



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 March 2022
at the Henrietta Barnet School's Bigwood Hall at 8pm

1. Chair's welcome, announcements and tributes

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all present to the 109th Annual General Meeting of the Residents Association, including the Garden Suburb Ward Councillors and Mike Mire who will be a candidate at the 5 May local elections. She also welcomed Anne Clark, Greater London Assembly member for Barnet and Camden.
- 1.2 Olivia (aged 11), campaigner for the Hampstead Heath Extension playground, was also welcomed to the meeting.
- 1.3 Cllr John Marshall, who has served for 24 years service as a Suburb ward councillor, was presented with a gift by the Chair and thanked for his many years of service.
- 1.4 The Chair thanked retiring members of RA Council for their work over the years: Alan Brudney who was absent, Tony Ghilchik (Chair of Trees and Open Spaces), and Simon Sackman (Chair of Conservation & Amenities), who are not seeking another term.
- 1.5 The Chair thanked RA volunteer Tony Wilson who had set up the RA's new sound system and to the Events Team for setting up the room and other logistics.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from RA Council Members Judy Smith, Maria Schlatter and Marie-Christine O'Callaghan.

3. Approval of minutes of 2021 AGM

The minutes for the 2021 AGM were part of the AGM pack and had been available on the HGS website for several months. The minutes were approved Nem Com and there were no further comments.

4. Approval of annual report and accounts for year ended 31 December 2021

- 4.1 The Hon Treasurer shared the accounts figures, which were part of the AGM pack and had been available on the HGS website for some time, for the twelve months to 31st December 2021. He explained two main sources of RA income which are Membership Subscriptions and Advertising in RA Publications.
- 4.2 Membership income was slightly down last year in comparison to the year before. However, work had been done to reduce costs in collecting membership subscriptions and, as a result, net membership revenue- had increased by £1,000 for the year.

- 4.3 Publications had been fairly cost neutral until recently with costs to produce Suburb News being covered by advertising. However, special efforts by the Publications team to transform the format of Suburb News, and hard work by RA Chair on increasing income from advertising had significantly increased advertising revenue on Publications by £5,000.
- 4.4 The cost to produce the new format is lower than before and a surplus is expected to continue.
- 4.5 The main area of expenditure is RA running costs, events, street trees and various grants. Over recent years work has been done to reduce running costs considerably.
- 4.6 The relinquishing of the office at Free Church Hall in 2021 has further reduced costs with cheaper storage space being rented instead.
- 4.7 Events Expenditure: there was no expenditure for events last year, but some events may take place this year.
- 4.8 Trees expenditure: 15 trees were funded by the RA for the LB Barnet to plant last year and a Sponsor A Tree Scheme was introduced. Four residents sponsored a tree with £250 each and the RA added an additional £150 per sponsor.
- 4.9 Henrietta Community Orchard fruit trees have now been planted in Lyttleton Playing Fields funded by the RA. £1000 was spent on this in 2021
- 4.10 Grants: the match funding scheme for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice successfully raised over £20,000 which included £10,000 from residents' donations and £10,000 match funding from the RA. This year the RA plans to support the Hampstead Heath Extension playground with a grant of £10,000.
- 4.11 Other grants made were £10,000 towards the repair work for St Jude's spire; £3,000 to Proms at St. Jude's; £500 for Fellowship Chamber Concerts; £2,286 to Northway Gardens Organisation. With the current year grant, the RA has donated over £12000 to the Northway Gardens Organisation.
- 4.12 Overall, for the end of 2021, the RA had a £2,000 deficit and £72,900 in reserves.
- 4.13 The accounts were approved.

5. Appointment of an Honorary Accountant

The Chair extended her thanks to Hon Accountant Paul Hartley who was appointed for another year.

6. Approval of annual subscription for membership year 2022

The annual membership will continue at £15 – (minimum).

7. Heath Extension playground

7.1 The Chair introduced schoolgirl Olivia who spoke about the proposed playground for the Heath Extension and the importance of fundraising for the project. She thanked those who are supporting the project and spoke about her own fundraising which included making blackberry jam which she sold to raise funds. She explained that current play equipment is either extremely old and splintered and, in any case, very

inadequate and intended for very young children. The new equipment would make it usable by a much wider age range.

