



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8 April 2014  
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present: Jonathan Seres - in the Chair, Alan Brudney, Jeremy Clynes, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Jeremy Hershkorn, Stephanie Hurst, Brian Ingram, David B Lewis, Rosalind Josephs, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), David Littaur, Max Petersen, Amanda Reuben, Gary Shaw, Ann Spencer and Richard Wakefield. Diane Walsh, Paul Wenham

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Jennye Seres and Gary Sheldon.

**1. Welcome (and other preliminaries)**

(a) Welcome to new Council members and visiting residents – from the chair, and generally acclaimed.

JS was delighted to welcome Amanda Reuben, Diane Walsh, Jeremy Hershkorn and Paul Wenham to Council, and to welcome back David B Lewis.

(b) Apologies were received from Peter Beesley, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Douglas Blausten, John Sells.

(c) Any Other Business for Agenda: there was none.

**2. Questions from visiting residents**

Joyce Littaur asked the RA to look into the untidy way that compost or wood chips had been spread around the bases of trees on some Suburb roads. TG responded that Trees & Open Spaces would look into this. **TG**

**3. AGM 31 March 2014**

(a) Oral Report

JS said that the AGM went well and he thanked the Events Committee for their work and for organising the food. He would like a discussion on a serious topic at future AGMs which he hoped to implement next year.

He paid tribute to Janet Elliott for all her work over a period of change for the RA.

(b) To Approve the Minutes

These were approved by Council, and although formally to be approved at next year's AGM will be made publically available on the website with the previous AGM minutes. JS will talk to Steve Morris. **JS**

#### **4. Council Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 March 2014**

(a) Approved with the following amendments:

9.1 Allotments

Insert 'Patricia Major' between 'Chairman' and 'has' in the first sentence.

9.3 Events: b: Michael Rowley Event

To correct a typo, and update the time, this should be amended to:

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

9.9 Trees and Open Spaces: b: Rose Garden

Delete 'has been' and insert 'is being' in the first sentence.

#### (b) Matters Arising from the Council Minutes of 4 March 2014 not included in the Agenda

9.6 Membership

BI believed that he had mentioned at the March Council meeting that in his opinion he had identified a prospective saving of £11,000 in a full year, in respect of membership and publication costs. JS responded that this was being looked at by the Spending Review working group that had held its first meeting, on which BI served, and while the figure was not agreed at this stage, Publications were already looking at a reduced quote.

6. (but in connection with the above): Spending Review Group

JS reported that the new group which had recently been set up with himself, Ann Spencer, Max Petersen and Brian Ingram, had met and identified possible savings. BI had worked on printing costs, and RW had also obtained a reduced quotation for for Suburb News and would be looking for another for the directory.

#### **5. Financial Report**

JC had circulated the February accounts which did not contain any major items, income being mainly from Standing Orders. The March accounts are being prepared and will be circulated ahead of the next Council meeting. They will include subscriptions received since the pre-AGM mailing.

BI asked the position regarding the Web site and JS told him that the Publications Committee minutes which had been circulated indicated that it was unlikely that there would be a new RA web site for the time being.

JC explained to JH the entry regarding the membership figures in the notes. Only 40% of households were in membership, partly because of the very low figures in the flats along the A1 and Temple Fortune. He also explained the part of the balance sheet that related to tree planting.

Paul Wenham asked whether there was any way that the RA could obtain a higher rate of interest on their capital. JC said that this had already been looked into, without success under prevailing general rates, but would welcome any suggestions. If the RA had charitable status, there was an available pooled fund, but even there, current rates were low.

### Mandate

JS said that two signatories are required for every cheque issued by the RA, and this was therefore used rather than online payments. Approval of invoices now needed initialling.

It was proposed that the new officers should be additional signatories, and in light of a comment from DBL that only members of Council should be signatories, the former officer's authorisation would be deleted.

## **6. Current Matters**

### (a) Northway Gardens Playground

JS referred to Council's Minutes of July and November 2013 that agreed funding by the RA of £20,000 subject to consultation and to provision for maintenance by LB Barnet. The consultation had been carried out, and the plans had been approved by Council in November. LB Barnet has now written that it will continue to manage the site 'by carrying out regular maintenance in accordance with our current standards'. The refurbishment work had commenced and a letter had now been received from LB Barnet asking for £20,000.

