



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

Present: David B Lewis - in the Chair, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Adrian Hodgson, Emma Howard, David Littaur, Peter McCluskie, Max Petersen, Gary Shaw, Harry Simmonds, Ann Spencer, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council).

Visitors: Joyce Littaur

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

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies were received from Jeremy Hershkorn, Simon Sackman, Hella Schrader and Jonathan Seres. Barbara Bliss was also absent.

Question Time for residents who are not members of Council

2. There were none

Approve as accurate the Minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on 6 February 2018

3. These were approved.

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

4. Tree Article for Suburb News

4.1 An article about trees will be included later in the year in Suburb News.

Action Tony G/Terry B *(in due course)*

4.2 There is a note in the Financial report attached to the annual accounts regarding the purchase of trees by the RA.

4.3 Tony Ghilchik will try to ascertain the number of trees planted by the RA and have some figures available at the AGM.

Action Tony G

5. London Forum Subscription

5.1 A representative from London Forum had contacted Colin Gregory and asked the RA to reconsider its decision not to renew its membership after many years.

5.2 The annual subscription is £68.

5.3 London Forum is a charity which promotes and encourages local amenity societies and the greater the number of people that use it the more effective it will be. No reports have been received from from the RA rep (the late Derek Chandler) and some members of Council were unclear what it actually does. The Highgate Soc, Heath and Hampstead Soc and Finchley Soc are all members.

5.4 Council agreed to renew the RA's membership for a further year and then reassess it.

5.5 Colin Gregory agreed to be the RA's representative.

Action Colin G (*in due course*)

6. AGM Preparations: volunteers etc

6.1 There are now sufficient volunteers to help at the AGM.

6.2 Drinks and food will be served before the meeting.

6.3 A room for counting any votes will be available

6.4 Adrian Hodgson agreed to arrange for name badges for Council members and Peter McCluskie will email him a list volunteers who should also wear badges.

Action Peter M/Adrian H

6.5 Council discussed whether non members or recently joined members of the RA should be allowed to speak at the AGM. There were arguments for and against and Council was divided and it was agreed that this should be left to the Chairman's discretion.

7. Benches

7.1 Harry Simmonds is communicating with a representative of LB Barnet regarding the benches at Meadway Gate and the junction of Asmunds Hill/Hampstead Way.

Action Harry S

7.2 There is a broken bench at the Litchfield Way/Meadway junction and it was noted that the Willifield Way bench had been replaced.

Action Harry S

7.3 An article will be prepared for Suburb News asking residents to report broken benches together with 'before' and 'after' photographs of benches which have been repaired.

Action Harry S/Terry B

RA Finances incl Fellowship House and financial report

8. Fellowship

Emma Howard had spoken to Keith Ellis the Hon Treasurer of Fellowship and explained the costs of postage and printing for collecting money for Fellowship. She asked for an increase in their contribution from 10% (+ £200) to 20% and discussed Fellowship waiving the hiring fees totalling £600pa, paid by the RA for the use of the Hall, as a possible alternative. Mr Ellis was sympathetic and he will discuss it at the May meeting of Fellowship and report back. She also agreed the wording for Gift Aid on the RA membership form

9. Accounts

9.1. The accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting

9.2 The subscriptions had held up well last year, but there is a problem with declining advertising revenue since Charles Gale died. Terry Brooks had been trying to find a replacement but with no success.

9.3 Council noted that the RA does have good reserves but they discussed possible ways of saving money.

9.4 It was suggested that the Suburb Directory which is sent to all residents could be included on the web site to save costs but many Council members pointed out how useful it was to have a paper copy. The net cost of the Directory is in the region of £1200.

9.5 A new laptop and printer had been purchased by the RA for the use of the Membership Secretary.

9.6 The contract of the RA's bookkeeper had ended and Emma Howard kindly offered to try to carry out the bookkeeping to save money, with the assistance of Crunch Accounting. There will be a small fee for using SAGE software, of £15 a quarter.

9.7 The RA office is not very clean and it is cluttered with various papers which need to be sorted. Tony Brand, Emma Howard and David Lewis agreed to do this.

Action Tony B, Emma H, David L

9.8 A Motion was proposed by David Lewis and seconded by Terry Brooks.

That the limit for single operation banking should be increased from £1000 to £5000

This was passed by 13 votes in favour with 1 abstention

9.9 Emma Howard was thanked for all the work that she is doing

Membership matters

10.1 The new membership secretary Michele Roiter has started working with the RA and all is going well.

10.2 Emma Howard, Peter McCluskie and Michele Roiter have prepared a letter to members who have not yet renewed their membership of the RA. It includes a reference to Gift Aid for Fellowship and also mentions the benefits of joining the RA.

Fun Day

11.1 This will be held on 10th June which is Henrietta Barnett's anniversary.

11.2 North London Hospice have been asked if they would like to organise a tombola to raise funds.

11.3 Hella was congratulated on organising the entertainers for the Fun Day.

Barnet Council elections: hustings

12.1 Council discussed whether to organise a hustings for the local elections. It was noted that there would be numerous candidates if both the Garden Suburb and East Finchley ward were included and there would be little time available for each candidate to speak.

12.2 Tony Brand will ask Edward Black from the Central Square Minyan whether they are organising a hustings as they had done in the past.

Action Tony B

12.3 David Lewis proposed and Terry Brooks seconded a Motion

That the HGS RA do not hold a hustings for the local elections for LB Barnet Councillors in May 2018

This was passed by 7 votes in favour with 5 votes against and 2 abstentions

RA Website

13.1 Emma Howard and Peter McCluskie had looked into the possibility of setting up an RA web site and had contacted a couple of web site designers. Steve Morris had been informed about this.

13.2 In 2014 this had been considered but due to the costs involved (about £4500) and the issue of finding a dedicated person to keep the web site updated, it did not go ahead.

13.3 It may be possible to find a local designer to prepare a web site for £1000-2000.

13.3 Views were expressed that although it would be good for the RA to have their own web site this may not be the right time. It may be preferable to ask Steve Morris to update his web site and make it mobile friendly and easier to update.

13.4 This was referred back to Publications Committee to discuss and bring back to Council with a proposal.

Action Terry B

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

14. There was nothing to discuss.

Any other urgent business

15. There was none.

Date of Next meeting of Council. Tuesday 3 April 2016 at 8.00pm at Fellowship House

16. This was confirmed.