

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2 November 2010
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair

John Boulter, Carol Boulter, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Bridget Cox, Charles Gale, Colin Gregory, Tony Ghilchik, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Geoffrey Spyer, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield, Richard Wiseman.

Visitors: Pia Duran, Dr Saul Zadka

1 Apologies:

Simon Abbott, Peter Beesley, Douglas Blausten, Tony Brand, Louise Felder, David Lewis, Steve Morris, Max Petersen, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – approved.

3. To receive draft Minutes of the Executive Meeting on 13 October 2010 for information - These were received.

4. Financial Report

4.1 Open House - John Boulter had received an invoice for £75 for art work for the brochure, which he had paid. Janet Elliott will try to ascertain whether a donation will be forthcoming from St Judes. Bridget Cox said that there had been some 300 visitors to St Judes over Open House the weekend. JE

The donation from the film company had not been received and Janet Elliott will talk to the Trust about this. JE

4.2 Fallogen Way Fighting Fund - Colin Gregory asked what had happened to this fund which had been set up some years ago bearing in mind that work on Henleys Corner had recently received the official go ahead. John Boulter said that the money is on deposit and he will try to ascertain the position from the papers in his possession. The EC will discuss this. JB

4.3 Allotments Committee - John Boulter said that a formal application had been made for a grant of £2,700 towards providing water on the Asmunds Place allotments site - £2400 for water and £300 for renovation of a broken gate. The EC had discussed this and recommended it to Council. However, they considered that it should not necessarily come out of the Centenary Fund but from general funds.

Eva Jacobs referred to the discussion at the EC about access to the allotments by residents and whether allotment holders should become members of the RA. Pia Duran reminded Council that the Allotments are owned by the Orchard, Fellowship and the Trust. It is the Trust who keeps the list of allotment holders and she pointed out that the upkeep of allotments restores the fabric of the Suburb. Richard Wakefield said that members of the Theatre Club are asked to join the RA, so why not allotment holders. Colin Gregory said he would prefer the money to come from general funds rather than Centenary Funds and he considered that allotment holders should be encouraged to join the RA. Perhaps it should be a requirement of new

allotment holders who benefit from the RA's grant. Terry Brooks considered that this would be bad PR for the RA and it was agreed that they should be encouraged to join but no attempt would be made to insist that they join.

Janet Elliott proposed a Motion to make a grant of £2700 available to the Allotments Committee as a contribution towards the costs of arranging for the supply of water on the Asmunds Place site and for the renovation of the broken gate. This was seconded by Alan Brudney and agreed nem con.

5. Question Time

Potholes and related matters - Dr Saul Zadka, a resident of Holyoake Walk, was concerned at the 'deterioration' in the physical environment of the Suburb and asked how the RA liaises with LB Barnet on these issues. He had had a problem with a pot hole in his road which, having obtained no response from LB Barnet, he had reported to the Ham & High. He produced a copy of the report in the 21 October 2010 issued based on the report he made.

Terry Brooks explained that although there is a problem with Roads and Traffic Committee at present, there are three RA Committees who deal with LB Barnet and two of these are currently dealing with some R&T issues as well as their normal responsibilities. In particular, Rosalind Josephs had been dealing with potholes in the absence of an active Roads & Traffic Committee involvement. She reported considerable success in respect of potholes notified to Barnet and found it strange that LBB had not responded to Dr Zadka's complaint.

Ian Tutton said that the Councillors should deal with these issues but Tony Ghilchik said that the first approach should be to the LB Barnet officers who deal with the matter of particular concern and to ensure that they abide by the Design Guidelines. Only when there is a problem in achieving an effective response, should Councillors be asked to be involved.

At the end of the discussion, Dr Zadka said that he would be willing to help on the Roads & Traffic Committee and his offer was accepted by the Council.

6. Strategy Working Group Update

Richard Wiseman said that the Working Party had met a number of times and are preparing a paper which will be circulated at least a week before the December Council meeting. This first report will cover what the RA does, how it determines what it does and how it communicates including:

- a. Getting the views of residents was proving difficult. There had so far been very little feedback. The current view is that too few residents really aware of what the RA is doing for residents on a regular basis and there is no effective mechanism to find out what residents want.
- b. Relationship with the Trust and LB Barnet will be examined and the confusion about the roles of the RA and the Trust. There needs to be a reliable email list. The web site is 'creaking'. Steve Morris is working on up-dating the website including making it possible for Standing Committee chairmen themselves to update the site in respect of their work.
- c. The possibility of making better use of Membership Representatives will be addressed and the need to attract younger people to the RA.

In response Eva Jacobs said that the RA should take a more positive attitude to letting residents know the extent of the work that the RA does on a continuing bases

and Carol Boulter repeated her belief that that the RA needs better PR. Colin Gregory would like to see a framework in place for residents to express their views.

In respect of contacts with elected members, Janet Elliott informed the Council that she and David Lewis had been invited to the House of Commons to meet with new local MP for Finchley & Golders Green, Mike Freer.

