



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**held on 31 March 2014 at The Henrietta Barnett School Hall at 8 pm**

***These Minutes were approved by Council on 8.4.14, and although formally to be approved at next year's AGM Council resolved that they be made publically available in draft on the website with the previous AGM minutes***

Janet Elliott took the Chair and welcomed Residents, Visitors, Councillors, Members of the Trust Council and Honorary Life Members to the 102nd Annual General Meeting.

She thanked the Head Teacher and the Henrietta Barnett School for allowing the Hall to be used for this meeting.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

These were received from: Terry Brooks, Dr Vivienne Cohen, Mike Freer MP, Peter Lloyd, Cllr John Marshall, Peter Phillips, Jane and David Rapson, Amanda Reuben, Cllr Daniel Seal, Diane Walsh and Richard Wiseman.

### **2. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting dated 21 March 2013**

A Motion to approve the Minutes was proposed by Pia Duran seconded by Alan Brudney and carried Nem Con.

### **3. Approval of Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2013**

Janet Elliott drew the attention of the Meeting to the Annual Report and Accounts which had been posted at the beginning of the month to all those in membership on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

She explained that the major part of the RA's work is done through the various committees and she introduced some of the Committee Chairmen and those with particular roles, to the Meeting.

Jeremy Clynes presented the accounts for the twelve months to the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The RA had achieved a surplus of over £2,500 despite running the normal RA activities, an enhanced summer picnic and reinstating the New Year's Eve fireworks.

The Council had kept close financial control over its finances both by setting an annual budget and monitoring expenditure with detailed monthly management accounts. An expenditure review committee had been set up to review all major RA expenditure which will potentially lead to substantially reduced printing and mailing costs this year.

Jeremy Clynes thanked Paul Hartley and his team for carrying out the examination of the accounts.

A Motion to adopt the Annual Report and Statement of Account was proposed by Richard Wakefield seconded by David Littaur and carried Nem Con.

#### **4. Elections of Officers and Council Members for 2014-15**

##### Election of Officers

The following had been nominated by the Council for election as Officers of the Association:

Jonathan Seres - Chairman

Max Petersen - Vice Chairman

Gary Shaw - Hon Secretary

Jeremy Clynes - Treasurer

A Motion to elect these Officers was proposed by Clare Calman seconded by Janet Elliott and carried Nem Con.

##### Election of Members of the Council

##### Nominations for Election for 2014-15:

The Rev Dr Ian Tutton and Richard Wiseman had stood down from Council during the year, and David Lewis before the AGM, and Janet Elliott thanked them for their invaluable contributions to the work of the RA.

Janet Elliott was not seeking re-election.

Ann Spencer had been co-opted to the Council during the year and was standing for election with the support of the Council.

The following members of the Council who retired by rotation offered themselves for re-election: Terry Brooks, Stephanie Hurst, Rosalind Josephs, Will Sowerbutts and Richard Wakefield.

Jeremy Hershkorn, David B Lewis, Amanda Reuben and Paul Wenham, had been nominated for election by the RA Council.

In addition Diane Walsh had been nominated by Max Petersen and seconded by Jonathan Seres.

A Motion to elect these members to the Council was carried Nem Con.

#### **5. To consider the suggested annual subscription for Membership year 2015**

The Council had recommended that there should be no change to the suggested annual subscription of £15 per household, which had been in place since 2007.

A Motion to keep the suggested annual subscription at £15 per household for 2015 was proposed by Janet Elliott seconded by Jeremy Clynes and carried Nem Con.

## **.6. To appoint an Honorary Accountant**

The Chairman thanked Paul Hartley for acting as Honorary Accountant of the Association and for agreeing to continue for a further year.

A Motion to re-appoint Paul Hartley as the RA's Honorary Accountant was proposed by Janet Elliott seconded by Jeremy Clynes and carried Nem Con.

## **7, To appoint Honorary Life Members**

The Council had recommended that Hilda Williams and Brian and Jenny Stonhold be appointed as Honorary Life Members of the RA. They had each given many years of service to the Suburb and Janet Elliott and the Rev Dr Ian Tutton told the Meeting a little about their respective achievements.

A Motion to appoint Hilda Williams as an Honorary Life Member was proposed by Richard Wakefield seconded by John Hewson and carried Nem Con.

A motion to appoint Brian and Jenny Stonhold as Honorary Life Members was proposed by Janet Elliott seconded by Rev Ian Tutton and passed Nem Con.

## **8. To present the Alexander Stuart Gray award for 2014**

John Sells, Chair of Consam, reported that this year the award had been made to the Green family for a loft conversion and kitchen extension to the listed cottage at 68 Willifield Way. This had been considered both sensitive and elegant. The architect was Christian Clemares of XUL Architecture who, together with Sebastian Sandler of the firm, was presented with the award. A certificate was forwarded to the house owners who could not attend.

## **9. Any Other Business**

The Chairman invited members present to ask any questions.

### Traffic Issues

Barbara Bliss who lives in Kingsley Close expressed her concern at the parking and congestion on Sunday afternoons. There are two teams of footballers who regularly play in Lyttelton Playing fields as well as families who go to the Park and shoppers. She has great difficulty exiting from Kingsley Close.

Bernard Smith was concerned at the speed of traffic on the Suburb particularly in Willifield Way.

Road and Traffic Committee will look into these items.

Dr Saul Zadka raised questions relating to periods prior to the AGM year which were not taken. Harry Simmons suggested a plaque be inserted on houses receiving the Architectural Award, He would like more young people involved in the RA and he wanted more information about the CPZ.

Janet Elliott agreed that she would like more young people involved but also thought that the RA should use the talents of all age groups. A new residents' party would be held on a Sunday afternoon, 18<sup>th</sup> May, in addition to the February evening event, to enable young families to attend, and a toddlers party attended by 92 people (including the children) had

been held on 9<sup>th</sup> March. 'Survey Monkey' had been used to ascertain residents' views and develop interest in the RA.

### Community Library

While the library is an independent charity, it was a community project, and Jeremy Clynes was invited to report. The Library has been open for nearly two years and its membership had increasing to 1,518.

There is a regular supply of new books and the shelves have been re-laid

Weekly children's activities, and the Book Club on the first Friday of the month, are thriving.

None of this would be possible without a team of volunteers and Jeremy Clynes was pleased that there is a steady stream of new volunteers to supplement the existing ones.

### Fellowship

John Hewson, Chairman of Fellowship, thanked the RA for their support for Fellowship throughout the year and asked for patience during the forthcoming refurbishment.

### Retiring Chairman

Jonathan Seres thanked Janet Elliott for her work and devotion to the RA as Chairman for the last five years and he was delighted that she will remain as Membership Secretary. He presented to her a Suburb watercolour on behalf of the RA.

Janet Elliott thanked everyone and wished the new Officers and Council well.

She thanked David Littaur and his team for organising the AGM

Jonathan Seres welcomed new and old members. He spoke of Henrietta Barnett's heritage, and of the many things valued by existing residents but also of the motivation for new residents to move to the Suburb. The challenge is to raise their awareness that the Suburb is not just pretty, but a community. For those who attend RA events, their interest often turns to deep pleasure. The proposed new garden city at Ebbsfleet will be the first development for 70 years to follow our model, and an opportunity to show that the concept is not just about preservation but has a lot to offer for modern living.

Cllr Andrew Harper, who was present, was resigning after 9 years and he was thanked for the work he had done for the Suburb

The meeting closed at 9.10pm for refreshments.