

**Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 April 2011
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Simon Abbott, Carol Boulter, Tony Brand, Alan Brudney, Jeremy Clynes, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, David Lewis, Max Petersen, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Rosalind Josephs, Judith Samson, Gary Shaw, Geoffrey Spyer, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield

Visitors: Léonie Stephen, Kay Thornley, Pia Duran, Robert and Christine Schwob
These were received from Douglas Blausten, Terry Brooks, Charles Gale, Stephanie Hurst, Eva Jacobs, David Littaur.

2. Welcome

Janet Elliott welcomed Jeremy Clynes as Hon Treasurer and Gary Shaw who had returned to Council after a break of a year.

3. Confirmation of Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 1 March 2011. Approved.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda

There were none.

5 To receive the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of 16 March 2011

The minutes were received.

6 Question Time

Tony Mandelson Memorial Bench

Kay Thornley asked why the bench was sited in Willifield Green which is a designated Town/Village Green, and therefore an open area where children should be able to play. She spoke about the problems of anti-social behavior around the bench which is to be replaced which seems to be a focus for youths who congregate there.

Rosalind Josephs said that the tree around which the existing dilapidated bench had been built had died and the area was waterlogged. In replacing the bench it therefore seemed sensible to move it and place it around another tree. The one chosen had been planted to commemorate Leonie Stephen's chairmanship. Carol Boulter pointed out that this issue had arisen as residents had not been consulted.

Tony Ghilchik said that the Trees & Open Spaces committee had considered that the new site would be less of a problem for residents and security firm LCS and the Safer Neighborhood Team will be informed of the issues of bad behavior. Members of the Mandelson family had been informed about the replacement and may decide to contribute towards the costs. LBB would be handling the work of replacement and were not yet in a position to give the RA and indication of cost.

Jonathan Seres asked whether there is a need for another seat. KT suggested a straight bench at the corner of Asmunds Hill and Willifield Way as an alternative site and style of bench. Tony Ghilchik said that the new bench may have already been ordered and if so, it could be too late to change this. Tony Ghilchik and Rosalind Josephs will look into the options and into the whereabouts of the bench to commemorate Stephen Coffin.

TG/ RG

HB School Admissions Policy

Pia Duran pointed out that there are very few girls at HB School from LB Barnet. One of the reasons is that if HB School is first choice on the application form of a girl living in LB Barnet and she is unsuccessful, her second and third choices are rejected. This regulation does not apply to many of the girls who live outside LB Barnet, who, if not offered a place, can be eligible for their first choice in their local area..

Pia Duran suggested that the admissions policy of the school should be changed to stipulate that there are at least 10% of girls from the borough. She understands that some grammar schools do have such a rule.

Ian Tutton said that the school is currently applying for Academy status and there may be an opportunity to negotiate some positive discrimination with them. He also reminded the Council that the school had declined to take responsibility for the poor driving of the minibuses which bring girls from West London.

The Council thought that there should be someone to negotiate with the school over this on behalf of the RA. Jonathan Seres suggested that two RA council members should engage with LB Barnet to follow this through and he and Ian Tutton volunteered.

Simon Abbott said that the RA should also ask the school for a geographical breakdown of the girls who are admitted into HB School.

Jonathan Seres proposed a Motion which was seconded by Carol Boulter that Council authorise two members, Jonathan Seres and Ian Tutton, to enquire of HB School and LB Barnet the effect of Academy Status, if confirmed, on the scope for altered an admissions policy with a view to enabling more Barnet girls to be admitted and also to check the information given by Pia Duran regarding the adverse effect on Barnet girls of the current second choice policy.

This was passed Nem Con

Telephone Masts

Robert Schwob, of Reynolds Close, spoke about the potential effect on residents health of the large telephone mast situated near to Golders Green Station, just outside the Suburb. This includes 32 individual masts. It cannot be opposed on health grounds as the adopted standards for the erection of the mast have been complied with. He was concerned at the radiation levels over a long period of time. And about the large number of illness to residents in his immediate area which he thinks is connected to the intensity of the signal. The Trust has said that they are unable to help as the mast does not fall within the Suburb. Robert Schwob said that there are ways to protect a house from radiation.

He is liaising with Nicole Gerber who had carried out research into smaller telephone masts and he is also in the process of taking legal advice.

