



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 January 2014
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Douglas Blausten, Tony Brand, Jeremy Clynes, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Stephanie Hurst, Brian Ingram, David Lewis, Rosalind Josephs, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), David Littaur, John Sells, Jonathan Seres, Will Sowerbutts, Ann Spencer and Richard Wakefield.

Visitors: Maxine Blausten, David B Lewis, Joyce Littaur and Jennye Seres.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome to visiting residents

Alan Brudney, Terry Brooks, Max Petersen, Gary Shaw

2. Notification of urgent business not on the Agenda

Objectives

The December EC minutes, Item 5, proposed objectives for the RA in 2014. The Chairman suggested that, as the agenda had made provision for full discussion of urgent matters, the Objectives be considered under AOB or , if time was short, be discussed at the March Meeting.

3. Questions from members notified in advance – One received earlier in the afternoon from David B Lewis as covered below.

4. Questions from visiting residents

David B Lewis had submitted several related questions in respect of the Executive Committee (EC). With the agreement of DBL, the Chairman read out the questions and responded:

(a) the maximum size of the EC, including the current three officers, is eight, although assistant officers (if any – we have none) may attend for specific purposes/special duties but are not committee members ;

(b) The EC at present has 6 members. All are listed in the Suburb Directory;

(c) Richard Wiseman resigned from EC (and Council) in October following his election to the HGS Trust Council. This was in line with his statement to the RA Council in April, when his EC appointment had been renewed;

(d) There are currently 2 vacancies on the EC but there is no requirement that the Council fill them;

(e) One member of the EC (other than the officers) has served for longer than six year continuously and Council had agreed that the six year rule be suspended, when he was re-appointed in April 2013.

5. Council & EC Minutes

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

5b. To receive the Minutes of the Executive Committee of 14 November and the unconfirmed minutes of 12 December

Both the November Minutes and December, circulated the previous week, were received and Council was asked to note, as also mentioned in the agenda email the previous week, that the December minutes contained information which would be part of the basis for motions to be considered at the current Council meeting.

6. Financial Report and end of Year Arrangements

6.1 End of Year Interim Report

JC reported that the Accounts for the period to end November had been circulated. The end of the year figures would include expenditure on fireworks, tree planting and money committed to Hgs Heritage. Council were reminded that the bookkeeper is currently preparing the annual accounts which would be completed before the deadline. The overall outcome figures would be broadly in line with the agreed budget.

6.2 Items for budget 2014 interim

An initial draft budget for 2014 had also been submitted in advance to Council members, although some figures were not yet available. These included the estimated costs of a new HGS RA website which was under consideration initially by the Publications Committee. The Chair of Publications (TB) had suggested an initial estimate of £2,500. Some Council members expressed the view that this was unlikely to be an adequate figure. It was noted that TB had been asked to provide more information and it was agreed that the specification and proposed costs would be circulated to all Council members before any agreement was reached. **JE/JC**

Brian Ingram raised the question of mailing costs for which JS would obtain and pass to him figures outside the meeting. **JS**

After discussion, Colin Gregory proposed and Tony Ghilchik seconded a Motion:

“That the draft Budget be approved subject to two footnotes stating:

- that Expenditure may alter if matters arise from discussion of the 2014 RA Objectives and
- there may be website expenditure if current scoping results in agreed development.”

This was carried by 13 votes in favour 1 vote against with 3 abstentions

6.3 RA Support for St Jude's' Proms

Prior to the above discussion, there was reference to the £2,750 provision regarding the St Judes Proms, unchanged for several years. The Chairman asked the Council to make a decision at this meeting on RA sponsorship for the free lunchtime concerts at the Proms in 2014. These provided a particular benefit to a young audience and some other groups who were, on the whole, not attendees at the evening events. She also referred to the wide publicity given to that sponsorship which was of considerable value to the RA.

