



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at the Henrietta  
Barnet School's Bigwood Hall at 8pm**

**Chair's welcome, announcements and tributes**

1. The Chair welcomed all present to the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.
2. A tribute was made to Phillip Okrent who was sadly killed in a car crash last year and is greatly missed. His commitment to pavements in the Suburb was appreciated and a volunteer is needed to pick up this role,
3. The AGM pack that was circulated included the AGM Minutes for 2022 and the Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 December 2022.

**Apologies for absence**

4. None were received.

**Approval of minutes of 2022 AGM**

5. The minutes were approved and there were no further comments.

**Approval of annual report and accounts for year ended 31 December 2022**

6. Figures for the Y/E 2022 had also been made available on the HGS website. 2022 was the first full year post Covid. The Hon. Treasurer shared figures of the main areas.
7. Membership subscriptions and Fellow House donations: Went up during the two years of the pandemic but have now fallen back to slightly above pre-Covid figures.
8. Advertising: Sales of advertising for Suburb News have increased significantly and more than compensated for the slightly lower memberships subscriptions.
9. Events: Began again last year and the two public events, for Fireworks and Summer Fair, went very well.
10. Fundraising: For the Hampstead Heath Extension playground refurbishment was successful. The RA contributed £7,500 towards the project and a further grant of £7,500 was gratefully received from the City of London Corporation. Overall, £48,000 had been raised and thanks were given to the many residents who had contributed.
11. The year end accounts finished with a surplus of £5,636 and £78,548 in reserves.

12. The Hon. Treasurer thanked Paul Hartley for certifying the accounts.

13. The vote to approve the accounts was unanimous.

#### **Appointment of an Honorary Accountant**

14. Paul Hartley was voted in unanimously as Honorary Accountant for another year.

#### **Approval of annual subscription for membership year 2023**

15. The annual membership will continue at £15 for the year.

#### **Election by ballot of Officers and Council Members for 2023/24 as below (candidates appointed by Council since the 2022 AGM will introduce themselves briefly)**

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

Chair – Emma Howard

Hon. Secretary – Peter McCluskie

Hon. Treasurer – Steve Morris

17. Three new nominated Council members were Helena Benes, Lynda Cook and Steven Rowe. Helena and Steven gave brief introductions about themselves and their backgrounds. The Chair shared a few words on behalf of Lynda Cook.

#### **Presentations by REACH, Publications, Trees & Open Spaces and Events committees**

##### *Publications Committee address by Shelley-Anne Salisbury*

18. Shelley-Anne Salisbury, Committee Chair and Co-Editor for Suburb News, spoke about the changes in the format and style of Suburb News and touched on the importance of the content and its topics. Co-Editor Marie-Christine O'Callaghan was unable to attend the AGM.

19. Students from the Henrietta Barnett School and Archer Academy are also contributing and have covered important issues such as gender, friendship and ethnicity. A special thank you to Kate Webster for overseeing the Youth Panel was made.

20. A special mention on Clara Chapman for her contributed piece on Suffragette Edith How-Martin who had lived in Clara's house. More articles from Suburb residents are welcomed.

21. The Residents Book Review section (written by Helena Levy) and the Anyone For.... column (written by Judy Marcus, who was present to cover the AGM article for Suburb News) was also mentioned.
22. Andrew Botterill and his regular contributions to Suburb News were appreciated. More specifically, his recent article on The Old Club House was mentioned. Suburb News and Fellowship House are collaborating on a revolving photo exhibition.
23. A special thank you from the Committee Chair was made to Myke Jacobs, Marion Davis and Diane Iwi for judging and overseeing the photo competition.
24. A huge thank you went out to Lorna Page who oversees the distribution of Suburb News and does an incredible job and an additional thank you was made to the distribution team and a special thank you to the RA Chair for the advertising and the revenue she has brought in.
25. The importance of including articles to cover the wider world have included the war in Ukraine and climate change.

