

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6th October 2009
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair

Carol Boulter, John Boulter, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Bridget Cox, Nicole Gerber, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Lewis, David Littaur, Richard Kemp, Steve Morris, Selwyn Nakan, Max Petersen, Judith Samson, Gary Shaw, Will Sowerbutts, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield, Alan Walker, and Richard Wiseman

Visitors, Derek Epstein, Joyce Littaur, Geoffrey Spyer. Peter Ferstendik

The Council wished Tony Ghilchik a speedy recovery from his operation

1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, Tony Brand, Charles Gale, Tony McGuire, Tony Ghilchik</p>	
2	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 1st September 2009</u> <u>Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals and Character Study</u> Insert 'had' between 'David Davidson' and 'said' in line 1 and replace 'in' by 'into' in line 2.</p>	
3	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda</u> <u>Supermarket Display in Market Place</u> LB Barnet is not prepared to change their decision on this.</p> <p><u>Open House</u> Eva Jacobs reported that only half the number who normally attend the organised walks had come this year. Alan Walker said that about 100 people visited St Jude's and Ian Tutton thought that there were no fewer visitors this year but more were local people. The handbook had not been available in local libraries.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs suggested that if LB Barnet does not agree to take part next year the RA should try to find another means to get the Suburb reinstated into the booklet.</p> <p>Alan Walker will raise this with the Open House organisation when he is approached next year and pass information to the RA so that they can take this up with LB Barnet.</p>	AW

	<p><u>Centenary Fund Account</u></p> <p>Eva Jacobs reminded Council that there had been a proposal to fund a playground for older children which Trees and Open Spaces are still looking at. She said that the project is alive and it is a worthwhile one.</p> <p><u>Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals and Character Study</u></p> <p>Janet Elliott reported that the publication of the document for consultation is likely to be delayed until January 2010.</p>	
4	<p><u>Question Time</u></p> <p><u>Wheeled Bins</u></p> <p>Peter Ferstendik was concerned that his green wheeled bin is left in the middle of the grass verge and not returned after emptying. He considered it is not only unsightly and probably illegal to block a footpath, but it is also a security risk when he is on holiday and an advertisement to any potential burglar that his house is empty.</p> <p>John Boulter said that when wheeled bins were first introduced LB Barnet agreed that all bins should be left on the boundary of the property and returned to the same place. David Lewis said that the easiest way is to ask neighbours to look after your bins when you are away.</p> <p>Janet Elliott said that the RA can try and exercise their influence, but in this sort of case complaints from a larger number of individual residents to LB Barnet may be more effective.</p> <p>Richard Wakefield will prepare a piece for the next Suburb News on a number of aspects of the storage and movement/replacement of bins, and will ask residents not to leave their bins permanently on the pavement.</p> <p>It was agreed that Consam will take this matter up with LB Barnet.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>GSp</p>
5	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p><u>Fellowship</u></p> <p>John Boulter said that he will shortly be sending Fellowship the sum of £10,000 collected for the year by the RA in 2009.</p> <p><u>Tax Advice</u></p> <p>John Boulter has completed and returned the necessary forms to the firm providing advice on taxation matters to the RA.</p>	<p>JB</p>
6	<p><u>Graduated Management Charge</u></p> <p>Richard Wakefield reported that so far there has been a 10% response with 151 residents opting for no change and 196 in favour of the change to a graduated charge. The Suburb News is</p>	

	<p>currently being distributed and he hoped that there would be a good response. There is no official cutting off date for the replies.</p> <p><u>Level of Management Charge</u></p> <p>Janet Elliott reported that Dr Papadopoulos had collected signatures to challenge the level of management charge and to have a surveyor appointed to look into this. Richard Wakefield did not think Mr Papadopoulos's actions would have an effect on the response to the poll being conducted by the RA about a possible graduated management charge.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p><u>Outstanding Procedural Issues</u></p> <p>The various issues raised at the June Council meeting had been discussed at length by the EC. Council members were referred to the detailed minutes which had been circulated.</p> <p><u>The Role and Eligibility of Associate Members to Chair an RA Standing Committee</u></p> <p>The EC had noted that the Constitution is silent on this and felt that these matters were complex and emotive.</p> <p>Carol Boulter pointed out that Council members must be residents of the Suburb. Standing committees, however, can co-opt their members and decide on their chairman but she thought that it was implied in the Constitution that committee Chairmen should also be Suburb residents and that the rules relating to Council members also applied to Standing Committee members.</p> <p>Colin Gregory said that the Constitution may be unclear but there has been a pragmatic interpretation for many years and it was probably best that it be left unchanged. To introduce rules to deal with personal matters is likely to be unhelpful.</p> <p>Colin Gregory proposed a Motion which was seconded by Richard Wakefield</p> <p>'That the RA do not discuss this matter any further at this Council meeting'.</p> <p>This was passed by fourteen votes in favour and four against.</p> <p><u>Appointments to and Rules governing Standing Committees and issues of Representation</u></p> <p>Terry Brooks considered that the individual Standing Committees should deal with their own issues but Selwyn Nakan thought that there should be a right of veto for appointment of co-opted members to the Standing Committees and that it should be exercised in a more confidential manner than having to raise it in front off the whole Council at the time of selecting committees. .</p> <p>It was also noted that there is a provision for secret ballots by the Council and its committees in the Constitution.</p>	

