for a couple of years.

9. December open and other Meetings – proposal (if any) to use 3 December slot

JS said that there were no plans at this stage to have an open meeting in December but if an urgent issue arises this would still be considered. The two former Council members on the working group had agreed to remain on it as a sounding board for JS and TB.

10. Any other urgent business

10.1 New Members

JS said that new RA Council members were required. He was pleased that the meeting on 1st October for volunteers who had responded to the fireworks survey had produced two new members for Roads and Traffic, two others residents who had agreed to organise a toddlers' party, and others interested in other projects. This was

an exciting development, and might lead to recruits to Council. The meeting should regard recruitment as the most important challenge facing the RA at present.

10.2 Notice Board in Wildwood Road

DLt told the Council that after trying unsuccessfully to have the remnants of an old notice board in Wildwood Road removed by LB Barnet for a couple of years, through the 'Fix My Street' facility, he had contacted Cllr John Marshall and the posts had been immediately removed.

10.3 Notice Board outside Tea House

BI raised a question about the future of the Telephone box and the Notice board (formerly used by the Institute) within the front garden of the Tea House. It was explained that the Telephone Box was subject to a Conservation Order and could not be removed. Rosalind Josephs was dealing with this.

However, the Notice Board was subject to no such order, nor was there any possibility of one being applied. The Council accepted the view of the Chairman that to apply for such an order, or to ask for the Notice Board to be publicly available for use on what was now private land, was not a practicable objective to pursue.

10.4 Hustings

BI referred to his earlier request that the RA Council organise a hustings meeting for the elections in May 2014. It was explained that the RA, via the Events Committee, has for many years organised such meetings. However, they needed to be held during the formal period of the election after the names of all parties and candidates were known. DLt will ensure that the Events Committee acts in good time, but that the active support of the parties taking part in the election could not be taken for granted.

DLt

Information on future meetings:

1. RA Council meetings

Meetings will be held on 7 January, 4 March, 8 April, 6 May and 1 July 2014. All the above are Tuesdays and all meetings will be at 8pm at Fellowship House.

2. Open meetings & other Meetings

Reserved dates 4 February (for new residents' party) and 3 June 2014 for possible Open Meeting both at Fellowship House. Further or alternative dates to meet specific requirements may be arranged.

3. 2014 RA AGM – Monday, 31 March 2014 at 8pm at Henrietta Barnett School Hall