



**Minutes of the AGM held on
31 March 2025 at Bigwood Hall, Henrietta Barnett School**

Officers: Emma Howard (*Chair*), Peter McCluskie (*Hon Secretary*), Steve Morris (*Hon Treasurer*),

Chair's Introduction:

1. The Chair opened the AGM and welcomed all members attending together with Cllrs Rohit Grover and Mike Mire, GLA Member Anne Clarke and officers from the local police force.

Apologies for Absence:

2. Apologies were received from:
Shelley-Anne Salisbury
Adrian Hodgson
Sarah Sackman MP

Amendment to Clause 6 of the RA Constitution:

3. The Hon Secretary presented the proposed amendment, which had been publicised prior to the meeting on the RA website, to the members. The amendment was approved.

Minutes of 2024 AGM:

4. The minutes of the 2024 AGM were approved.

Approval of annual report and accounts for year ended 31 December 2024:

5. The Hon Treasurer went through the main areas of the finances. The accounts for 2024 were approved.
6. Membership Subscriptions and Fellowship House donations: despite a slight drop in membership numbers, net revenues from subscriptions for 2024 had increased because of a significant reduction in costs.
7. Suburb News continues to attract a substantial amount of advertising which contribute significantly to the RA's finances and ability to give grants to community organisations.
8. Grants: the Treasurer confirmed that a total of £31,750 had awarded in grants during the 2024 calendar year.
9. Events: The New Years Eve Fireworks and the Summer Fair were both very successful.

Appointment of Honorary Accountant:

10. It was proposed that Paul Hartley be re-elected as the Honorary Accountant for the forthcoming year. This was approved with thanks to Mr Hartley.

Approval of Annual Subscription for Membership Year 2025:

11. The Chair proposed that the annual RA membership subscription would remain at £15 for the upcoming year. This proposal was put to a vote and carried unanimously, confirming that the membership fee will be retained at the current rate of £15.

Special Topic: Defibrillators

12. Gren Manuel provided an overview of the importance and intended use of defibrillators within the Suburb. He informed members that the first unit has been successfully installed outside Fellowship House. The broader plan is to install additional units across the Suburb, with each defibrillator costing approximately £1,000. A number of questions from members were answered.
13. Members with First Aid training were invited to contact Gren if they wished to support or participate in the initiative.

Election by ballot of Officers and Council Members for 2025/26

14. Peter McCluskie (nominated as Chair), Francine Barsam (nominated as Hon Secretary), Asher Budwig and Dominic Rose (both nominated as Council Members) spoke briefly to the members. Following the ballot, they were elected together with Judy Smith and Colin Gregory who were re-elected as Council Members.

Policing in the Suburb

15. Representatives from the local police force were present at the AGM. Inspector Kem Ofo provided an update on local crime, reporting an increase in burglaries and thefts during November and December of 2024. These incidents were primarily attributed to organised gang activity. The police confirmed that three arrests had been made in connection with these offences. To support burglary prevention, the police circulated crime prevention leaflets and offered a number of recommendations.

Questions from Residents

16. *Q: What can be done about drivers travelling the wrong way around the roundabout near Brookland Schools?*
A: The police will investigate the area and monitor the situation.
17. *Q: We frequently find car number plates discarded on Suburb roads. Should we continue reporting them?*
A: The police advised residents to continue reporting such findings, as they are likely connected to stolen vehicles.
18. *Q: What is the latest position regarding the Northway Gardens Padel Courts Application?*
A: The Chair provided an update on the application for the development of five padel board courts within the Suburb. An Oakwood Road resident spoke strongly against the application which is feared would cause considerable noise and parking issues in the quiet area. A significant number of members and residents expressed strong objections to the application, citing concerns over its potential impact on the local environment and community. Attendees were advised to submit their objections directly through the London Borough of Barnet's planning portal or by email to the planning consultation team.

Presentation:

19. Colin Gregory offered thanks to Emma Howard for her outstanding contribution and dedicated leadership as Chair of the RA since 2018. He commended her for her tireless efforts in serving the community, fostering engagement, and strengthening the role of the RA over the years. In recognition of her service, Emma was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a bottle of champagne. The meeting was then concluded.