A motion was proposed by Janet Elliott and seconded by Richard Wakefield:

“That the RA should become a Silver Sponsor at a cost of £2,750 of the St Jude's Proms, and that they should be the advertised sponsor for the free lunchtime concerts.”

This was carried by 16 votes in favour and 1 against

7. Annual Report and Arrangements for AGM

7.1 Elections at AGM – nominations of Officers and Council members.

JE will write to Council members to enquire whether they wish to stand for re-election. Under the Constitution, one third of all council members must retire, in rotation, and seek election to Council. **JE**

7.2 Annual Report Copy and Associated Membership Mailing

At the November EC it was decided to have the Annual Report in a similar format to last year. This issue would be discussed again at the January EC and Council members would be informed of any significant changes of plan.

Brian Ingram had, by prior email, asked that there be further discussion on some aspects of the membership mailings and publication aimed at reducing costs. It was agreed that the Officers and those responsible for membership would discuss BI's proposals with him outside the meeting.

8. Constitutional and Administrative Issues

8.1 Motion re Dates of future Council meetings

Council was reminded that since the publication of the Strategy Report, the programme of Council meetings had, for the past two years, been reduced. The Council had already confirmed the reduced (seven) Council meetings that would operate for 2014 and the actual dates had been advertised to the Council. A Council member, while in favour of the schedule of seven meetings, had requested that it be formalised for the year.

Views were expressed by Council members both for and against 11 monthly meetings a year and the advertised programme of 7 (roughly bi-monthly meetings) and up to 4 Open Meetings on the intervening months (or in the case of February the use of the Fellowship house booking for a new residents reception hosted by some Council members).

A Motion was proposed by Charles Gale and seconded by Rosalind Josephs:

“Noting that, in accordance with the power of the RA Council to vary as set out in Standing Order 1(a), Council had approved, after the Strategy Report, a change from monthly meetings to meeting on the first Tuesday in January, March, April, May, July, September and November and that the first Tuesday of February, June, October and December be booked and reserved for open meetings as and when considered appropriate, IT WAS RESOLVED that this programme will continue for 2014.”

This was carried by 13 votes in favour and 2 against with 2 abstentions

8.2 Proposal for Marketing Committee as new Standing Committee

JS told Council that as a result of the Strategy Report he had early in 2013 raised in EC the question of a new Marketing committee which had again been discussed in detail at the December EC. He thought it essential to widen the RA's vision and reach out to residents who often had little perception of the RA.

DBI was concerned that there is little difference between what the Marketing committee would do and part of the current roles of the Events, Membership and Publications Committees and that he thought it would be confusing to have such a committee. JS pointed out that the draft objectives state that the proposed committee must take into account the responsibilities of other committees and liaise with them. Colin Gregory said that there is a gap which the Marketing Committee would help fill, but it should either have representatives from or liaison with the above three committees. It was agreed to mention these committees in the Motion.

Jonathan Seres proposed and Tony Ghilchik seconded a Motion

“That it was resolved in accordance with Standing Order 20 to create a Marketing Committee as a new Standing Committee with the following remit:

- To publicise the role and successes of the RA using a range of media as appropriate;
- To recommend to the Executive Committee from time to time steps aimed to attract new members, to the extent that resources, both human and financial permit;
- To bring major matters to the attention of the EC as soon as they arise;
- To keep the above terms of reference under review, and recommend changes from time to time if thought fit.

and that the terms of reference of all other existing RA Standing Committees would continue to be observed and in particular there should be liaison with Events, Membership and Publications

The Motion was carried with 15 votes in favour 1 against with 1 abstention.

A motion was proposed by Jonathan Seres and seconded by Tony Ghilchik

“That the following Council members be appointed to the new Marketing committee Jonathan Seres as its first chair, Charles Gale, Brian Ingram, Max Petersen and Ann Spencer and it was noted from the discussion that the committee was likely to co-opt from outside the Council, two further members.

This vote was carried unanimously and it was agreed that no other issues remained under item 8 of the agenda.

