



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday
6 December 2016 at Fellowship House Willifield Way at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis - in the Chair, Tony Brand, Barbara Bliss, Alan Brudney, Tony Ghilchik, Louise Hillman, David Littaur, Peter McCluskie, Max Petersen, Gary Shaw, Ann Spencer, Ian Tutton, Diane Walsh, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council).

Visitors: Adrian Hodgson, Joyce Littaur, Fariba Mann, Dr Chris Page

1. Apologies for Absence

Terry Brooks, Colin Gregory, Jeremy Hershkorn, Jonathan Seres, Charles Gale, Simon Sackman, Harry Simmonds.

2. Question Time

Allotments Committee

Chris Page told the Council that the RA had threatened to disassociate itself from the Allotments Committee. He explained that there are some one hundred allotments on the Suburb, the majority of which are owned by the HGS Trust and they are only rented to Suburb residents. The Trust collects the rent and is responsible for maintenance and the RA represents the residents and, if necessary, it can act as a pressure group.

He thought that it is in the interest of the RA, residents, allotment holders and the Suburb, that Allotments Committee remains a Standing Committee of the RA. Chris Page said that there had been some leadership problems at the Committee which had now been resolved and there are plans to revitalise the committee.

David Lewis explained that the RA has no plans to disassociate itself from the Allotments Committee but he had not received any response when he had requested an Annual Report last year. He said that the RA cannot be responsible for a Committee which provides no information. Committee minutes had not been circulated to RA Council apparently because no meeting had taken place and no Annual Report was supplied.

Diane Walsh did not know about the allotments and thought that the RA should try to integrate them in a positive way if the allotment holders wish it to remain an RA committee.

Peter McCluskie agreed that the RA must receive information from the Committee.

It was agreed that Alan Brudney, who is the RA's representative, will liaise with the Committee and hopefully improve the committee's activities. **AB**

Alan Brudney asked whether the Allotments Committee is entitled to have a budget. David Lewis said that as allotment holders personally benefit from their allotments, unlike other committees, where all Suburb residents benefit, they should not be entitled to a budget. Grants can be made on an ad-hoc basis and applications can be made for a specific purpose.

Brookland Rise School

Mrs Mann who lives in Brookland Rise, backing onto the School told the Council about the problems she is experiencing with loud noise from a drum and xylophone in the school grounds behind a fence to her house. Some 18 months ago an outbuilding was erected by the School to house these instruments. The noise takes place not only in school hours but also during school holidays and at weekends. Gary Shaw has been helping her and he confirmed that he had heard the noise which is disruptive. He has had an exchange of correspondence with the School but had been told that this is a permanent structure and the children want to keep it, and its seems disinclined to do anything. Council was sympathetic to this problem.

Ann Spencer suggested that LB Barnet may have powers to deal with this but Gary Shaw did not think this was a Statutory nuisance. Louise Hillman said that Barnet take noise very seriously. Adrian Hodgson thought that LB Barnet would send out an Environmental Health Officer if asked and Gary Shaw will help her to facilitate this.

GS

3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on 1 November and receipt of Executive Committee Minutes dated 15 November 2016

Council Minutes dated 1 November 2016

These were approved

EC Minutes dated 15 November 2016

These were received

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

Constituency Boundary Changes

Alan Brudney pointed out that under the new proposals the two sides of Finchley Road would be in different constituencies.

Memorial Benches

Barbara Bliss asked what is happening regarding broken benches. He was told that Jonathan Seres is dealing with those specified on a defined list and she will contact him about any bench that she is concerned about. **BB**

Bute Mews

Barbara Bliss told Council that a petition had been submitted to LB Barnet regarding the fly tipping and the broken wooden fence along the pathway through Northway Gardens. Barnet are looking into the problem.

Barbara Bliss will contact Terry Brooks about placing an article in the next issue of Suburb News. **BB**

David Lewis had written to Cllr John Marshall regarding the fence which is the responsibility of LB Barnet and it has now been removed but this merely allows more rubbish to fall down the bank onto the pathway.

If no further action is taken Barbara Bliss will draft a further letter to LB Barnet for the Chairman to send to Barnet. **BB**

5. Finance

The Treasurer said that there are no big changes in the forecast for the year and the RA is heading for a £500 deficit.

David Epstein who is a Chartered Accountant has offered to take over from Louise Hillman as RA Treasurer after he has met with her and the Chairman. Before he agrees to stand he would like it understood that he is only able to attend one RA Council and one EC meeting on a quarterly basis.

A Motion was proposed by Louise Hillman and seconded by Gary Shaw

That David Epstein may stand for election as Treasurer of the HGS RA on the basis that he can only attend one Council and one EC Meeting every quarter. However, he will prepare and circulate management accounts every month to Council'

This was passed by 12 votes in favour and with one abstention: Ian Tutton was concerned that the limited attendance should be provided in the job description for the role of Treasurer, otherwise this would be unfair to any other candidates.

6. Posters

Gary Shaw is unable to take on the co-ordination of the distribution of the posters and a volunteer is urgently needed for the distribution of the fireworks poster for New Year's Eve.

Despite sending out emails to residents asking for volunteers to help, only one resident had expressed interest. David Lewis will talk to him to see if he would volunteer to take on this work. **DBL**

7. New Year's Eve Fireworks

There had been some outstanding issues regarding the exclusion clause in the RA's insurance policy. Adrian Hodgson, a co-opted member of the Events Committee and an Environmental Health Officer with experience in organising large events, had drafted an email which Louise Hillman had sent to the insurance broker who agreed only to-day that the fireworks can be included in the RA's policy this year in line with previous policies.

It was pointed out that the fireworks organiser and the fireworks company also have their own insurance. It was agreed that the fireworks could proceed and Adrian Hodgson was thanked for his help. Adrian is a co-opted member of the Events Committee and has agreed to become responsible for organising Risk Assessments to protect them at RA events. David Littaur confirmed that the new flower beds would be fenced off .

8. Committee reports and any other urgent business

Membership and Marketing Committee

The latest Minutes from this Committee had been circulated. They had considered the proposals from Ian Tutton for a second class of membership aimed at businesses. The suggested title is Friends of HGS Residents Association. Peter McCluskie said that this might involve a change in the constitution but Ian Tutton said that he did not wish this to be a category of membership therefore it would not have to be a constitutional issue.

The RA could be accepting businesses as 'Friends' where there are sole traders who live on the Suburb and who are also eligible to be members or associate members. There is no reason why they could not be accepted in both categories. Ian Tutton agreed to prepare a short paper setting out his view on how the 'Friends' should be structured without being a category of membership. **IT**

Events

It was agreed that there will be a shorter meeting in January followed by wine left over from New Year's Eve and mince pies. David Littaur agreed that Events will organise this. **DLt**

9. To confirm the date of the next two RA Council meetings as Tuesday 3 January 2017 (short meeting) and Tuesday 7 February 2017 at Fellowship House.

These dates were confirmed and it was agreed that Gary Shaw will circulate the dates of Council Meetings for the remainder of 2017. **GS**

3rd January
7th February
7th March
4th April
2nd May
6th June
4th July
29th August
3rd October
7th November
5th December