



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday
1st November 2016 at Fellowship House Willifield Way at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis - in the Chair, Barbara Bliss, Tony Brand, Alan Brudney, Terry Brooks, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Jeremy Hershkorn, Louise Hillman, David Littaur, Peter McCluskie, Harry Simmonds, Simon Sackman, Gary Shaw, Hella Schrader, Ann Spencer, Ian Tutton, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council).

Visitors: Joyce Littaur, Brian Ingram

The Chairman announced that Anita Harlow has resigned from Council and the Events Committee. Lynda Cook has resigned from Council but will remain on the Trees & Open Spaces committee. Hella Schrader, who was present at the meeting, had resigned from Council and from the Membership & Marketing committee but will remain on the Events Committee until March 2017. Council thanked the retiring members for all the work they had done.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Diane Walsh, Jonathan Seres, Charles Gale, Max Petersen

2. Question Time

Brian Ingram asked the position regarding the Pavements Working Group. It was explained that due to lack of volunteers it had been dissolved. Brian Ingram said that he is aware of residents who would like to help with pavement issues and he would be happy to form a committee and also to assist with memorial benches. The Chairman said that Jonathan Seres had agreed to liaise with LB Barnet regarding the list of benches that need refurbishment, which Hella Schrader had drawn up. Brian Ingram was asked to send Jonathan a list of the benches Brian considered were in need of repair.

3. a Approval of the Minutes of the previous Meeting of Council held on 4 October 2016

5 Finance

St Jude's Proms

Substitute 'agreed' for 'suggested' in line 4.

Membership

Add : 'Hella Schrader would welcome ideas from Council' at the end of line 1.

6 Any Other Business

Trees

Add ' planted to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee was cut down by LB Barnet' between 'a tree' and 'must' in line 1 paragraph 2

Road Sign

Substitute 'report' for 'be reported at the end of line 2

3 . b Receipt of Executive Committee Minutes dated 19 October 2016

These were received

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

Constituency Boundary Changes

Terry Brooks pointed out that some Suburb residents living on the north side of the Suburb would be in a different constituency from the rest of the Suburb. Most of the Suburb would become part of the Hampstead constituency. It was noted that there had been little interest or discussion by residents on the HGS Discussion List. Council agreed that the RA would take no further action for the time being. Colin Gregory suggested that there should be an article in Suburb News describing the proposed changes. **TB**

Open House Weekend

Peter McCluskie had posted a note on the HGS discussion list asking for someone to take over from Alan Jacobs: Richard Wiseman had offered to try to find someone. Council discussed the role of an RA representative and the whether the RA should continue to support Open House.

Tony Ghilchik said that the RA representative should manage the interface between Open House and the RA but this is not an RA function. Ian Tutton thought that the role involves organising guided walks around the Suburb and he will talk to Marilyn Green. **IT**

In response to a question, Ian Tutton said that between 2 and 200 people visit the Free Church during Open House weekend, depending on the weather and it is up to each building whether they provide any refreshments.

Colin Gregory was in favour of Open House Day and thought that the RA should be outward looking and encourage people who do not live on the Suburb to visit. Colin Gregory proposed and Terry Brooks seconded a Motion:

'Thanking Alan Jacobs for his role in promoting Open House and asking the EC to ensure that it continues in future years'

This was agreed by Council and it was referred to the EC for further discussion.

Corporate Membership or Friends of the HGS Residents Association

Hella Schrader asked for clarification of what Membership had been asked to look into. Ian Tutton agreed to attend the next meeting of Membership when he would explain his proposals in more detail.

Autumn Membership Mailing

Hella Schrader said that there had been 72 responses to the latest mail shot and at the latest count there were 1,735 households in membership compared with 1,600 at the same time last year.

Harry Simmonds suggested that celebrities living on the Suburb could be asked to write a few words in Suburb News promoting membership of the RA.

Vacancies on RA Council

Peter McCluskie said that the RA should recognise the reality and he thought that a smaller Council would be more effective although the Constitution provides for up to 30 council members plus four officers.

