



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4 March 2014
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present:: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Jeremy Clynes, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Stephanie Hurst, Brian Ingram, Rosalind Josephs, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), David Littaur, Max Petersen, John Sells, Jonathan Seres, Gary Shaw, Ann Spencer and Richard Wakefield.

Visitors: Andrew Botterill, David B Lewis, Joyce Littaur and Diane Walsh.

Janet Elliott told Council that David Lewis had recently had surgery but was now home and the Council wished him a speedy and complete recovery.

1. **Apologies for Absence and welcome to visiting residents**
Douglas Blausten, Alan Brudney and David Lewis,
2. **Notification of urgent business not on the Agenda** –There was none
3. **Questions from residents**
 - a Notified in advance – There were none.
 - b Raised on the day by visiting residents – There were none

4. **Approval of Council Minutes of Meeting held of 7 January 2014**

Financial Report

BI requested that the minutes include a reference to a question he had raised about mailing costs which the January meeting had deferred to enable JS to provide him with the figures. This was agreed.

5. **Receipt of the Minutes of Executive meetings held on 21 January and 25 February** - These were received

5.1 Matters Arising - RA Theatre Club

Copies of the emails from the club to JE had been circulated in advance to Council members. The Theatre Club had changed its name from RA Theatre Club to HGS Theatre Club. At the same time they had decided to drop the requirement for all their members to join the RA as well as the Theatre Club, as many lived outside the Suburb and some did not wish to subscribe as Associate members of the RA. This brings the Club into line with other Suburb Clubs and Associations many of which had historic links to the RA related to their start up but had since become fully independent. The Council unanimously agreed to note the decision and to wish the HGS Theatre Club well for the future.

5.2 Fellowship House Appeal – presentation by Andrew Botterill

Andrew Botterill had asked to address the Council about a request that the Association make a commitment to provide a facility of up to £4,000, which would be called on should the costs of refurbishment exceed the funds available from other sources. AB outlined the benefits of the refurbishment to the Suburb overall, which aligned with the Constitution of the RA, and the need both to upgrade Fellowship House to 21st century standards and by providing more space which could be rented out, provide an increased income flow to maintain the facilities. Full details of the appeal were set out in the Appeal leaflet which had been circulated throughout HGS.

After questions and responses, the meeting went into the pre-agreed closed session and Andrew Botterill and other visitors left the room.

There was a full discussion.

1) After noting AB's reference to the credits for commitments received (and expected tax recovery), including allocation of the Eileen Whelan bequest (£188,000) and £50,000 from Fellowship's own funds, which exceeded the original funding gap but could be expected to be less than needed once tenders were received, and his proposal that the RA commit to provide up to £4,000 which could be called upon if actually needed, the Motion in (2) below was put, and passed:

(2) Regarding the Fellowship House Appeal proposal that the RA make a commitment that if the refurbishment costs incurred exceed the monies raised and the stated allocations (including tax credits) the RA would pay up to £4,000 if needed, it was agreed in principle to make the commitment but before finalising it a meeting with Fellowship was requested to learn about arrangements for the RA Gallery on the reopening of the building. Any payment by the RA would be from reserves.

At the end of the closed session visitors returned and AB was informed

“That in principle the RA is willing to commit to making the sum of £4000 available, if required by Fellowship to carry out their proposed renovation in accordance with the plans provided, but before finalising it a meeting with Fellowship was requested to learn about arrangements for the RA Gallery on the reopening of the building.”

AB was happy to arrange a meeting in the very near future. *.[postmeeting note: The meeting with Fellowship took place on 11th March]*

The Chairman thanked Andrew Botterill for his participation and he then left the meeting.

6. Financial Report and draft budget for year to end 2014

These had been circulated to Council. There had been very few transactions in January.

JC said that the end of year accounts had been examined by Paul Hartley would be published in the Annual Report..

Spending Review

Ann Spencer suggested that a spending review group is set up to look at the RA expenditure, as done routinely by government departments, to see whether savings can be made. After discussion JS suggested that a working group be appointed to review major items of expenditure, with himself as chair, and to include Ann Spencer, Max Petersen and one other. *[postmeeting note: Brian Ingram was invited to be the fourth member, and he accepted.]*

Brian Ingram proposed and Colin Gregory seconded a Motion

“That a working group is set up to see whether expenditure could be adapted to show savings in efficiency and that they report back and bring various options through the EC to be considered by Council.”

This was passed with 15 votes in favour, with 1 against and 1 abstention..

7. AGM Matters

7.1 Council Nominees for Election to Council at AGM on 31 March

These are:

Jeremy Hershkorn; David B Lewis; Amanda Reuben and Paul Wenham.

7.2 Annual Report

RW reported that this is with the printers.

7.3 AGM arrangements for help on the night

DLt will email details to Council.

