



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday  
5<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at Fellowship House Willifield Way at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis - in the Chair, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Lynda Cook, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Jeremy Hershkorn, Louise Hillman, (part of Meeting), David Littaur, Peter McCluskie, Frances Prentice, Simon Sackman, Gary Shaw, Hella Schrader, Jonathan Seres, Harry Simmonds, Ann Spencer, Ian Tutton, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council).

Visitors: There were none

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Alan Brudney, Charles Gale, Anita Harlow and Max Petersen

**2. Question Time**

There were none.

**3. Correction and approval of the Minutes of the previous Meeting of Council held on 7 June**

Colin Gregory should be deleted from "Present".

**4. Matters arising from the minutes not on the Agenda.**

Trees and Open Spaces - Central Square

The Chairman had visited Central Square and was disappointed with the lack of progress. Tony Ghilchik was unclear of the reason but the 'opening' date had been set for Mid-October as a target date for completion of the work. The HGS Trust is acting as banker for the project and Steven Crisp is organising the day to day work.

Ann Spencer asked for clarification about the removal of trees and Tony Ghilchik said that there were no plans for any tree to be removed.

Jonathan Seres wanted confirmation about responsibility for ongoing maintenance and Tony Ghilchik confirmed that the Trust have given this. Interest on the money given by the RA towards this project is unlikely to amount to more than £100 so no action will be taken to recover this.

Tony Ghilchik reported that weeds will not be removed due to the ban on weed killer but hopefully compost will cover them. Ann Spencer thought that there must be another way of removing weeds. The Chairman stated that the work must be carried out correctly and the RA had never been told that weed killer would be used. Ian Tutton said that delay may be due to the HB School used the playing fields for sports but in the summer holidays it will be used by local residents and children.

Tony Ghilchik said that the wet weather has contributed to the lack of progress and he will try to find out the reason for the delay. He had asked for a timetable which he will circulate when it is received. **TG**

Lynda Cook asked him to look again at the position regarding the weeds which Frances Prentice said could be pulled up. Jonathan Seres suggested trying to enlist young offenders under a scheme whereby each Borough makes people available for similar projects.

**5. To note the reports of the Open Meetings on Crime and Pavements held on 21 June together with any matters arising.**

Crime

Jeremy Hershkorn said that since this meeting he had been aware of a police presence on the Suburb. He had also accepted the offer from the Police to go on patrol with them for 4 hours and he will report back to Council. It was reported that Sgt Thomas is shortly to be moved to another area.

Harry Simmonds said that the Meeting was overflowing and there was huge concern about crime on the Suburb. He had also noticed an increased police presence. He mentioned an App that had been introduced by a Middleway resident which enabled information about possible criminal activity to be quickly sent out to a group of subscribing residents. There is only capacity for 250 people and by now it was probably full but other residents were encouraged to start a similar scheme. Lynda Cook was concerned that this would encourage incorrect presumptions about people who are unfamiliar on the Suburb and bring out prejudices but it was pointed out that the recent fly tipper had been arrested after suburb residents had circulated information and photos of the perpetrators and their vehicles.

Pavements

Only one resident, Daphne Berkovi had offered to help on the working group but she had limited time available. It was suggested that residents should be asked to volunteer through the HGS discussion group. No resident had yet posted information about broken paving stones on the designated App or by email.

It was agreed that Harry Simmonds will supply the details for Terry Brooks who will send out an appropriate e news. **HS/TB**

Terry Brooks had been asked by a resident for a copy of the notes of the Meeting and Council agreed that this could be made available on the web site. Colin Gregory has used 'Fix my Street' with positive results but if LB Barnet replace asphalt with paving stones we should object.

The Chairman said that we should tell Barnet that we want uniformity on Suburb pavements in individual streets. Harry Simmonds said that Barnet are not doing a good job. They are behind with repairs, are underfunded and their presentation at the Meeting was not impressive.

The Chairman suggested that we should identify one stretch of pavement and ask LB Barnet to carry out the repair in a suitable way as an example.

A motion was proposed by Jonathan Seres and seconded by Peter McCluskie that

*'The RA identifies a section of pavement which should be repaired to a high standard to be used by LB Barnet as an example of good practice and this recommendation should be sent to LB Barnet through the Suburb Councillors'*

This was passed unanimously.