It was stated that the six year rule is not being properly applied.
(Explanation: The six year rule is a provision in Standing Order 19 (a) which states that 'any person who has served on the Executive for six consecutive years shall be ineligible for one year.' Standing Order 22 also applies the six year rule to Standing Committee members nominated by Council (but not co-opted members of Standing Committees) with the proviso that a secret ballot can over ride the rule but only for a year at a time.)

5. Tendering Procedures

The Treasurer told Council that at the November 2014 meeting of Council the process for tendering had been set out and agreed. She thought that some members of Council may have been a little lax in complying. She suggested that at every EC meeting there should be an Agenda item on Tendering to consider issues arising including reasons given by committees who did not wish to tender. This procedure should apply to all future expenditure.

6. Finance

Budget for 2017

The Treasurer pointed out that there were some changes to the management accounts in the budget which had been circulated to Council.

She mentioned that the gross spend for the fireworks should now be £5,600 with an expected income of £500 for sponsorship and £1000 for the collection on the night.

The Chairman noted that the RA was budgeting for a neutral budget

Harry Simmonds asked what benefits the sponsors receive for sponsoring the fireworks and whether there was anything else that they could be offered.

The Chairman thought that the RA should not give too much publicity to the sponsor which may detract from the fact that the RA is paying for most of the cost.

The Treasurer said she was content with the way that the sponsorship is working.

Peter McCluskie suggested hiring a professional person to obtain sponsorship on a commission basis. Terry Brooks said that he had been trying to find someone to volunteer to do this for the last ten years.

Tony Ghilchik proposed and Colin Gregory seconded a Motion

'That the RA Council accepts the budget for 2017'

Ian Tutton proposed and Hella Schrader seconded an amendment that

'The reference to fireworks should be deleted from the budget'

This amendment was defeated

Ian Tutton considered that the budget is an indicator and chance to debate the expenditure when it arises.

Simon Sackman said that the budget includes items the RA would like to undertake but if something happens there could be a rethink. The purpose is to estimate the income and the costs.

The treasurer confirmed that putting an item in a budget does not commit the RA to the expenditure.

The original Motion was put and was passed unanimously

Ann Spencer said that the RA should try to find out what the residents would like them to spend their funds on. Hella Schrader suggested a questionnaire could be included with the AGM mailshot.

Jeremy Hershkorn suggested that this could also be included in Suburb News and Ann Spencer thought that it must be easy to respond to or it would be ignored.

7. Pavement Cycling Poster

Council endorsed the draft poster which Gary Shaw had circulated.

Peter McCluskie suggested additional wording 'or let your dog foul them' which Council agreed to, and an amendment to the heading to 'Enjoy our Suburb'

These will be distributed for display on the Suburb notice boards. Terry Brooks said that there is a shortage of poster board deliverers and Simon Sackman offered to help.

8. Committee reports and Any Other Urgent Business

The Chairman said that Standing Committee should try to find new members of Council from amongst their co-optees. Especially from younger residents.

Allotments Committee

Patricia Major is Chair of Allotments and the Chairman had written to her to clarify information on this Committee. He had not yet received a response. She is also the RA nominee on the HGS Estates Committee.

HGS Trust Grants and Amenities Committee

The RA nominee Eva Jacobs is leaving the Suburb and a replacement is required.

Orchard Housing Society

Alan Brudney who is one of the RA's two nominees on the Orchard told Council that he has been appointed to the Committee for the Orchard but there should be no conflict of interest with the RA.

Tim Neal

Colin Gregory reported that sadly Tim Neal had died. He had been born at 10 Meadway and was living there when he died. He had served on Council for many years and had been Chairman of the Trees Committee and was an Honorary Life Member. Colin Gregory will draft a letter of condolence for the Chairman to sign. **CG**

9. To confirm the date of the next two RA Council meetings as Tuesday 6th December 2016 and 3rd January 2017 at Fellowship House.

Confirmed, Open Meetings to be arranged subject to topics – all ideas welcome.