



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday
1 December 2015 at Fellowship House Willifield Way at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis - in the Chair, Douglas Blausten, Tony Brand, Alan Brudney, Tony Ghilchik, Charles Gale, Colin Gregory, Anita Harlow, Jeremy Hershkorn, Louise Hillman, Stephanie Hurst, Brian Ingram, David Littaur, Max Petersen, Frances Prentice, Gary Shaw, Hella Schrader, Ann Spencer, Ian Tutton, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council).

1. Apologies for Absence

Terry Brooks, Lynda Cook, Jonathan Seres, Diane Walsh

2. Question Time

There were none

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were approved

Alan Brudney said that discussions at Council meetings should be controlled with remarks being addressed through the Chairman. He also sought clarification of what should be recorded in the Minutes and whether it is only the decisions that are reported.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda.

Proposal to end Council Meetings at 9.45pm

The Chairman proposed a Motion which was seconded by Douglas Blausten

That, as a consequence of the agreement to hold additional meetings of the Council each year there should be an intention to end meetings by 9.45pm

This was passed unanimously

Central Square Funding Application

The Chairman said that the EC had agreed that it might be preferable to make the grant in the next financial year and he was awaiting a response from the Trust. The matter will be decided after further consultation with the Treasurer.

Virtual Gallery

The Chairman told the Council that the proposed project which is to be led by Jeremy Clynes is not an RA project.

Litchfield/ Meadway Roundabout

This item had not yet been discussed by the EC. BI said that the weeds have returned and the work to the roundabout should be carried out.

Council agreed that as this is the responsibility of LB Barnet, TG will write to them, with a copy to the Councillors, asking them to carry out the work. **Action: TG**

City of London Open Spaces Bill

The Bill had been deposited on November 27th with Parliament and the outcome was that the City of London had made a number of concessions requested by the RA and others which included amended wording which would offer added protection to the Hampstead Heath Extension. There had been co-operation with the Heath & Hampstead Society on this matter.

5. Receipt of EC minutes of 17th November 2015

These were received

6. Finance/Budget 2016

Budget 2016

The draft budget had been circulated in advance to the Council. The Central Square grant of £8,750 is excluded from Budget 2016 as it is reflected in the Forecast 2015 accounts. The budget was approved.

Reserves Policy

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Associations' ongoing Reserve Policy is to ensure that a level of resources is always retained to continue funding

- *Its core structure and activities for a minimum period of 6 months*
- *Its existing commitment to grants and sponsorship awarded and donations collected on behalf of other organisations*

Additionally the Association seeks to hold a cushion of funds equivalent to half the membership fees collected in the previous year, with a lower limit of £15,000, to ensure that it has adequate financial stability in the event of unforeseen risks arising.

The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually by the Executive Committee in the light of the Association's changing circumstances

A Motion was proposed by Louise Hillman and seconded by David Lewis

7. Brooklands School Area open Meeting – 17th December 2015

GS reported that there are two proposals, one for a pedestrian crossing and the other for CCTV camera. On neither had the RA been consulted and GS had heard about these by accident. Engineers had been sent by LB Barnet to look at the proposal for CCTV cameras which would be positioned so as to create a privacy issue for houses within the ambit of the cameras. The engineers told GS that they were unaware of the proposal for a pedestrian crossing. GS feared that the use of CCTV cameras may lead to restricted hours for restricted parking as they will have to be made profitable. This will also create a precedent for a residential area.

An open meeting to discuss this topic will be held on 17th December at Fellowship House. LB Barnet officers have been invited to attend and two of the Councillors will

attend. The School had expressed misgivings about holding the meeting on its premises.

In response to a question from BI, GS said that he had first heard about the plans at the end of September or early October when the Trust had sent him an email attaching the Capita proposals although the Trust did not comment on the plans. The School had been consulted in July.

All local residents have been leafleted more than once with details of the meeting.

BI said that LBB will be conducting its own consultation in January.

It was agreed to await the outcome of the open meeting before discussing this issue further.

8. Memorial Benches

ChG reported that there are two benches in disrepair situated in Asmunds Hill and Willifield Green. He had spoken to Rosalind Josephs, who was previously responsible for Suburb benches, to remove the benches as LB Barnet do not have the funds to repair or replace them. ChG had removed and saved one of the plaques and the other should also be removed from the bench. It was agreed that benches have a limited life.

ChG is trying to establish the procedure for anyone wishing to donate a new memorial bench and he will try to ascertain whether there are any family members who are prepared to pay for the repair/replacement of the benches in disrepair.

Action: ChG

9. Committee reports

Trees and Open Spaces

15 Asmunds Hill

Barnet Planning Committee unanimously refused consent for the felling of a veteran oak tree in the garden on the application of consultants representing an insurance company. As well as the many written objections, including the owners of the house, the RA Chairman and the HGS Trust Manager spoke in person against the proposals.

Bigwood Action Day

TG reported that the next action day will be held on Saturday 12th December and Council members are encouraged to attend.

Membership

IT requested that Membership Committee look into the possibility of having individual members rather than households which he said would increase the membership and the subscription income. **Action: HS**

Events

New Year's Eve

Volunteers are required to help on the night and also with the distribution of flyers.

Summer Fun Day

This will be held on 19th June and JH asked the committee to inform other local organisations and schools so that there will not be a clash of events which had happened last year. **Action DLt**

10. Any other Urgent Business

Notice to Brian Ingram

This matter was discussed at length. Following the procedure which was introduced into the RA Constitution at the 2015 Special General Meeting, the EC had authorised the Chairman to give formal written notice to BI. A copy of this letter and an earlier warning letter had been circulated to Council. It is intended that written specific evidence will be submitted to BI before the 42 day notice period commences and will form part of the notice. **Action: DBL and EC**

At the meeting of the Council which will consider, probably February, 2016, BI will be given a full opportunity to respond to the issues raised and can submit written material before the meeting and have someone to represent him. Some views were expressed that the written evidence should have been sent to BI at the same time as the Notice was served.

11. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at Fellowship House and future RA Council meeting on 1st March, 5th April, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July and 6th September 2016

These dates were confirmed. The meeting ended at 9.40pm.