There will be a plaque acknowledging the RA's contribution, and wording was envisaged along the lines of the one on the Lyttelton tennis courts. Council agreed DBL suggestion that the wording mention that funding was from the RA's Centenary Fund.

Council delegated to TG and JS to agree the form and wording of the plaque and to inform Council.

**TG/JS**

**A Motion was proposed** by Charles Gale and seconded by Colin Gregory:

That, as the conditions laid down by Council had been complied with, a cheque for £20,000 should be raised for the RA's contribution to the Northway Gardens Playground and should be sent to LB Barnet.

This was passed unanimously

### (b) Hustings

Hustings have been arranged for the Council elections, to be chaired by Rev Alan Walker in the Free Church Hall on Monday 12th May at 7.30pm. All the principal political parties have been invited, and UKIP, Greens and any others will be invited when their list is known.

JS requested diary entries be made, so that all Council members attend, if possible.

### (c) Northway Rose Garden

TG reported that a small group chaired by Michael Franklin, had been formed from the 29 replies which had been received from the circular. They had met on 1<sup>st</sup> April. As well as restoring the roses they would like to restore the pergola which could require funding. They would like to take some horticultural advice and obtain a design from Steven Crisp, and while the design cost was unknown the RA had contributed £300 towards the Central Square design.

Colin Gregory said that the starting point is that LB Barnet should pay for the work but he recognised that the RA would have to pay for the design. TG was not convinced that LB Barnet would pay for all the work. CG confirmed that no commitment for RA funding would be made without reference back to Council.

### Adopt a Place

CG reported that this scheme was a way of getting residents to support local places in partnership with the Local Authority and he would like the RA to pick up on this initiative.

It was noted that BI was running a parallel application to LB Barnet who had written a joint email on 17 March to him and the RA. That might raise a question in light of BI's position on the RA Council, but it was too early to consider that.

**A Motion was proposed** by Colin Gregory and seconded by Tony Ghilchik:

That the Council authorise the expenditure of up to £300 for a design for the Rose Garden subject to no further commitment being made without authorisation by Council.

This was passed with one vote against (and no abstentions).

### (d) Fellowship House Development

Regarding Minute 5.2 of 4<sup>th</sup> March, JS reported on the meeting which had been held on 11<sup>th</sup> March by himself, Janet Elliott and Richard Wakefield with representatives of Fellowship to learn about arrangements for the RA Gallery on the reopening of the building. The meeting itself had been constructive and had been the required opportunity to bring to Fellowship's attention the need to think about the Gallery.. Two Fellowship trustees were present, and their appeal manager, who all personally would like the Gallery to return after rebuilding, provided flexible arrangements can be agreed for commercial room hire when opportunities arise.

A letter had since been received, from the four trustees the week before today's meeting, confirming this and that the rent in the short-term would be as now (with no charge while the building is closed), albeit this would be reviewed in the course of the first year in the light of experience.

JS had since spoken with a Fellowship Trustee and it was agreed that he should prepare a form of wording and will liaise with RW. This will be subject to authorisation by Council.

DBL considered that the RA should agree the terms before it commits to the provision of £4,000 but JS said that this point was fully debated on 4<sup>th</sup> March at Council.

**A Motion was proposed** by Colin Gregory and seconded by Tony Ghilchik:

That the condition laid down at the March Council meeting had been met and that confirmation that a grant of up to £4,000 would be available if needed, should now be given to Fellowship.

This was passed with three abstentions.

## **7. To elect the Executive Committee and appoint RA council members to RA Standing Committee and the RA representation on other bodies for 2014-15**

JS referred to the paper circulated ahead of the meeting that had explained that the one year rule regarding membership of the Executive committee and the six year rule regarding service on committees are contained in the RA's Standing Orders and not in the Constitution. The paper also mentioned that although the Strategy Group Report had recommended that these should be enforced, it had recognised that this could not be fully achieved until Council and committees had been rejuvenated. Today's five new Council members were a good start, and committees had, mainly

this year, co-opted 7 other new members. Currently five individuals would have been affected by the rules. The Council agreed on this occasion, as in previous years, a suspension of these rules under Standing Order 35, but would like to work towards their enforcement.

The paper had included recommendations for all positions.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EC comprises the four Officers - Jonathan Seres, Max Petersen, Jeremy Clynes, Gary Shaw, plus five others.

