



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday
4 April 2017 at Fellowship House Willifield Way at 8 pm

Present: David B Lewis - in the Chair, Barbara Bliss, Tony Brand, Alan Brudney, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Jeremy Hershkorn, Adrian Hodgson, Emma Howard, David Littaur, Peter McCluskie, Harry Simmonds, Ann Spencer, Ian Tutton, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council).

Visitor: Joyce Littaur,

The Chairman told the Council how much the work that Charles Gale had done was appreciated by the RA. He had a unique character and sense of humour. He will be very much missed.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Terry Brooks, David Epstein, Max Petersen, Gary Shaw, Jonathan Seres, Simon Sackman and Paul Spaul

2. Question Time

There were none

3. Approval of minutes of Previous Meeting

Council Minutes dated 7 March 2017

These were approved with the following amendment

The following should be substituted for Paragraph 3 of Item 6

Peter McCluskie read out paragraph 27(b) of the RA's Standing Orders which he thought covers the position:

'The representative shall use his best judgement in representing the RA or serving as a member, at all times taking care to represent any common position of the RA'

EC Minutes dated 21 February

The Chairman will circulate these to Council.

Action DBL

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

Bute Mews

Barbara Bliss (Chairman of the Bute Mews Working Group) told Council that her daughter in law, who is a journalist, had volunteered to take the minutes of the public meeting which had taken place in March. There had been a disagreement with Peter McCluskie (Chairman of Consam) about a statement in these minutes over whether primary access to the properties would be in Bute Mews or Northway Gardens and the journalist had decided to withdraw her minutes of this meeting.

Peter McCluskie said he had been given no notice that the issue would be raised at this Council meeting and it was, in his view, an inappropriate forum for discussion of the matter. However, he would be happy to respond in writing, in due course, to any issues Barbara wished to raise with him.

Allotments Committee

Alan Brudney said that after the February Council Meeting he had spoken to Patricia Major and asked her to attend the AGM which she did, but she had not been invited to speak. The Chairman said that he had not been told that she would be attending nor that she wished to speak. Peter McCluskie had suggested that she should become a member of Council in the same way that all Chairs of standing committees are expected to do, but Tony Ghilchik pointed out that Alan Brudney is the link and he liaises between the RA and the Allotments Committee. Colin Gregory agreed.

The Chairman pointed out that Allotments is different from the other RA Standing Committee as its members are not chosen by Council and are mainly the Allotment Site Secretaries.

In future years RA Council would like the Allotments Committee to provide an Annual Report as well as circulating formal minutes of its Committee meetings to the RA Secretary. Alan Brudney agreed with this.

Adrian Hodgson said that Patricia Major was unclear what the situation was with regard to the Allotments Committee's involvement with the RA. There is no RA budget for this committee and she was unaware of the RA's expectations. It was thought that there should be better communication between the Allotments Committee and the RA.

5. Receipt of EC Minutes of 15th March and 21 March 2017

These were received

6. Proposed appointment of Ian Tutton to the post of Secretary of the Association

The Chairman proposed and Harry Simmonds seconded a Motion

'That Rev Ian Tutton should be appointed Hon. Secretary of the RA'

This was passed unanimously.

7. Matters Arising from the AGM

RA Communication with the Press

The Chairman told Council that he had received a telephone call from a journalist from the Ham & High asking if she could attend the AGM. He had told her that the AGM was not a public meeting but as she had said she was a Suburb resident she could attend in that capacity. She did not attend the meeting but a factually incorrect article about the Meeting was printed in the Ham & High. A discussion took place but did not reach a consensus on whether or not any further action should be taken. *Post meeting comment: The Chairman reports that the next issue of the Ham & High published a letter from the Chairman correcting the errors.*

Memorial Bench

Alan Brudney asked what had happened about the memorial to Richard Wakefield. The Chairman said consideration is being given for the second memorial bench in Central Square in memory of Charles Gale. Charles had left £1,000 to the RA for this purpose and his sister had said that she would be happy to contribute any balance if the Memorial Bench cost more to purchase and install.

8. Composition of RA sub-committees and representatives on other bodies

Appointment of Executive Committee

The EC should be composed of the four Officers and the four Chairmen of Standing Committees ex officio. It is for Council to decide which Standing Committees should be represented. In addition it was agreed that one further member should be chosen by Council to sit on the EC. The Chairman felt that it was preferable that the EC was not too large,

The following were confirmed as members of the EC

David B Lewis - Chairman
Max Petersen Vice - Chairman
Rev Ian Tutton - Hon Secretary
David Epstein - Hon Treasurer

Peter McCluskie - Chair of Consam
Gary Shaw - Chair of Roads & Traffic
David Littaur - Chair of Events
Tony Ghilchik - Chair of Trees & Open Spaces

A secret ballot was held and the results were as follows;

Emma Howard 8
Tony Brand 3
Barbara Bliss 2

Emma Howard was appointed to the EC.

David B Lewis said that he was retiring from the Publications, Membership & Marketing and Consam committees

Harry Simmonds proposed and Barbara Bliss seconded a Motion

'That David B. Lewis should be invited to join Trees & Open Spaces Committee and Road & Traffic Committee'

This was passed Nem Con

David Lewis had previously circulated the draft of the new Suburb Directory to Council for their updates and some further changes were made at the Meeting. Any further amendments should be emailed to David Lewis by 5th April.

