

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 July 2005
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair

Simon Abbott, Jean Barraclough, Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten, Andrew Botterill, John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Carol Boulter, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Derek Chandler, Francois Crompton-Roberts, Arnold Elliott, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Lewis, (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Georgina Malcolm, Michael Rowley, Gary Shaw, Léonie Stephen, Douglas Thomas, Richard Wakefield (Hon Secretary).

Visitors: Mrs Reidy, Mrs Long, Ms Ruta Tetris, Ken Murrell, Terry Rand

1 Apologies for Absence

Received from Denis Baron, Richard Kemp, Steve Morris, Alan Walker.

2 Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting

Question Time

Insert 'solution' at the end on line 2 in the second paragraph.

Complaint to the Ombudsman

Delete 'said' from line 1.

3 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Telephone Box at Meadway Gate

Rosalind Josephs said that the light had at last been restored. Unfortunately there was already graffiti on the Box which she will remove. She had also removed graffiti from the telephone box at Heathgate

Complaint to the Ombudsman

Gary Shaw had received a copy of a letter sent to the Chief Executive at LB Barnet regarding the complaints made by the RA and Ken Murrell. It criticised Barnet for its lack of consultation and found it at fault. It recommended that the sum of £1,050 in compensation be paid to the RA and £500 to Ken Murrell although this payment is at Barnet's discretion.

The Council thanked both Ken Murrell for his work with the RoSPA report and Siddiek Meer for drafting the letter to the Ombudsman and for attending Barnet Cabinet. The report asked LB Barnet for additional information and a covering letter asked the RA for any comments. The report is provisional.

Ken Murrell had spoken to the Ombudsman and he told Council that the time scale for comments of 3/4 weeks could be extended. Barnet has been asked to provide full accident figures for the last eight years as well as to set out its methodology for obtaining this information. The Chairman will

DBL

circulate an electronic version of the report to Council. There is case law covering consultation in particular Rex v Brent LBC (ex parte Gunning) 1986 . The Chairman thought it would be a good idea to obtain a copy of this judgement.

MR

When appropriate, Eva Jacob's considered that publicity should be given to this. The Chairman said that the Hendon Times, Ham & High and Barnet Press will be informed.

Michael Rowley will draft a letter of thanks to Siddiek Meer for the Chairman to send.

4 Proposed Motion

'That Council meeting should terminate by 10pm. Any matters outstanding at that time should be referred to the Executive Committee'

This was proposed by Arnold Elliott and seconded by Richard Wakefield.

Colin Gregory proposed an amendment to omit the second sentence. This was seconded by Douglas Thomas. The amendment was carried unanimously.

John Boulter objected to the Motion and thought that it was improper to try to limit the time given to Council meetings.

Eva Jacobs proposed an amendment altering the wording to: 'Council should aim to terminate its meetings by 10pm'. This was seconded by Alan Brudney. The amendment was carried unanimously.

Simon Abbott pointed out that any motion carried by Council would become a standing order and it can be changed by a majority vote.

The Motion was put to Council and carried unanimously.

5 Question Time

There were none.

6 Proposed Motion

'That RA Council agrees a budget of £850 for the New Year Fireworks to enable it to take advantage of a 10 % discount'

This motion was proposed by Alan Brudney and seconded by Jean Barraclough. Alan Brudney pointed out that if the order is placed by mid September it will include an extra 25% fireworks.

It was agreed that a collection would be made on New year's Eve and The Chairman requested that this is used towards the cost of the fireworks. The Motion was passed Nem Con.

7 Approval of recommendations and decision described in the EC Minutes.

Council approved these.

Suburb News

TB

Terry Brooks said that Publications are looking at how to market and obtaining advertisements for the Yellow Directory, Suburb News and to launch the proposed Membership Discount Scheme and he is preparing a paper which will be circulated to Council for discussion at the September meeting.

8 Proposed Motion

'Having noted LB Barnet's revised proposals for a CPZ in Temple Fortune and the Suburb, the RA is concerned that these are still detrimental to the Suburb and have the potential to seriously damage Temple Fortune as a shopping centre. As Barnet Council has not responded to the RA's alternative suggestions for dealing with parking matters in Temple Fortune and the Suburb it is proposed that the RA Council recommends support for three independent candidates to contest the Garden Suburb Ward at the May 2006 local elections subject to the following:
a that the candidates submit a manifesto to RA Council at its January 2006 Meeting which is approved by RA Council and
b the candidates and the manifesto are also approved by a motion at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting to take place before nominations close'

Gary Shaw proposed this motion and told Council that Councillors have a duty to represent the residents. He reminded Council that there had been opposition to the pavement parking scheme in Temple Fortune by residents but the Councillors had still supported it. A letter had been sent out by way of consultation to 2705 homes/businesses but only 453 residents or 17% had supported the proposal. Of those who had responded, 54% had voted against and 46% in favour. The Councillors are supporting the proposals. All residents have an interest in the continued viability of Temple Fortune shopping centre.

