



Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on
Tuesday 4 September 2018
at Fellowship House, Willifield Way at 8 pm

Present: Emma Howard - in the Chair, Barbara Bliss, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Tony Ghilchik, Adrian Hodgson, Helen Leiser, Peter McCluskie, Steve Morris, Hella Schrader, Gary Shaw, Ann Spencer and Rosemary Goldstein (Asst Secretary to the Council).

Visitors: Anneliese (Erskine Hill), Philip Harlow

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

1. Note apologies and absences

These were received from, Colin Gregory, Jeremy Hershkorn, Simon Sackman and Harry Simmonds.

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

Tree in Northway

2.1 Philip Harlow told Council that LB Barnet had removed a red chestnut tree outside 64 Northway which he considered to be healthy but not well managed. Only a short stump had been left and there had been no notice or liaison regarding this. Trees & Open Spaces Committee are dealing with this and had been told that it was a health and safety issue as there was a fungal infection. After a second branch had fallen off it was considered unstable and an emergency situation. Barnet have a high standard when it comes to health and safety. 10 working days notice together with a notice placed on the tree should be given by the contractors unless it is an emergency situation.

2.2 Many trees are being tested and any work to be carried out will be notified by London Borough of Barnet

2.3 A list of 106 trees, (approximately 84 of them on the Suburb), which need to be felled or pollarded had been supplied by LBB with the reasons for their treatment. This will be discussed by Trees & Open Spaces Committee

2.4 It was suggested that if the trees are managed properly by LBB there would not be a need to fell so many.

2.5 Unless there is a good reason, LBB try to replace any tree removed with the same species of trees.

2.6 Friends of Bigwood have their AGM on Thursday 11 September shortly where Andy Tipping (from LBB) will be present and can be asked questions and it was

suggested that Council members should join Friends of Bigwood if they are not already members and attend the meeting. T&OS members to report back to RA.

Action Tony G

3. Approve, as accurate, the minutes of the informal meeting of Council members, held on 17 July 2018

Apart from a few minor changes to the numbering and formatting these minutes were approved

4. Confirm receipt of minutes of EC meeting held on 14 August

Confirmed.

5. Extant action points arising from the 17 July informal Council and 14 August EC minutes

(a) Review of notice boards

(i) The review of notice boards had been completed on the South side of the Suburb but the North side has yet to be finished.

(ii) When there are no flyers advertising events a laminated 'Join the RA' poster should be substituted. These will be collected from the RA office to insert in notice boards once the Horticultural Society Fair has finished.

Action Hella S

(iii) It was agreed that the use of the notice boards should be formalised and Simon Abbott, who used to be responsible for them, will be consulted as apparently he managed the whole process very efficiently.

Action Hella S

(b) Stored RA papers

(i) Members of the Archives Trust had received the papers from the filing cupboard in the RA office and will ascertain from the London Metropolitan Archives if they wish to retain these. Some will also be stored at the Archives in the Trust's offices.

(ii) The filing cabinet will be taken from the RA office and donated to the Garden Suburb School.

Action Adrian H

(c) RA Records proposed retention policy

(i) Policies of other organisations including charities had been researched and a table setting out the four categories of records with suggested periods for retention was in preparation

Action Hella S

(ii) Steve Morris is looking into updating the RA's website and this would include secure areas for minutes of meetings to be stored.

Action Steve M

(d) **RA website software packages**

Further research and work is underway.

. **Action Hella S/Steve M**

(e) **Tree planting**

T&OS have completed their tree survey and are preparing a prioritised list of missing trees which will be used, when they receive the list being prepared by LBBarnet to select an equal number of extra trees (up to the maximum of 15 in the RA budget approved by Council) to be funded by the RA. **Action Tony G/Ann S**

(f) **Henrietta Barnett School proposed expansion**

(i) The School has submitted an application for funding for expansion and the result will be available in the late autumn. They proposed the building of two new wings facing Bigwood Road

(ii) If the bid is successful the RA will look at the style and materials to be used as well as traffic and congestion issues

(g) **Tree in Addison Way**

(i) Despite objections by residents, LBBarnet did not agree to put a TPO on the black poplar tree in a garden on the corner of Coleridge Walk and Addison Way and it may now be felled, provided permission is also granted by the Trust. The original application to LBB for the work gave no reason for wanting the tree removed and LBB have confirmed that they do not require a reason to be given.

(ii) The weekly list of applications for tree work produced by LBB is examined by T&OS to assess if a tree to be felled makes a significant enough contribution to the local environment for T&OS to lodge an objection and request LBB to put a TPO on the tree.

(h) **Allotments**

(i) The Trust had been contacted to ascertain whether vacant allotments could be offered outside the Suburb where there are waiting lists. The RA would like the Trust to pursue this.