The Pavement working group should identify a suitable section of pavement where there is a potential danger. **HS/LC**

Parking on pavements may still be causing damage and it was suggested that the RA provide stickers to place on offending car's windscreens. This had been tried before and Gary Shaw said that there may be legal implications about possible damage to windscreens. It is illegal to park on pavements and if Barnet are told about offending vehicles they will attend and issue a fine although there may be informal agreements in some streets.

#### **6. Cross Country run proposal on the Hampstead Heath Extension**

The letter from the Heath and Hampstead Society to the City of London had been circulated to Council and endorsed by the EC on behalf of the RA. The route had now been agreed and Lynda Cook has walked it. Colin Gregory said that the proposed route is partly on the horse track and partly around the sports field. Children between 10 and 16 will compete and will run different lengths dependant on their age. The exact start and end of the race is still to be decided. It will be held in Jan/Feb

The letter from the Heath & Hampstead Society was tabled at the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting last week and the committee were happy that the race should go ahead and that it would not cause any permanent damage. This is a pilot scheme which will be reviewed and there is no implied consent for future cross county runs. Tony Ghilchik thought that the chance of long term damage was minimal.

#### **7. To note the joint paper drafted by the Heath & Hampstead Society and approved by the Executive Committee as a matter of urgency which has been sent to the City of London with regard to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and endorsed by the other local groups listed in the document.**

Colin Gregory said that this was one of the most important issues they had to consider which had been introduced as a result of the recent issues concerning the cafes on Hampstead Heath. It had been recognised that there was a need for a rethink of policy.

There are currently three meetings a year of the Consultative Committee which are held a week before the Hampstead Heath Management Committee meetings. The papers supplied to the Consultative Committee are similar to those for the Management meetings but generally there is no real opportunity for serious input. It has now been recognised that this is unsatisfactory and a series of principles were drawn up and considered by various organisations. The Superintendent has agreed that they will be accepted.

The number of Consultative Committee meetings has been increased to the same number as the Management Committee and the gap between the two meeting has also been increased. More information and data will be provided to the Consultative Committee to enable it to be more effective.

Colin Gregory said that this is a good outcome and the new way of working will be of benefit to the Heath. The City will be more sensitive to the way that the Heath is run.

## **8. Committee reports and any other urgent business**

### Richard Wakefield Memorial Bench

Gary Shaw told the Council that Charles Gale had referred the LB Barnet officer dealing with this matter to him while Charles Gale is unwell. He requires the wording for the plaque on the Memorial bench.

Jonathan Seres asked whether the location had been agreed and the Chairman asked whether it is appropriate to request a Lutyens bench. It was said that the cost could be £2000-3000. If the bench is placed around the HB Memorial we would need two benches and more discussion is needed to decide this.

Colin Gregory pointed out that we would need listed building consent and he asked whether the Trust and Jocelyne Wakefield have been consulted. We would also need to check the actual material used in the bench.

Tony Ghilchik said that LB Barnet is putting these items out for tender and the Bench would have to be sourced from the same place. David Littaur said that Events would be happy to help.

Jonathan Seres suggested offering an opportunity to purchase the second memorial bench around the HB Memorial, in Suburb News. Peter McCluskie will circulate a photo of the Lutyens bench. **PM.** Terry Brooks would like to see a photo of both benches.

### Market Place

Gary Shaw pointed out that there are new shops opening on the north side of Market place. A paint shop at the corner with Greenhalgh Walk and a bicycle exercise shop and a Sushi bar at the corner with Hill Rise.

### Events

#### Summer Fun Day

David Littaur said that people came out in crowds once the weather improved. The income was comparable with previous years and the expenditure was just under budget so financially it was the most successful Fun Day.

Jonathan Seres congratulated everyone who was involved with the organisation. He thought that the events were very good especially the animals although he thought that the numbers were way down on last year.

David Littaur said that the date of the Summer party for next year will be 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017 which does not conflict with other Suburb events or Jewish holidays.

