



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on 30 March 2015 at the Henrietta Barnet School Hall immediately after the Special General Meeting convened for 7.45pm

The meeting began just before 8.30pm. Jonathan Seres took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the 103rd Annual General Meeting of the Residents Association.

1. Apologies for Absence

These were received from:

Cllrs Mittra and Rozenberg, Joan Beales, Terry Brooks, Jeremy Clynes, Janette Harris, Peter Loyd, Norma and Michael Milner, Tim and Jean Neal, Nick Packard, Peter Phillips, Jane and David Rapson, Simon Sackman and Tony Spring.

2. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting dated 31 March 2014

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous AGM was proposed by David Littaur seconded by David Lewis (of Northway) and carried Nem Con.

3. Approval of Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2014

The Chairman drew the attention of the Meeting to the new format of the Annual Report which was included in the middle pages of the January Suburb News, as proposed by Council, with further copies on chairs this evening. The committees' reports gave a bullet-point picture of what the committees had done during the year.

The Accounts had, as usual, been printed with the Notice of AGM, and these too were on chairs. In the absence of the Hon Treasurer the Chairman presented the accounts for the twelve months to 31st December 2014.

He drew the Meeting's attention to the item of £20,000 from the RA's Centenary which had been spent on the children's playground in Northway Gardens, and the payment from Income of £4,000 which had been donated to Fellowship towards the recently completed development of Fellowship House and partially offset by the writing back of unused provision from previous years as mentioned in the footnote.

A Motion to receive and approve the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts was proposed by Alan Brudney seconded by Janet Elliott and carried Nem Con.

Jeremy Clynes was retiring as Hon Treasurer and the Chairman thanked him for all the work he had carried out over four years, including the introduction of monthly management accounts and annual budgets, as well as regular work on the finances throughout each year.

4. Elections of Officers and Council Members for 2015-16

Election of Officers

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

David B Lewis – Chairman; Max Petersen - Vice Chairman; Gary Shaw - Hon Secretary; Louise Hillman - Treasurer

A Motion to elect David B Lewis as Chairman was proposed by Charles Gale seconded by Eva Jacobs and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Max Petersen as Vice-Chairman was proposed by John Sells seconded by Estelle Braham and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Gary Shaw as Hon Secretary was proposed by Stephanie Hurst seconded by Tony Brand and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Louise Hillman as Hon Treasurer was proposed by Jeremy Hershkorn seconded by Michael Wacks and carried Nem Con.

Election of Members of the Council

Nominations for Election for 2015-16:

Rosalind Josephs, Peter Beesley and Paul Wenham had retired from Council. The Chairman told the Meeting of some of the work that each of them had done and thanked them. He also mentioned the late Richard Wakefield whose work had been noted in the last two editions of Suburb News, and who would be very much missed.

The following members of the Council who retire by rotation offered themselves for re-election: Tony Brand, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory,

A Motion to elect Tony Brand was proposed by Gary Shaw seconded by David (N) Lewis and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Charles Gale was proposed by Rosalind Josephs seconded by Brian Ingram and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Tony Ghilchik was proposed by John Sells seconded by Michael Franklin and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Colin Gregory was proposed by Joan Laurence seconded by Alan Brudney and carried Nem Con.

Lynda Cook, Anita Harlow, Hella Schrader, Simon Sackman and Jonathan Seres had been nominated for election by the RA Council before issue of the Notice, and

Frances Prentice had been nominated and seconded subsequently.

A Motion to elect Lynda Cook was proposed by Max Petersen seconded by Ann Spencer and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Anita Harlow was proposed by Jennye Seres seconded by Susan Segal-Horn and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Hella Schrader was proposed by David White seconded by Philip Harlow and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Simon Sackman was proposed by Robert Hurst seconded by Jeremy Hershkorn and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Jonathan Seres was proposed by David (N) Lewis seconded by Claire Calman and carried Nem Con.

A Motion to elect Frances Prentice was proposed by Marjorie Harris seconded by Alan Philipp and carried Nem Con.

