



Minutes of an informal meeting of certain members of the Council held on Tuesday, 17 July 2018 at Fellowship House, Willifield Way at 8 pm

Present: Emma Howard - in the Chair, Adrian Hodgson, Jeremy Hershkorn, Peter McCluskie, Simon Sackman, Hella Schrader, Gary Shaw and Ann Spencer and Rosemary Goldstein (Asst Secretary to the Council).

Visitors: Helen Leiser and Steve Morris

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

**1. Apologies, absences and quorum**

Apologies received from Tony Brand, Alan Brudney, Terry Brooks, Colin Gregory, Tony Ghilchik, and Harry Simmonds. Barbara Bliss was also absent. It was agreed that, in the absence of a quorum, the meeting should continue as an informal discussion.

**2. Question Time for residents who are not members of Council**

No non-Council residents were present.

**3. Co-option of Council members and Appointment of new Hon Treasurer**

It was agreed by a unanimous show of hands that Steve Morris should be appointed as acting Hon Treasurer of the RA, and acting member of Council, and Helen Leiser as an acting member of Council. This will be subject to formal ratification at the next meeting of the Executive Committee or of Council, whichever is earlier.

**4. Extant action points arising from the 1 May Council and 15 May EC minutes:**

- (a) **Notice boards** A general review of notice boards will be carried out including the mapping out of where notice boards have been placed and where new ones are required and existing ones removed **Action Hella S**

(b) **Meadway Gate pergola**

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Executive Committee, or of Council, whichever is earlier in Tony Ghilchik's absence.

**Action (for agenda) Peter M**

(c) **Memorial benches**

This item was deferred to the next Council meeting in Harry Simmond's absence. It was noted that many of the broken benches had been repaired

**Action (for agenda) Peter M**

(d) **Open House**

Both churches had made their contribution of £200 towards this weekend.

(e) **Stored RA papers**

(i) The HGS Archives Trust has agreed to take virtually all the papers stored in the filing cabinet in the RA office and Colin Gregory will organise this at the end of August.

**Action Colin G**

(ii) There will be an unwanted filing cabinet once the papers have been removed and Adrian Hodgson will ask whether the Garden Suburb School would like this.

**Action Adrian H**

(f) **Retention policy**

Hella Schrader is still working on this document and this item was deferred to the next meeting of Council.

**Action Hella S**

(g) **Green bins: LBB policy**

(i) It seems unlikely that LB Barnet will agree to provide a green bins collection for three months over the winter throughout the Borough with the argument being that they are not used. There will be a special Xmas tree waste delivery in early January and LBB have agreed to improve the information provided on their website about collections.

(ii) LB Barnet are under pressure from the Mayor of London to continue with the brown bin collection although it was noted that this collection has not been regularly maintained with many people reporting issues in this waste being collected.

(h) **RA website: software packages**

(i) Hella Schrader is looking into software packages and Adrian Hodgson is finding out about the packages used by small livery companies with similar requirement to the RA.

**Action Hella S/Adrian H**

(ii) Steve Morris has volunteered to help with the new RA website from this autumn. This work is being carried forward by the website working group which met in June (Steve Morris, Emma Howard, Peter McCluskie, Hella Schrader, Michele Roiter and Ann Spencer).

(l) **Standing Committees' Terms of Reference**

This item was deferred and will be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

**Action (for agenda) Peter M**

(j) **Tree planting**

(i) In Tony Ghilchik's absence Ann Spencer explained that a survey of Suburb street trees is taking place to ascertain which trees are missing, dying or diseased. 15/20 trees will be selected to recommend to LB Barnet for replacement and Ann Spencer will enquire how many trees LB Barnet will agree to plant this year.

**Action Ann S**

(ii) Simon Sackman agreed to carry out the tree survey in Brim Hill.

**Action Simon S**

(k) **Meeting with ward councillors**

(i) A meeting had been held with the ward councillors to discuss a variety of issues including the use of roads on the Suburb as long term car parks, e.g. a car repair business in Golders Green uses Central Square to park their vehicles and numerous cars and vans park in Winnington Road. Unless vehicles are untaxed there is little that can be done except for a ban on overnight parking.

(ii) It seems that there may eventually be a CPZ across the Suburb

(iii) A site meeting had been held, with councillors and LBB officials, to explain proposed measures for Addison Way, which will be discussed at the Area Forum.

(iv) The problem raised by Terry Rand regarding the bus stop outside his house was also looked at during the site meeting.

(v) The Councillors said that they are happy to attend open meetings provided that there is a specific subject. It was suggested HBS expansion and security as suitable topics for future open meetings.

(vi) It was noted that many of the roads on the Suburb in need of urgent repair have now been dealt with

(vii) The Garden Suburb police ward group meet to discuss the crime figures. Emma Howard attends. Helen Leiser and Hella Schrader said that they would be interested in attending these meetings. **Action Hella S/Helen L/ Emma H**

(l) **Frequency of Council and EC meetings**

(i) Those present were in favour of fewer Council meetings but substituting open meeting in their place. The constitution only requires there to be four council meeting per annum.

(ii) It was agreed to revisit the RA's Constitution and look, in particular, at the number of members required for a quorum.