7. HGS Trust Issues

7.1 Estates Committee - Rosalind Josephs reported that she and Pia Duran had attended the first meeting of this new Committee designed to help the Trust improve its management of the large amount of land it owns. The committee members will shortly be going on a tour of the Suburb allotments. She also referred to the work carried out by the Trust to Sunshine Corner which is a great improvement and example of what can be achieved.

7.2 Email from Andrew Botterill. Janet Elliott had circulated a copy of this to Council and she read out her response. Douglas Blausten had also written his analysis of the points in the email to all Council members. On the question of Standing Orders, members were reminded that these had been reviewed during 2009 and minor amendments made. The Council agreed that no further review was recommended until the Council had made up its mind on any changes necessary following the completion of the work of the Strategy Working Party.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Consam

8.1.a Basements - Geoffrey Spyer has still not received a response to his letter to the Executive Member for Planning at LB Barnet. The Trust has said that they are pleased that the RA is supportive of their guidelines. Geoffrey Spyer will try to telephone Cllr Cornelius. Tony Ghilchik suggested involving Cllr Harper and Ian Tutton suggested copying the letter to all three Suburb Councillors. Carol Boulter said that the Ham & High could be informed as they have an active campaign on basements.

GS

8.1.b Street Lighting - Tony Ghilchik had posted an article on the HGS email discussion group explaining the position. He has still received no reply from LB Barnet regarding the problems encountered with parts of Meadway and the joint consultation but he is in touch with Cllr Marshall.

TG

8.2 Events - David Littaur reported that the week-end of 2/3 July 2011 will be the main celebration of the centenary of the RA. The next Events committee meeting will take place on 15 November after which he will report back. He would like more volunteers for New Year's Eve and he will post a message on the discussion group. A resident in Central Square has requested quieter fireworks or no fireworks and Janet Elliott will reply to her but the Council felt that the event was generally appreciated by many residents and agreed to go ahead as usual.

JE

8.3 Publications - Terry Brooks now has identified four volunteers to assist with Suburb News. A discussion took place as to whether a company should be allowed to place a half page advertisement for building basements at a cost of £1000. Some Council members thought that we should not accept it as a matter of principle and some thought that if there was a note explaining the RA's views on basements, the advertisement would be acceptable. The advertiser would be told beforehand that the same issue of Suburb News will contain articles critical of some basements.

Ian Tutton proposed a Motion which Terry Brooks seconded, that the advertisement be accepted. This was passed by 12 votes in favour and 2 against.

8.4 Roads and Traffic - Council were concerned that no meeting of this Committee had been held. Richard Wakefield said that a meeting should be called and a chairman elected. Richard Wiseman will talk to a Suburb resident who may be interested in assisting. **RWi**

8.5 Trees and Open Spaces

8.5a Trees & Open Spaces is trying to organise a Bigwood Action day on 20 November.

8.5b Tony Mandelson Memorial Seat - Eva Jacobs is finding it difficult to progress this due to turnover and illness of staff at LB Barnet.

8.6 Memorial Seats - Rosalind Joseph has been working on this. Barnet have informed her that they are replacing four benches and renovating a further four.

9. **Community Facilities and Heritage Working Group.** This could not be discussed in Simon Abbott's absence.

10. **Centenary Projects** - Janet Elliott would shortly be circulating the list of centenary projects considered, as agreed at the previous meeting. **JE**

In addition to the Children's Playground, agreed at the previous meeting, the Council supported a new proposal from the Executive that a sum of £5,000 from the Centenary Fund be set aside in case it is needed towards the costs of establishing a heritage centre at the Gallery site

11. **Matters arising from the Council and EC minutes not already discussed.** There were none.

12. **Other Urgent Business**

12.1 Athlone House - Council members were urged to consider whether they wishes to sign up to the appeal against the application to demolish Athlone House in Highgate. There had been emails on the HGS Discussion Group about this and responses should be received by 15th November.

12.2 Library Survey - LB Barnet is reviewing its library service. Ian Tutton said that it is a crucial service for residents and the mobile library which comes to the Orchard is very important. Colin Gregory said that the RA should defend its use and find out what other Councils are doing and we should make constructive suggestions. Council agreed and Janet Elliott will draft a letter which she will circulate to council members for their comments. **JE**

12.3 Water Mains – Residents, including some Council members had received a letter from Veolia Water Three Valleys about the planned replacement of water mains with plastic pipes in Meadway and Grey Close and the need to check that the pipes are earthed. Residents/owners who believe their electrical systems rely solely on a water pipe to provide an earth, are being advised in the letter to get an electrician to check their electrical systems and, if necessary, provide another independent earth connection.

13. **To confirm the date of the next Meeting on Tuesday 7 December at Fellowship house at 8.00pm** - Confirmed the Meeting will concentrate on discussion of the Report of the Strategy Working Party.