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

The Council had recommended that there 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 Jonathan Seres seconded by Gary Shaw 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 for the coming year was proposed by Susie Gregson seconded by Hugh Hamilton and carried Nem Con.

7, To appoint Honorary Life Members

The RA Council had recommended that Simon Abbott, who was present this evening, be appointed as an Honorary Life Member of the RA. The Chairman stated that the list of Simon's work for the Suburb over more than 30 years was endless, and he would just mention that Simon had served on the EC, been Hon Sec of the RA, had produced the 75th Anniversary booklet, and on Events committee had led on the Notice Boards for over 10 years and had introduced and produced the risk assessments. He had also chaired a sub-committee of the Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund, and was one of the founders and Chair of the new HGS Heritage charity.

A Motion to appoint Simon Abbott as an Honorary Life Member of the RA was proposed by Jonathan Seres seconded by Max Petersen and carried 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 Mr and Mrs A. Stewart for the development they had carried out to their home at 16 Rotherwick Road. The designer was Cranbrook. The house owners were not present to collect the award.

9. Any Other Business

The Chairman invited members present to ask any questions, but there were none.

On behalf of all residents David Littaur thanked Jonathan Seres for his devotion and conscientiousness as Chairman of the RA. He had familiarised himself with all aspects of the work of the RA and had carried out his work with enormous courtesy. A presentation was made to him of an illustrated book on Arts & Crafts Furniture which was left on display until the end of the evening.

Jonathan Seres introduced the new Chairman, David B Lewis who said that he is looking forward to taking over the Chairmanship of the RA for the second time.

St Jude's Church proposed antennae

Jonathan Seres reported that, in discussion with David B Lewis, it had been agreed to inform the meeting of the planning application to install two antennae to be fixed to the tower supporting St Jude's Church Spire. The purpose of these is to enable electricity and other meters to be read remotely, and the application had been made by a company in that field. Recent notification had been placed on a lamppost at the top of Southway, the consultation period expiring on 2nd April, and had been considered the previous week by Consam.

A pre-planning notification from consultants to the applicants had been received by the RA in December, and an eNews with photograph had been issued on 23rd December to all RA members who had registered their email addresses. Consam had made a submission to the consultants on 30 December which Council had approved, expressing concern that any external addition to St Jude's is contemplated, but that if it were to proceed it must be invisible to the onlooker.

The planning application had only come to the RA's attention in mid-March and to the Chairman a few days prior to this evening's meeting, but it was now too late to hold a public meeting.

Richard Wiseman, Chairman of the HGS Trust said that the Trust had limited standing regarding this but would be making representations to LB Barnet. This application has more to do with individual residents and the RA and particularly English Heritage as St Jude's is a Grade 1 listed building. It appeared from the plans accompanying the application that the antennae would be higher than the 1.8 metres mentioned in the text, perhaps double the height, and this was being clarified.

Jonathan Seres asked individual residents to make their comments to LB Barnet but thought that it would be helpful to take soundings. He asked those residents present who could remember the computer picture of the proposed Antennae contained in eNews, whether they were in favour. There was 1 vote in favour and 9 votes against.

Consam had considered this application and, before tonight's information, had proposed that the RA makes a representation to LB Barnet that it does not object to the works provided that there will be no visible external fittings or cable, the colour of the antenna will blend with the stonework and confirmation be given that the antennae could not be mounted internally. As matters relating to St Jude's were of 'major' significance, the final form of the submission would be decided by Council.

Rev Ian Tutton considered that the RA process had regressed to the bad old ways, and that a public meeting should have been held on such an important issue, and not a show of hands from those who could remember an old circulated picture. The Chairman agreed but pointed out the shortage of time, and that at least the December eNews had enabled residents who had an issue to raise it. He thought that, as in the past, LB Barnet would accept a late submission from the RA when this enabled its Council to express a view.

Cllr John Marshall said that LB Barnet will consider all representations up to the day when the decision will be made.

David B Lewis will prepare a paper for Council to consider.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm for refreshments.