



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday
6th February 2018 at Fellowship House at 8 pm

Present: David B Lewis - in the Chair, Barbara Bliss, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Tony Ghilchik, Adrian Hodgson, Emma Howard, Jeremy Hershkorn, Peter McCluskie, Max Petersen, Hella Schrader, Jonathan Seres, Gary Shaw, Harry Simmonds, Ann Spencer, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council).

Visitors: Augusta and Lawrence Wolff

(A risk assessment was carried out in accordance with the agreed format).

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Colin Gregory, David Littaur, and Simon Sackman.

Question Time for residents who are not members of Council

Green Bin Collection

2. Mr and Mrs Wolff wanted to know when LB Barnet will restart their green bin collection. There had been some confusion after a long break over December and January but the service has now resumed and details are on the LB Barnet web site.

Draft minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 16th January 2018

3. These were received.

Minutes of the previous meeting of Council, held on 5 December 2017

4. These were approved with some changes incorporated.

Action points arising from the minutes of the Council and EC minutes

5. Bute Mews – rubbish collection etc

Cllr John Marshall had been involved and LB Barnet was due to issue an enforcement notice on the landowner on 27th January to clear the site within seven days. In default LB Barnet can carry out the work and reclaim the cost from the landowner.

6. Bute Mews Working Group

It was agreed that this Group should continue as an RA working group for the time being as the issues remain and are of great concern to local residents.

It was noted that although planning permission had been given the property may be resold together with the planning consent. The police are keeping the area under surveillance

7. Appointment of new Membership Secretary

7.1 The EC had recommended the appointment of Michelle Roiter as Membership Secretary and the Council were told a little about her. She had met with Janet Elliot and had agreed to take over from 6th February provided her recommendation was ratified by Council.

7.2 A Motion was proposed by Peter McCluskie, seconded by Gary Shaw

That Michele Roiter should be appointed as Membership Secretary of the RA with immediate effect

This was passed unanimously

7.3 As Michelle Roiter's computer was not compatible with ClubMaster a new computer and printer and peripherals and memory sticks were purchased by the RA to enable her to fulfil her role.

8. Street trees

8.1 For many years LB Barnet have charged £250 for the purchase, planting and watering of each tree but they have now increased this to £350 and reduced their planting from 15 to 13 trees. To match this the RA must spend £4,550 – an extra £800. One tree is in Kingsley Way and can be funded from the Joy Edelman Fund. The EC agreed that the additional amount should be made available for 2017/18.

8.2 The cost of planting 15 trees for 2018 would be £5,250 plus a Kingsley Way tree from the Edelman fund.

8.3 HGS Trust are replacing trees on their open spaces and the Trees committee did not consider that they could be asked to provide further funding.

8.4 It was suggested that the Annual Report should specify the number of trees paid for by the RA or an article could be included in Suburb News telling residents about the number of trees planted by the RA over the last 20 years.

Action Tony G

8.5 The Trees & Open Spaces Committee were thanked for their work.

9. Fellowship House

The RA retains 10% of the money which it collects for Fellowship but the EC did not think that this sufficiently reflects the amount of work involved. Emma Howard is trying to set up a meeting with Keith Ellis to discuss this and other issues.

Action Emma H

10. London Forum Subscription 2018

This item was deferred.

11. Proposed membership mailing review

This item was deferred until after the AGM.

RA finances

11. Draft Budget

11.1 The draft budget and details of the expenditure for 2017 had been circulated. There was a small deficit in 2017 but there is a large budgeted deficit of £6,000 for 2018.

11.2 Council expanded this discussion to talk about how the RA could increase their income and reduce expenditure.

11.3 Ideas included looking at the membership charging structure and perhaps increase the recommended subscription. There are 30 residents who pay less than the recommended subscription of £15: Celebrity endorsement: reconsidering the fireworks on New Year's Eve; emailing membership cards: saving postage on mailings: targeting areas where there seems to be a gap in membership: reviving the marketing committee and finding residents with marketing skills, although this had been tried unsuccessfully for 15 years.

11.4 Peter McCluskie, Emma Howard and Michele Roiter will carry out a review of membership mailings

Action Peter M, Emma H (*in due course*)

11.5 An active membership committee is needed as at present it is merely an administrative committee which does not hold any meetings.

11.6 The Chairman stated that he would ideally like the RA to have a budget which breaks even.

11.7 Jonathan Seres proposed and David Lewis seconded a Motion

That the Council of the RA support the draft budget for 2018

This was passed unanimously

AGM preparations

12.1 HB School Hall + room for ballot count, layout, microphones, risk asst etc: these have been organised.

12.2 Volunteers for ballot count, roving mike, reception desk, stewarding etc: a list was circulated to Council members inviting them to volunteer for the various tasks. Council members not present will also be asked.

Action Hella S

- 12.3 It was suggested that Standing Committee Chairmen ask their co-opted committee members whether they can help.

Action Peter M, Tony G, Gary S, Hella S, Terry B

12.4 Nomination and ballot papers: Council agreed that the posters and flyers advertising the AGM should state that all RA members are welcome to attend the AGM and that non RA members are welcome to join the RA at the door.

Action Hella S

12.5 The Notice of AGM had been included in the latest edition of Suburb News.

12.6 Peter McCluskie will talk to Steve Morris and ask him to change the wording on the web site to ensure conformity with the letters sent out to residents inviting them to join the RA.

Action Peter M

12.7 The ballot papers will be in the same format as last year. There will be separate colours for the ballot papers for Officers and Council members and there will be an opportunity to say 'yes' or 'no' against each the name of each resident standing for Council.

12.8 At present the nominations for RA Officers are not contested but the final date for nominations is 16 March.

12.9 The nomination forms can be downloaded from the web site

12.10 Agenda and Officer Nominations: At present there is no nomination for the position of Hon Treasurer. Peter McCluskie had drafted the Agenda but this will be amended once the date for nominations has expired and the names can be inserted. It will be posted on the web site.

Action Peter M

12.11 David Lewis asked Council members who may wish him to say something specific at the AGM to inform him. He will ask for any resident with experience in marketing to volunteer.

13. Life Membership

Jonathan Seres proposed and Tony Ghilchik seconded a Motion

That Valerie Codron, Micky Watkins, and David & Joyce Littaur are nominated as Honorary Life Members of the HGSRA

This was passed unanimously.

Matters arising from standing committee reports, submitted since previous Council meeting

14. There were none

Any other urgent business

15. Janette Harris and Derek Chandler

The Chairman announced with regret the death of Honorary Life member Janette Harris at the age of 100. She had been Chairman and Treasurer of the RA and had become active in Fellowship after her retirement... Terry Brooks will prepare an obituary for Suburb News.

Action Terry B

Also, the late Derek Chandler who was a member of Council for ten years and was secretary of Roads and Traffic and became active with police liaison and the London Forum after retiring from Council.

Financial Report

16. Emma Howard will prepare the notes which will be added at the bottom of the balance sheet in the financial report.

Action Emma H

Memorial Benches

17. Harry Simmonds said that he is making progress and has taken photos of benches in need of repair. An article could be included about this in the next edition of Suburb news.

Action Harry S

RA Banner

18. The Council approved the purchase of two portable RA banners at a cost of approx £50 each.

Action Harry S

Date of next meeting of Council: Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 8pm in Fellowship House.

19. This was confirmed