*Trees & Open Spaces address by Lynda Cook*

26. Lynda Cook, the Committee Secretary has temporarily chaired the committee for the last two years. There is a vacancy for position as Chair of the Committee. New members have joined and were mentioned, including Julian Glaser, Steven Rowe and Tom Whiting. The committee would welcome further new members.
27. The Committee has taken a close focus on trees and are working closely with LBB to ensure trees aren't cut down. Peter Falk works closely with Tree Officers and ensures Barnet plant new trees every year. The RA had paid for 15 new trees.
28. The Committee Secretary mentioned residents on Grey Close not having trees and who have paid voluntarily to have trees planted.
29. All tree applications are being monitored, especially trees to be felled in residents gardens or in Trust land. Applications have increased which has caused concern. The Committee is intervening, and Julian Glaser assesses new applications for trees to be felled or severely pruned.
30. Dr Phil Stirling will be coming to Bigwood on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April to hold a moth activity and everyone is welcome.
31. The Committee are also involved with Kenwood Landscape Forum, and Colin Gregory and Emma Howard were mentioned for their work with the Hampstead Heath Extension playground project.
32. More residents are applying to install plastic grass which is a concern as it creates a danger to the environment and destroys the earth underneath. The Committee is urging the Trust to get involved.

Events Committee address by Adrian Hodgson

- 33. After the first lift of the lockdown in 2020 a small concert was held at Central Square and was well attended. A similar event may happen again this year. Last year saw the return of the Summer Fair and New Year's Eve Fireworks and the date for this year's Summer Fair will be announced shortly.
- 34. New volunteers are welcome to join the Committee and meet every other month. Further events may be held.
- 35. Events for Halloween are hoped to resurrect this year as it didn't take place last year.

Environment Committee (REACH) address by Gren Manuel

- 36. Gren Manuel, Secretary for HGS REACH, introduced himself and addressed the two main goals of the Committee.
- 37. Global climate change and its effects on the Suburb and its homes.
- 38. Reducing our carbon footprint: a number of schemes have been introduced for residents including the loans of infrared cameras to check where homes are losing heat, offering advice on windows, and air source heat pumps installations.
- 39. Pre-registration is now open on the REACH section of the RA's website ([www.hgsra.uk/reach](http://www.hgsra.uk/reach)) on how to reduce energy loss in Suburb homes.
- 40. In June there will be a new information talk on Greening Finances where there will be information on savings and investments. Residents can visit the website for more information.
- 41. There was also a concern about air pollution and an air quality monitor will be placed at the Hampstead Way with Meadway roundabout.
- 42. All residents are welcome to volunteer in campaigns and there will be a stall at the Summer fair.

**Any other business including questions**

- 43. Councillors who attended were welcomed by the Chair and members and associates were invited to ask any questions.

The following issues and concerns were raised:

- 44. Concerns were raised by a resident regarding the traffic and a recent bike accident at the Hampstead Way/Meadway roundabout . The resident wrote to the RA Chair about what could be done to avoid a major incident. This was addressed by Cllr

Rohit Grover who confirmed he will inform the Council of the incident. He outlined LBB Highways plans to improve safety at the roundabout which had resulted in strong opposition from residents near this roundabout because of the resulting loss in CPZ bays. Legal action had been threatened by one resident and the matter is still pending a final decision by the Director of Highways.

45. A concern was raised by a resident regarding the top end of Northway where traffic parked on both sides of the road and pressure from HB School and Free Church Hall means there is huge difficulty for residents with parents frequently parking across residents' drives. The resident suggested a one way system or parking controls were needed here as the bus frequently gets stuck and the situation gets very difficult in the peak periods. Cllr Mike Mire addressed the issue and assured the meeting that ward councillors would look into it and ask for an exercise to monitor the problems would be requested.
46. The Chair raised the proposal of the redevelopment of the Temple Fortune Health Centre and asked attendees if they would like a public meeting to address issues concerns. The majority voted for a meeting to be held and Councillors said they would be keen to attend. The majority attending the meeting are patients of the practices and are impacted by the proposals. The RA Chair would liaise with the doctors involved to see if they would agree to a meeting to put people's minds at rest and to provide as much information as possible on the services that would be provided by the new facility if it goes ahead.
47. The Chair asked if there were residents who live on the northside of the Suburb who were available to attend a walk with LB Barnet and look at issues in the area. Anne Clarke, Greater London Assembly Member, introduced herself and mentioned that the safety walks are accompanied by Councillors, Police and other experts.
48. The meeting constituted itself as a Special General Meeting to consider a proposed minor change to Clause 6(e) of the RA Constitution. The proposal was to reduce the required number of annual Executive Committee meetings from eight to four. This was approved by unanimous vote.
49. Lynda Cook thanked Tony Gilchik on behalf of Trees & Open Spaces for the many years he chaired the Committee.
50. Jane Bailey thanked the Council and all Committee members for their hard work on behalf of Suburb residents.

### **Outcome of ballot and conclusion of meeting**

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

Meeting ended at 9.07pm with refreshments available provided by the RA Events team.