Harry Simmonds asked what progress had been made on his suggestion of name cards at Council meetings. Hella Schrader offered to make these but there is the question of where they should be stored.

## **9. Finance**

The Treasurer told the meeting that the full year forecast for the current year is showing a deficit of £2,000 although the RA does have healthy reserves.

She was concerned that the membership subscription forecast continues to drop. There are now 1565 paid up members. Subscription income for the three years is as follows:

2014	£30,000
2015	£28,000
As at May 2016	£24,000

Support is required for the Suburb News advertising. Terry Brooks said that the current edition of Suburb News may reach £18,000 of advertising income. £16,000 is required to cover the costs.

The Chairman pointed out that the RA has given a substantial sum each year to the St Jude's Proms which was increased this year. If the RA becomes short of money the RA may have to consider reducing its grant next year.

Council agreed that membership should be increasing and not declining. But the Chairman said that the demographics have changed and RAs everywhere have the same problems although there was a lot of interest during the Centenary year.

Tony Ghilchik pointed out that the Heath & Hampstead Society's membership is increasing with 2,000 individuals members.

Ian Tutton suggested that the RA should be more imaginative about various categories of membership. He also asked what is the incentive for joining the RA as every resident receives Suburb News and the Directory

The Chairman said that the RA is probably the largest in the UK and the question of individual membership had been looked into on several occasions.

The Treasurers said that when older residents leave the Suburb the incoming new residents do not join. Hella Schrader agreed and said that few residents attend the new residents parties. Ann Spencer thought that there is scope for a survey to find out why new residents do not join.

Lynda Cook said that the Heath and Hampstead Society is a charity for maintaining the Heath and Hampstead. They do not have the same concerns as the Suburb and there is less interest here.

Harry Simmonds suggested that sponsored estate agent style boards are erected to advertise the Summer Fun Day.

Colin Gregory said that the RA has set up focus groups in the past. He thought the RA has an image problem and how it presents itself. Perhaps we should look again at the contents of the new residents pack and project ourselves in a positive way. We used to have a 'warden' in every street but this faltered as they no longer wished to knock on their neighbours doors.

Terry Brooks pointed out that the advertisers insist that the Suburb News is distributed to the entire Suburb and any restriction in its circulation would lose significant revenue. Terry said he would like more regular reports from Trees & Open Specs and Consam in Suburb News.

Colin Gregory said that we need a press officer. The Chairman said that the RA is old fashioned and not 'trendy'. The warden's scheme looking after each street on the Suburb was positive and without the standing orders the RA would be in difficulties.

Lynda Cook thought that we should reach out beyond the Suburb and do something for refugees.

Peter McCluskie said that we are not differentiating sufficiently between the RA and the Trust and are not sufficiently representing the interests of residents.

Jonathan Seres asked why the marketing committee was disbanded but the Chairman pointed out that it has not been disbanded. We now have a Marketing and Membership Committee. Hella Schrader said that next meeting of the Committee will be held in September. There had been a disappointing response to the latest mailing to non-members.

Jeremy Hershkorn said that we are concentrating on members and subscriptions. We provide events and facilities for all the Suburb, eg open meetings and Fun day. We cannot tell residents that there are advantages joining the RA

Ian Tutton said that the Church needs funding and can rent out its rooms but the RA does not have another source of finance. The Chairman pointed out that the RA is not a charity although we could create a charity for some of the things that the RA does. People may be more likely to give money to a charity. Peter McCluskie said that in our dealings with the Trust, as we now only have one third of the Suburb as members it reduces our influence with them.

Colin Gregory suggested that we place flyers on chairs at open meetings. Simon Sackman suggested that we make a note of residents attending open meetings and check who are members. He asked what are residents getting for their membership?

Harry Simmonds suggested trying to get radio coverage for RA events on local radio.

Jeremy Hershkorn suggested that all residents should automatically become members of the RA but Louise Hillman said that we would not be able to record details on a database unless they responded with their contact details.

Council were enthusiastic about this proposal and suggested that all new residents get one year's free membership automatically. This suggestion was referred to the Membership & Marketing committee for it to consider.

**To confirm the date of the next two RA Council meetings as Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at Fellowship House.**

This was confirmed.