The RA Council have discussed the particular problems of Asmunds Place and Gary Shaw said that his comments did not include this road.

Gary Shaw had written to Cllrs Harris and Naghar asking them for an undertaking to dismantle the proposed scheme if it goes ahead and the parking is displaced and residents wish to increase the extent of the Scheme. He had not received a response.

In order to justify the proposed Temple Fortune Scheme Barnet had stated that parking would be increased by 15% but the drawings had shown that there would be a reduction of 13% which added to the pressure of parking on the surrounding streets.

Rudy Vis MP had written to Gary Shaw telling him that a paper to review parking charges was to be agreed by the Barnet Cabinet on 4 July. This included looking at 7 new CPZs and extending 3 existing ones, increasing the cost of a second residents permit, scrapping the opportunity to have a third permit, increasing the cost of visitor vouchers, cutting the entitlement to visitors vouchers, charging for free motorbikes in bays and car parks, capping CPZ permits for businesses, introducing parking charges in free

car parks, and reducing long term parking. Gary Shaw had asked Cllrs Naghar and Harris to comment on these proposals but they had not responded.

Once a CPZ has been introduced Barnet are able to change the scheme any way that they wish as seen in East Finchley where there were parking restrictions for one hour during the day to exclude commuters. This had been changed without proposed consultation to restrict parking all day, Monday to Saturday

Garden Suburb has three Conservative Councillors and it is considered a safe Conservative area, but without these three seats it may not be able to form the next administration in 2006. The psychological effects would be enormous and the RA had little to lose. There will be no other opportunity to take this step .

The Chairman asked each Council member for their views: Douglas Blausten wanted to know whether the candidates will stand on a single issue or whether they will represent Suburb residents on other issues equally important to residents such as social services. Colin Gregory said there was a need to find out what residents want. Terry Brooks said that if we do not go ahead now it will be too late. Carol Boulter wanted a public meeting. Rosalind Josephs pointed out that the value of houses on the Suburb may be affected if the CPZ was introduced and Richard Wakefield wanted to know who would fund the costs of this proposal.

The Chairman said that the motion calls for a manifesto and there are many other Suburb issues to consider including satellite dishes, planning matters, pedestrian crossing in Golders Hill Park. We need to find candidates and agree a manifesto, the best candidates would be known to Suburb residents. The RA would need to raise a fighting fund as we could not use subscription money. It may be preferable for the RA to produce the manifesto.

Simon Abbott said that the single issue here is local democracy Alan Brudney suggested that other local RAs with conservative candidates should be approached.

The motion was carried with three abstentions.

The EC will discuss details and report back to Council.

9 North Square

The Trust Chairman had written to all residents who has responded to the Trust's consultation informing them that the Trust Council had decided that 'for the foreseeable future the proposal to develop the site will not be pursued'. It published details of the responses they had received. 87% of the 942 residents consulted residents wished there to be no development of the site.

Irene Sowerbutt had written to the Chairman asking him to request the Trust to give an undertaking that they will not renew their Barnet planning consent in 2008, but the Chairman said that an existing planning consent cannot be abolished but it is now more difficult to keep renewing planning consents.

Andrew Botterill said that he had been co-ordinating the campaign against this development since 1995 when Eddie Caplin gave an undertaking to the RA that nothing would be done without consultation and the RA should put down a marker as to how the Trust should act regarding this site.

The RA wanted to congratulate the Trust on its consultation process and openness and the Chairman will write to the Chairman of the Trust. He will also set out how the RA interprets the Trust's decision.

John Boulter did not welcome the Trust's suggestion of having meetings in residents' houses and considered that the Trust should talk to the RA Council. Carol Boulter preferred small public meeting held in the Trust's Office or at Fellowship House.

10 Any other Urgent Business

HGS Institute

It was agreed that the Chairman should invite the Principal of the Institute to attend the RA Council September to explain what is happening

HB School

Jean Barraclough told Council that a new male head teacher had been appointed.

HGS Free Church

Jean Barraclough reported that Dr Ian Tutten had been called as a Minister to the Church.

11 To confirm the Date of the Next Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 6 September at Fellowship House at 8.00pm