	<p>Colin Gregory said that several working parties had looked at the Constitution and Standing Orders over the years and the Council should not discuss this matter without careful consideration of its potential implications.</p> <p>Richard Kemp asked the Council to look forward to the future, to do more to represent residents' views and not get unnecessarily involved with procedural issues.</p> <p>Carol Boulter said that Council members are not elected on a 'party ticket' but put themselves forward in a personal capacity, unlike Members of Parliament. Richard Wakefield reminded members that the Council's four named Officers, plus one third of all Council members including any Council members co-opted during the year, stand for election/re-election at the AGM.</p> <p>Alan Brudney referred to the time when he was the RA's representative on the Institute Council and he said that though he tried to represent the views of residents and not his own, the exercise of judgment was also needed.</p> <p>Steve Morris said that getting the views of residents is the heart of what the RA does.</p> <p>Colin Gregory reminded Council that some years ago consultants were engaged to seek the views of residents and perhaps we should refresh this process and address these issues. Over the years when he has represented the RA on various organisations he has used his judgment when making decisions and deciding when a Standing Committee or Council needs to be consulted.</p> <p>Janet Elliott said that there are still issues about how representatives are appointed and conduct themselves, and we should bear this in mind in the way we act.</p> <p>Eva Jacobs pointed out that the majority of the RA's work is done through Standing Committees by committed volunteers.</p> <p>Carol Boulter said that if a Standing Committee or a member of Council feels strongly they could present a Motion for discussion. The Executive could draw up a list of items, including any potential changes, to be discussed.</p> <p>Richard Wiseman said that we should take advantage of the vagueness in the Constitution. Should change be needed, it should be undertaken following a thorough review and lay down good ground rules in one go, rather than make piecemeal changes.</p> <p>Janet Elliott said that the EC will note the views of Council and consider what may need to be done.</p>	
8	<p><u>Reports from Committees and Working Parties</u></p> <p><u>Consam</u></p>	

	<p>Janet Elliott reported that after three and a half years as Chairman of Consam Derek Epstein had resigned.</p> <p>A Motion 'thanking Derek Epstein for all the work he has done' was proposed by Carol Boulter and seconded by Rosalind Josephs.</p> <p>This was passed Nem. Con.</p> <p>It was noted that Geoffrey Spyer had been elected to take over as Chairman of Consam.</p> <p>A Motion 'that Geoffrey Spyer be elected to Council' was proposed by Janet Elliott and seconded by John Boulter</p> <p>This was passed Nem. Con. and Geoffrey Spyer was welcomed to the Council.</p> <p><u>Membership</u></p> <p>Steve Morris reported that the third round of reminders was now going out. He asked Council members who had not yet joined the RA to do so.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p><u>Executive Committee Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Centenary Fund</u></p> <p>Janet Elliott reported on an as yet unresolved difference of opinion on this matter among the EC.</p> <p><u>Conversion to Limited Liability/Charitable status</u></p> <p>Janet Elliott will meet with Richard Wiseman, Steve Morris and Colin Gregory to discuss how we should deal with recording the name of members if the RA were to become a company limited by guarantee.</p> <p><u>Finding out what Residents want us to do</u></p> <p>Janet Elliott welcomed ideas from Council members</p> <p>Nicole Gerber suggested a hand-delivered questionnaire to every household. Steve Morris pointed out that volunteers do not like knocking on doors and asking residents for information. Terry Brooks agreed and said that to collect information on issues of interest to residents we should rely on a combination of Suburb News, the HGS list and membership mailings. Publications are redesigning the material that goes out to residents.</p> <p>Colin Gregory suggested that the RA get professional help and carry out a more detailed survey. David Littaur said that the RA should be careful not to become a forum for pressure groups.</p> <p>Janet Elliott suggested that an 'RA Manifesto for 2010' be developed as an article for the winter Suburb News. Richard Wakefield agreed to help the Executive and Council to work on this.</p>	<p>RW</p>

10	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>Tony Mandelson Memorial Bench</u></p> <p>Eva Jacobs said that Trees and Open Spaces are dealing with this and trying to establish who repaired the bench six years ago.</p> <p>Richard Wakefield will send this information to Eva Jacobs. He thought that the wrong wood had been used and it was now rotting.</p>	RW
11	<p><u>To note that the next RA Council meeting will be on Tuesday November 3 at 8.00pm at Fellowship House</u></p> <p>This was confirmed</p>	