(iii) The Trust's rules are apparently that allotments should only be rented to Suburb residents and this would have to be changed

(iii) The Trust should advertise allotments to residents although it was pointed out that some sites have no water, sheds cannot be erected and some allotments are waterlogged.

(iv) This committee is unlike other RA Standing Committees as the allotments are the joint responsibility of the RA and the Trust and they have no budget. There was some concern that the system for managing and administering allotments could be improved. Alan Brudney is the link between the Allotments Committee and the RA and there is a rotating chair.

(l) **A1 road safety investigation**

(i) It had been suggested by the EC that a professional organisation should be asked to carry out an independent survey of part of the A1 and make recommendations and identify specific issues for future discussions with TfL. ROSPA had been approached but were unable to do this. Another company, Wilbar Associates have said that they could undertake this and would charge approximately £1,000 + expenses to establish an accident history, excluding VAT.

(ii) A Motion was proposed by Peter McCluskie and seconded by Emma Howard

That the RA should proceed with a survey on road safety on sections of the A1 falling within the Suburb in accordance with a specification to be agreed and that £1,500 should be made available to finance this.

This was passed unanimously

(iii) A draft brief will discussed by the R&T Committee and shared with EC. It would from the outset rule out any unrealistic options, e.g. road widening or pedestrianisation. The survey would establish whether there is a higher accident rate on this part of the A1 and how to reduce the accident rate and identify any safety issues.

Action Gary S

(j) **Estate agent sponsorship boards**

(i) Problems seem to occur mainly in the north side of the Suburb with estate agents notice boards advertising the summer and winter fairs for Brookland Schools. The boards are left for too long and are too many in some roads which could be detrimental to the area giving the impression that there are numerous houses for sale

(ii) Emma Howard has written to the Chair of the Governors at Brookland Schools explaining the problem and asking them to consider limiting the number of boards. The Chair has responded to say he will discuss with the relevant bodies in the autumn term and revert in due course.

Action Emma H

(iii) Adrian Hodgson observed that there are some restrictions on sponsorship boards but trading standards do not have enough resources to properly monitor this.

(k) **Open Meeting - subject and date**

(i) Emma Howard and Peter McCluskie will meet Mike Freer and, amongst other issues to be raised, ascertain whether he would agree to attend an open meeting of the RA to answer residents' questions.

Emma H/Peter M

(ii) Emma Howard attends police ward group meetings and she suggested holding an open meeting to focus on preventative measures residents could take to improve their safety

(iii) The venue for open meetings could be the HB School, St Jude's Church Rooms or Friends Meeting House

6 New Year's Eve event

6.1 Events had discussed other options for New Year's Eve but thought that a party without fireworks would not attract residents

6.2 Alchemy were no longer providing fireworks displays and other companies had been approached with estimates ranging from £2,500-£3,500.

6.3 Council were in favour of a combined laser/fireworks display which one company had suggested.

7. RA finances and membership

7.1 The expenditure is £4000 less than budgeted and Steve will circulate the management accounts to the end of June to Council.

Action Steve M

7.2 A membership mail shot will be sent out at the end of September to residents who have been in membership in the last 2 years but who have not renewed their membership. The mailing company will not charge the RA as they had made errors in the March previous mail shot

8. Matters arising from standing committee reports submitted since previous Council meeting.

Events

(i) Summer Party

This will be held on 16th June

(ii) Halloween Party

This will be held on 27th October and a provisional booking had been made for Fellowship House but the Eileen Whelan Room is unavailable and it may be preferable to use the Garden Suburb School Hall where there is more space. A face painter and a story teller will be booked.

Action Hella S

9. Any other urgent business

(a) Golders Green and Finchley Residents Forum

(i) The next meeting will be held on 6th September

(ii) Addison Way traffic calming: Rupert Denny of T&OS will raise this issue at the meeting. The outcome will be reported to Council. **Action Gary S**

(iii) Bute Mews fly tipping etc: Cllr John Marshall had suggested that this is raised at the Residents Forum and Emma Howard had made an online submission. Barbara Bliss will attend and suggest that CCTV is installed to act as a deterrent. **Action Barbara B**

(b) Open House

Visits to Toynbee Hall which has recently been renovated are included in the Open House Weekend.

10. Next scheduled meeting of Council: Tuesday 6 November 2018 at 8pm in Fellowship House.

Emma Howard suggested that the RA Council meeting of 4th December is treated as an exceptional end of year meeting. Instead of the normal agenda items, she proposed that discussion is held possibly about future RA projects. Members of standing committees should also be invited. This would be a meeting over a glass of wine to celebrate the festive season.