In accordance with the Officers' recommendations for the additional five nominees, a **Motion was proposed** by Jonathan Seres and seconded by Max Petersen:

That Tony Ghilchik, David Littaur, Richard Wakefield, Rosalind Josephs and David B Lewis be elected to the Executive Committee.

This was passed unanimously

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Committees themselves, and not the Council, decide on who they wish to co-opt to their committees, and generally these continue without significant change. Committees will also elect their Chair. The following are just the Council nominees.

**The following recommendations** were considered by Council, and in each case passed unanimously.

### ALLOTMENTS

Alan Brudney

(The Nine allotment site Secretaries are ex officio committee members)

### CONSERVATION AND AMENITIES (Consam)

John Sells

Jeremy Clynes

Tony Ghilchik

Rosalind Josephs

Max Petersen

### EVENTS

David Littaur

Tony Brand

Charles Gale

David B Lewis

Richard Wakefield

### MARKETING

Jonathan Seres

Charles Gale

Jeremy Hershkorn

Brian Ingram

Max Petersen

Amanda Reuben

Ann Spencer

Diane Walsh

### MEMBERSHIP

Janet Elliott (Hon Membership Secretary).

Jeremy Clynes

Stephanie Hurst

(supported by co-optee, Ward Organisers and Ward Reps)

### PUBLICATIONS

Terry Brooks

Richard Wakefield

(supported by two former Council members and third co-optee, plus potentially fourth)

### ROADS & TRAFFIC

Gary Shaw

Charles Gale

Will Sowerbutts

Diane Walsh

### TREES & OPEN SPACES

Tony Ghilchik

Peter Beesley

Alan Brudney

Colin Gregory

Ann Spencer

### GARDEN SUBURB GALLERY

Richard Wakefield

Paul Wenham

(Plus a team of around 12 volunteers)

### LITTER TEAM

Rosalind Josephs (and 112+ volunteers)

### SUBURB WEBSITE

To confirm that Steve Morris, no longer a Council member, supports the RA regarding the website that he owns, and continues in the directory.

### **RA Representatives and Nominees on other Organisations**

In some cases the outside body reserves the right, under its own rules of appointment, to approve the RA's recommendation.

#### commUNITY Barnet

Rosalind Josephs

#### Bigwood and Littlewood Management Group

Chosen from within the RA Trees & Open Spaces Committee:

Tony Ghilchik

Alan Brudney

Colin Gregory

Numerous additional volunteers

#### City of London's Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Colin Gregory

English Heritage Liaison

**A Motion was proposed** by Jonathan Seres and seconded by Jeremy Clynes:

That Peter Unger RIBA should be the RA's representative on English Heritage Liaison.

This was passed by 12 votes in favour and 5 against. The need to fill a vacancy had only arisen the previous morning. Peter had attended the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 discussion meeting organised by the Council, and had agreed to fill the vacancy. It was noted that the reporting line would be through Consam, and hoped that in due course he would agree to be co-opted to Consam.

Federation of Residents Associations of LB of Barnet (FORAB)

Janet Elliott

HGS Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC)\*

Max Petersen

Geoffrey Spyer RIBA

HGS Fellowship

Richard Wakefield

Paul Wenham

HGS Heritage

David Littaur

Paul Wenham

HGS Institute

Janet Elliott

HGS Trust, Estates Committee

Rosalind Josephs

Patricia Major, Chair of the Allotments Committee, will be invited by the Trust to join this committee.

HGS Trust, Finance Committee

Jeremy Clynes

HGS Trust, Grants and Amenities Committee

Eva Jacobs

Louise Scheuer

HGS Trust, Property and Plans Committee\*

Two representatives chosen from Consam - subject to Trust agreement

Jonathan Rowley RIBA

Geoffrey Spyer RIBA

alternate David (Northway) Lewis,

HGS Trust, Trees Survey Steering Group

Janet Elliott

Kenwood Landscape Forum

Maria Schlatter

London Forum of Greater London Amenity Societies

Derek Chandler

North London Hospice (North West Support Group)  
David (Northway) Lewis

The Orchard Housing Society  
TBC

**8. To Note future programme of Council and potentially open meetings**

RA Council Meetings

To be held on Tuesdays 6 May, 1 July, 2 September, 4 November 2014 at 8.00pm.  
The May and July meetings will be held at Fellowship House and if rebuilding takes place the September and November meetings will take place at Friends Meeting House, Central Square.

Open Meeting

The reserved potential dates are 10 June and 7 October.