**Action Peter M**

(iii) It was agreed that more Council members are required. Peter McCluskie had written to co-optees on standing committees inviting them to become a member of Council but there had only been one positive response.

(iv) EC will discuss these issues and also look at the number and timing of EC meetings.

**Action (for agenda) Peter M**

## **5. RA finances and membership**

5.1 Emma Howard and Steve Morris will meet with the accountant tomorrow to prepare accounts to the end of June.

**Action Steve M/Emma H**

5.2 There had been an increase in membership subscriptions and in money raised for Fellowship, and RA's expenditure had been reduced particularly as the Summer Fair cost much less than budgeted for and we no longer have a book keeper.

5.3 Mail shots had gone to members enclosing the RA's membership card, to residents who do pay by Standing order but at less than £15 per annum asking them to increase their payment to the RA and to non members inviting them to join the RA, in certain selected areas. There will be a feature on membership benefits in the forthcoming edition of Suburb News.

5.4 It was hoped that the number of businesses in the discount scheme could be increased. Emma H would like to do more on this once she is no longer also acting as Treasurer.

5.5 Thanks were extended to Emma Howard for all the hard work she has done since taking over as RA Chair (and continuing as Interim Hon Treasurer).

## **6. Report back on events**

### (a) Rowley Lecture

Hella Schrader reported that the budget for this event was £360 and it had cost £348 to organise. £121 had been collected from attendees and the net cost was £227. The talk was about Letchworth Garden City and it had been well attended

### (b) Summer Fair

(i) The budget available for this event was £4,000 and the expenditure was £4005. The income from the activities and stalls was £2,175 but with the sponsorship from Volvo of £1,500 the net cost of the event to the RA was £330.

(ii) Volvo have indicated that they may be prepared to sponsor the event again next year. They need to be asked again in September. **Action Emma H**

(iii) The cake stall had made £558 which is a large increase on £200 which is the amount usually raised.

- (iv) £458 was given to Homeless Action in Barnet  
£50 was given to the Free Church for the Nightshelter project organised by Rev Ian Tutton.  
£50 was given to All Dogs Matter

(v) Although the booked ice cream van failed to appear, an ice cream company called St. Jude Icecreams, who provide service to the Proms, have said that they would be interested in taking on the summer fair next year.

(vi) The Events Committee and their family and friends were thanked for all the work they had done.

(c) Proms Sponsorship

(i) Those present discussed whether the sponsorship of the lunchtime concerts was worthwhile as part of our efforts to attract new members. Council members who had volunteered to man the RA table did not think this was the case although it was thought to be a prestigious event for the Suburb. Many of those attending these concerts were not living on the Suburb. More Suburb residents attended the evening performances and the RA could consider sponsoring a screen to relay the music or possibly the local schools event.

(ii) Although it was necessary and correct when the Proms were being established, to make the grant of £3,000, perhaps in future this amount could be used as seed money for new Suburb events and a smaller sum could be given to the St Jude's Proms.

(iii) It was thought that the RA banners were excellent.

(iv) The volunteers were thanked for their work.

(v) A discussion will be held at a future meeting of Council or the Executive Committee and it was suggested that the Council/EC should look more broadly at the amount of disposable funds and decide how this sum should be spent.

## **7. Autumn concerts: grant application**

7.1 An application had been made to the RA for a grant of £500 for a series of concerts to be held at the Quakers Meeting House or Fellowship House. The HGS Trust had agreed to provide the sum of £600. The concerts are expensive to put on and it was thought that the ticket price of £10 could not be increased

7.2 It was thought that the provision of free wine and printing of tickets should be looked at by the organisers to save money, but in view of the fact this grant had already been included in the RA's budget did not oppose it going forward. It was agreed that we should make clear that we will not sponsor this event every year, as there are savings that they could make. **Action: Emma H**

7.3 This will be looked at again next year if there is another grant application.

## **8. Henrietta Barnett School consultation**

8.1 Emma Howard and Peter McCluskie had met with the headmistress and forwarded a note of this meeting to Council as well as the relevant slides from

the public meeting. There will be an article in Suburb News summarising the public meeting.

**Action Terry B**

8.2 It is uncertain whether the application will actually be made for expansion but the deadline for submissions is 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

8.3 The Expansion Fund has £50m and the amount required by the School would be in the region of £4m, although £9/10m had already been made available to them for their extension a few years ago.

8.4 If this proposal proceeds the School have undertaken to hold a further public meeting

8.5 Many comments were made at the public meeting about the majority of the pupils coming from outside the area, with only 2% coming from the Suburb. Those present were told that there is an action group trying to change the School's admission policy.

8.6 The RA should be concerned about the actual building extension and the effect on traffic and the environment

8.7 It seems that ward councillors are in favour of the proposals

8.8 An HGS List email will be sent to residents explaining what is happening, and the next steps, in order to keep residents fully informed once it is known whether the School has decided to submit a funding application

**Action Peter M**

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

There was none.

**10. Any other urgent business - notified to Chair prior to commencement of meeting.**

There was none.

**11. Next scheduled meeting of Council: Tuesday 4 September 2018 at 8pm in Fellowship House.**

Confirmed.