9. Open meeting for February

No urgent issue had been identified and it was proposed use the 4 February Fellowship House booking for a new residents' party to continue the series started in 2011.. JS

10. Committee Reports and Issues:

10.1 Consam

JSL said that objections had been made by Consam to the proposed Athlone House re-development and to a proposal for 24 Neville Drive to validate a wrongly built garden pool-house. A survey is being considered to identify the full height parking

posts on the Suburb. Consam is dealing with the proposed City Car Club about which Barnet officers are not very active, although Councillors seem to be interested in the scheme.

TG (on behalf of T&OS which represents the RA on the Kenwood Landscape Forum) will talk to the Trust regarding the English Heritage proposal to split their roles into Historic Environment and Management of property of which Kenwood House is the prominent local example. Noted that if Consam also has views, TG will incorporate these into any letter sent. **TG/ JSL**

Some progress had been made regarding 43 Brookland Rise and the hedge will be reinstated. WS pointed out that unless the dropped kerb is also reinstated, a parking space will be lost in the road.

It was noted that a donation from an anonymous donor had paid for the replacement bench at junction of Hampstead Way/ Farm Walk which is now in place.

10.2 Events:

End of Year Fireworks

DLt said that there attendance had been good and favourable comments had been received. He thanked all the volunteers. The gross expenditure was £5593, including refundable damage deposits, but after taking into account the sponsorship of £600, the collection on the night of almost £1000 and other items, the net cost was £3242 which was £1258 below budget. .

Council congratulated DLt and his team and there will be photographs and an article in the next edition of Suburb News. **RW**

Toddlers Party.

Dlt said that this is proposed for Sunday, 9 March and will be discussed in detail at the Events Committee on 22 January .There is a budget of £400. BI suggested a small charge per head which Events will consider.

10.3 Gallery

RW explained that although it had been a quiet year the Gallery had broken even and made a surplus of £89. He alerted Council to his view that it may be difficult to continue with the Gallery after the proposed development of Fellowship House. JS reported that Andrew Botterill's personal view was that Gallery exhibits would enhance the appearance for letting of the enlarged second room. RW was requested to prepare a paper. **RW**

10.4 Publications:

Suburb News, eNews and Directory

The next Suburb News will be printed on 31 January and distributed on 1 February. *{post Council meeting: actual distribution began one week earlier}*. RW would welcome further copy and Council members were encouraged to submit. BI suggested that a further item regarding the Fellowship appeal be included.

John Sells asked why the web site is being updated and RW explained that it is old and in need of up-dating in a number of ways. Council was also reminded that the current site is for the Suburb and not just the RA. It was noted that TB, now abroad, had not yet submitted a paper. **JS/ JC/TBs**

10.5 Roads & Traffic

JE had received a short report from the Chairman of R&T, Gary Shaw, who was unable to attend. GS wanted Council to be informed of positive talks with TfL regarding signage and parking in Market Place and that he is very pleased that this long running saga, may before too long, be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

Talks with Barnet re Wildwood Road further possible parking are continuing.

A further meeting of the Committee would be held next week, when a further co-option is likely.

10.6 Trees & Open Spaces

Northway Gardens Playground Refurbishment

Although the proposed new boundary had been approved by Barnet, confirmation was awaited regarding future maintenance.

Rose Garden in Northway Gardens

Leaflets calling for volunteers had been circulated to the houses backing onto Northway Gardens and to the Bigwood Working Group, and a letter drafted to Barnet. TG thought that it was essential to form a working group before considering the position regarding funding.

11. Any Other Urgent Business

Objectives for 2014

As it was past 10.00pm this item was postponed to the March meeting. Comments could be sent to the Chair. **JE**

Information on future meetings:

1. RA Council meetings

Meetings will be held on 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. * note this is the 2nd Monday in April.

2. Open meetings

Reserved date (if hot topics emerge) 3 June 2014 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