7.2 The project will need £40,000 and is dependent on community fundraising. The City of London has granted £7,500 and the RA will donate £10,000 towards the project. Other funds raised (including those mentioned at 7.1) amounted to approximately £2,500. Leaving a further £20,000 to be raised.

7.4 The Chair said that Gift Aid issues are still to be resolved but it is hoped to launch a similar fundraiser to previous ones run by the RA. The Chair asked Barnet Councillors if LB Barnet might contribute towards the fundraiser to help provide another playground within the borough. Cllr Rohit Grover undertook to look into the possible funding by LB Barnet.

8. Candidates for RA Council

8.1 Gren Manuel and Jonathan Waxman introduced themselves. They are members of the new Environment Committee (REACH).

8.2 Phillip Okrent introduced himself. He oversees the condition of pavements in the Suburb to ensure defects are reported to LB Barnet via Councillors and are acted upon.

8.3 The Hon Security read out a short summary from Judy Smith, who is a member of the Publications Committee (and also Chair of HGS Heritage Virtual Museum).

9. Publications Committee Chair's address-

9.1 The Publications Chair, Shelley-Anne Salisbury, introduced herself. She is also co-Editor for Suburb News.

9.2 Suburb News is - a well-established local newspaper and distributed to over 5,000 Suburb residents.

9.3 A team from Henrietta Barnett school and the Archer Academy are contributing to the youth section which is now being overseen by Kate Webster.

9.4 Lorna Page and her distribution team were thanked for their great efforts to distribute Suburb News to the whole Suburb – some 5,125 homes.

9.5 Suburb News is funded by advertising and has reached a new record in income. The RA Chair was warmly thanked for her efforts.

9.6 The What's On page that used to be featured will not be reintroduced as eNews has largely replaced it.

9.7 Hon Secretary invited contributions from residents to Suburb eNews and members not receiving eNews can register their email by emailing membershipsec@hgsra.uk which will ensure it is sent to them.

10. Environment Committee (REACH) Chair's address

10.1 Jonathan Waxman spoke about the committee's plans and objectives for the Suburb including achievement of Net Zero by 2040.

10.2 He expressed the need for support from RA residents, the purpose being to raise awareness on global challenges and to provide information on heating, insulation, flooding and other issues.

10.3 Gren Manuel, secretary to the committee, expressed particular concerns about the proposed waste incineration scheme in Edmonton and its huge emissions. Cllr Rozenberg stated this - scheme was opposed by the Liberal Democrats but they do not have an alternative scheme - to deal with the waste.

11. Ballot for Officers and Members of the RA Council -

11.1 The following candidates had been nominated for re-election as Officers of the RA Council:

Chair – Emma Howard
Hon. Secretary – Peter McCluskie
Hon. Treasurer – Steve Morris

RA Council members standing for election were Tony Brand, Colin Gregory, Gren Manuel, Philip Okrent, Judy Smith, Jonathan Waxman.

11.2 Members of the RA present were invited to complete their ballot papers which were then counted. All candidates were successful in the election.

12. Questions from members

12.1 The following issues and concerns were raised:

- Could the RA become a registered charity? The Hon Treasurer stated that provision of member benefits would breach charity rules, but a possible separate charitable arm of the RA may be worth consideration.
- Concerns were raised regarding the brightness and colour of the LED streetlights and their impact on health and biodiversity. It was agreed the RA Chair will follow up with LB Barnet to see what the latest situation is.
- Concerns raised by one member as to the safety aspects of the proposed playground. RA Chair explained that this was no different to any other playground and it was down to parents to take responsibility for the safety of their children. There are dog walkers on the Heath Extension even after dark and it was felt that there was no particular risk in the proposed playground. Also unlike other playgrounds, the Heath Constabulary routinely patrol the Extension in the evenings and would continue to monitor on the playground as a normal part of their duties.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.