DLt

7.4 Honorary life Membership

JE proposed that this year Honorary Life Membership is given to Hilda Williams; this was seconded by Max Petersen and agreed unanimously by Council.

8 Council Objectives for 2014

In view of the shortage of time this was deferred to the April or May meeting.

CG would like the following additions to be included in the objectives:

Increasing membership of the RA

Increasing the influence of the RA with the Trust and LLB Barnet

Increasing ways to ascertain what residents want from the RA

The EC will discuss these additions at its forthcoming meeting.

9. Committee Reports and associated matters

9.1 Allotments

Pia Duran is standing down and a new Chairman, Patricia Major, has been selected by the Committee from among its members.

9.2 Consam

a Stuart Gray Award

JSL said that the judging panel will review the short list in time for the AGM.

b Neville Drive

This application has been withdrawn.

c 43 Brookland Rise

The hedge and dropped curb have been reinstated.

c 15 Heathgate

Some sheds have been replaced with a building and this is being looked into.

9.3 Events

a Toddlers Party

This will take place on 9 March at Fellowship House. Admission will be free but there will be a collection.

b Michael Rowley Event

The provisional date is May 17 at Friends Meeting House at 2.30pm. Speakers will include the Rev Alan Walker and Alan Dein.

c Summer Picnic Fun Day

This will take place on 29 June. A small subcommittee has been formed who are meeting regularly. It was hoped that the costs will be less than the budget of £4000.

9.4 Gallery

RW pointed out that the Gallery normally makes most of its income during the second half of the year, when this year the proposed work to Fellowship House will be undertaken.

9.5 Marketing

JS said that the minutes of the Committee's first two meeting had been circulated in advance to the Council. The committee's proposal to hold an afternoon tea for new residents on May 18 to enable families to attend was approved. The budget sought was £100 and this was approved by the Council.

9.6 Membership Matters

Mailings and Deliveries

JS reported that he is working with JC and JE. The June distribution used to be prepared by Steve Morris and JS took this over three years ago but it is no longer practicable to rely physically on one person to distribute to Ward Organisers.. He has been considering alternative ways of carrying this out and would like to bring proposals to the EC which may involve an insertion in the Directory.

JS

RW said that the date of distribution of the Directory had slipped in the past couple of years and he would like it to be distributed before June. It was agreed that this will be done if it is possible, subject to distribution arrangements..

JSI suggested that the name is changed to 'Suburb Directory 2014' rather than 'June 2014 - May 2015'. Council agreed with this.

9.7 Publications

a Temple Fortune Post Office

JE explained that a short article in the recent Suburb News had been interpreted as being negative towards the Temple Fortune post office. The postmistress was upset and a meeting was held with her, JE and JS when a text was considered for insertion in the next edition of Suburb News. This was still awaiting agreement.

b Web Site Report

TB said that he and JS had met with Steve Morris and made some progress which would not involve a separate website. No application for a budget was to be made at present.

9.8 Roads and Traffic

a Consultation Meeting re Wildwood Road parking proposals

GS said that the RA is acting as a facilitator for a meeting which Cllr John Marshall had asked them to organise to hear residents' views. This will be held on 25 March at 8.00pm at Fellowship House. Representatives from LB Barnet will attend and details of the meeting will be included on the HGS list.

b Brookland School and LB Barnet proposals for further parking restrictions

GS told Council that the Brookland Rise School had informed him that the proposed extension of hours for the zigzag lines outside the School will not now go ahead. **GS** stated that he felt the latest position was satisfactory but will be holding a further meeting with the School and will report back. **GS**

c Temple Fortune Petition

Charles Gale said that a shop owner in Temple Fortune had organised a petition with 1200 signatures regarding the parking restrictions and she will attend the next R&T meeting to explain her proposals. **GS and CGa**

9.9 Trees and Open Spaces

a Northway Gardens

TG reported on a Community Day to be held on 16 March from 10.00am -16.00pm. Residents were invited to help with the shovelling of bark chips into skips, for recycling in other Barnet parks, which will save money on the installation costs for the new playground.

b Rose Garden

A group of six residents is being formed to progress this. T&OS will continue to be in touch both with them and LBB.

c Kenwood

English Heritage had responded to the consultation and the work had been carried out to fell the trees as proposed by them, other than the three large beech trees.

d Central Square

A meeting will be held to progress this.

10. Any Other business

As this was JE's last Council meeting as Chairman of the RA, RW thanked her on behalf of the Council for all the work she had done and wished her well. This was universally applauded.

11. To re-confirm the dates of future Council meetings for 2014

Monday 31 March - AGM

Tuesday 8 April, 6 May, 1 July, 2 September, 4 November at 8.00pm at Fellowship House or an alternative venue if the building work is in progress.

There are no Council meetings scheduled for June, October and December 2014 – Open or other Meetings may be arranged as appropriate.