RA Standing Committees

Election of Standing Committees

Council considered the following recommendations for Council members to serve on the Standing Committees and they were elected Nem Con

Allotments

Patricia Major* (Chm)
Susanne Branson*
Brian Finch*
Peter Hodgson*
Philip Harlow*
Frances Phillips*
Angela Price*
Ruth Beedle *(deputy)
Evelyn Thomas*
Margaret Lancaster*

Consam

Peter McCluskie (Chm.)
Simon Sackman (Sec.)
Janet Elliott*
Helen Leiser*
David Lewis*
Max Petersen
Andrew Plaskow*
Louise Scheuer*
Ann Spencer

Events

David Littaur (Chm.)
Tony Brand
Peter Chapman*
Joanna Dourou*
Robert Farmer*
Jeremy Hershkorn
Adrian Hodgson (Risk Assessment)
Hella Schrader*
Ian Tutton
Rev Alan Walker*
Diane Walsh

Membership and Marketing

Janet Elliott* (Membership Sec.)
Jeremy Clynes* (IT support)
Jeremy Hershkorn
Max Petersen
Ann Spencer

Publications

Terry Brooks (Chm.)
Lorna Page*(Sec)
Daphne Berkovi*
Tony Brand
Judith Samson*

Roads & Traffic

Gary Shaw (Chm.)

Barbara Bliss
Emma Howard
David B Lewis
Michael Milner*
Harry Simmonds*
Peter Spaul

Trees & Open Spaces

Tony Ghilchik (Chm)
Lynda Cook (Sec)
Alan Brudney
Colin Gregory
David B Lewis
Jules Parker*
Philip Samworth*
Maria Schlatter*
Ann Spencer

*co-opted Committee members

Other RA Committees and Working Groups

Bute Mews

Barbara Bliss (Chm)
Cllr Rohit Grover*
Jenny Jones*
Christine Murphy*
Michael Murphy*
Anthea Yamey*
Mervyn Yamey*

Litter Team

Tbc

Memorial Seats

David Littaur (Central Square only)

Noise Abatement Working Group

Gary Shaw

Suburb Notice Boards

tbc

Suburb Website

Steve Morris

Litter Team

*Barbara Bliss will check whether she has a list of the litter pickers
A request will be made on the HGS list for someone to take this over this responsibility.*

Action BB /DBL

Noise Abatement Working Group

This had been disbanded but a contact number will remain in the Suburb Directory regarding noise.

Suburb Notice Boards

A new Boards' Officer is needed .

Bigwood & Littlewood Management Group

TG will explore with Peter Falk whether this entry should continue but the entry should remain this year.

Action TG

Federation of RA's

Alan Brudney will check the position.

Action AB

Memorial Seats

David Littaur and the Events Committee agreed to be responsible for Central Square Memorial Seats and The Chairman will try to find someone to take over the other seats.

Action DBL

HGS Fellowship - Rev Ian Tutton

HGS Heritage – Jonathan Seres

Orchard Housing Society

The Chairman will talk to Diana Berger and to the Trust to find out what the committee does.

Action DBL

Hon. Life Membership

No appointment had been made this year and it was pointed out that there had been previous years when there had been none. Various names were suggested but Hon Life membership is only given to people who have retired from their work for the Suburb and who are still alive. It was agreed that there was no urgency to put something in the Suburb Directory this year.

9. Committee Reports

Events

Summer Picnic

David Littaur told Council that due to popular demand the Events Committee would like to organise another summer picnic on June 11th. The budget is £2,750 but he said the Committee must have more support and assistance on the day from Council members. The Committee will ask Council members whether they can help and take their names at the May Council meeting.

David Littaur proposed and the Chairman seconded a Motion

'That the RA Council recommends that the Summer Picnic should take place on June 11th 2017 and that the £2,750 already included in the RA's budget should be made available.'

This was approved Nem Con

Fireworks for New Year's Eve

David Littaur informed Council that Alchemy had increased their charges for putting on a fireworks display for seven minutes on New Year's Eve 2017 to £3,500 + vat. He had attempted to obtain three further quotes. Two of the companies he had approached had not responded and the third wanted to obtain more information

before being able to give a quote. His committee was happy with Alchemy and he would like to continue to use them and he asked Council for its approval.

Ann Spencer said that it is good business practice to obtain alternative quotes but Jeremy Hershkorn pointed out that Alchemy include all the various safety requirements which other companies may not include and would charge extra for. Adrian Hodgson explained that firework companies will tailor a display to whatever budget you give them and you do not know the quality of the display. Also there are very few firework companies.

The Chairman pointed out that the RA's insurers would be happier if we use the existing company which has been well tried and he would be happy to continue with Alchemy. The Chairman proposed and Jeremy Hershkorn seconded a Motion

'That the RA accepts the quote from Alchemy for £3,500 plus vat to put on a fireworks display on New Year's Eve 2017'

This was passed Nem Con

10. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 2 May 2017 at Fellowship House and future RA Council meetings on 6 June, 4 July and 29 August. These dates were confirmed