Janet Elliott asked him to send to her a paper for the information of the Council setting out his concerns in more detail. Geoffrey Spyer said that Consam were interested in this issue, and as Nicole Gerber was a Consam member, an informal link between Mr Schwob and Consam already existed. .

It was suggested that Mr Schwob also inform the Director of Public Health for Barnet.

At the end of Question Times Max Petersen commented approvingly on the difference in quality between this Question Time and other – residents were given time and queries replied to. Other members concurred.

7 Finances

Jeremy Clynes said that he is in the process of changing the signatories to the RA's account. The RA's finances are in good health and he will be preparing a budget and to improve the financial information provided. He will shortly be having a first meeting with the RA's bookkeeper.

JC

8 Election of Executive Committee and Composition of Standing Committees and Representatives on other Bodies

Jonathan Seres had emailed the Council shortly before the meeting and asked for the 7th place on the Executive not to be not filled until the Strategy Committee paper is discussed at the May meeting (per Colin Gregory's March motion): it recommends a young person (actually two, so perhaps the most long-serving might stand down) for the co-opted slots.

He asked that the meeting approve in principle that the RA add to the Membership Committee after the May Strategy discussion, members whose job is to outreach to the next generation for RA membership and involvement.

While it may be too soon to action the 6-year rule, he asked that all Council and Committee members email Rosemary Goldstein with the duration on their current committee/Council membership, this week, so that she can issue the list with the papers for the next meeting, and a future discussion at Council can be suitably informed.

Jonathan Seres suggested that the RA's representation on the Trust has been in the same hands for a long time and should be invigorated and fresh representation on PPC should be considered. The Strategy WP would like to look again at this. He proposed that the appointments remain open until after the May meeting. Ian Tutton said that did not think that this was within the terms of reference of the Strategy WP.

Tony Ghilchik said that it is Consam who makes the original recommendations for PPC and CAAC memberships because of the interreaction with their other work.

Jonathan Seres proposed and Max Petersen seconded a Motion that the decision on the appointment of an RA representation on the HGS Trust's property and plans committee is deferred until May. This was defeated, only two votes having been in favour.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman, Janet Elliott,

Vice-Chairman, David Lewis

Hon. Treasurer, Jeremy Clynes serve on the Executive as per the constitution. The following other appointments were made:

Tony Ghilchik, Eva Jacobs, David Littaur, Richard Wakefield and Richard Wiseman

Gary Shaw, whom it had been suggested should re-join the Executive declined because of pressures of other work.

APPOINTMENT OF RA COUNCIL MEMBERS TO RA STANDING COMMITTEES

The following allocations of Council members to Committee were agreed, the Council having noted the Committee are empowered to decide which of their members chair the Committee/WP provided the person chosen is or is eligible to be a member of the RA Council and the all have the power to co-opt.

ALLOTMENTS -

Pia Duran* (Chairman)
Alan Brudney - RA Council member

CONSERVATION AND AMENITIES

Geoffrey Spyer (Chairman)
Jeremy Clynes
Tony Ghilchik
Rosalind Josephs
David Lewis
Jonathan Seres

EVENTS

David Littaur (Chairman)
Simon Abbott
Tony Brand
Charles Gale
Richard Wakefield

MEMBERSHIP

Chair of Membership – VACANT
Janet Elliott (Membership Sec)

PUBLICATIONS

Terry Brooks (Chairman)
Judith Samson
Richard Wakefield

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Will Sowerbutts (Chairman)
Judith Samson
Gary Shaw
Richard Wiseman

TREES AND OPEN SPACES

Tony Ghilchik (Chairman)
Eva Jacobs (Sec)
Peter Beesley
Alan Brudney
Colin Gregory
IanTutton

Memorial Seats

Rosalind Josephs

RA COMMUNITY FACILITIES & HGS HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

Simon Abbott (Chairman)

David Littaur

(representative bodies nominate their own members of this Working Party)

STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Richard Wiseman, Chairman

Douglas Blausten

Terry Brooks

Jonathan Seres

Ian Tutton

GARDEN SUBURB GALLERY

Richard Wakefield

Co-opted members

Peter Falk (Fellowship) and volunteers

Litter Team

Rosalind Josephs and 120 volunteers

RA Theatre Club

(Valerie Codron to advise)

Suburb Website maintenance and development

Steve Morris

RA Representatives and nominees on other organisations

Bigwood and Littlewood Management Group

Tony Ghilchik

Alan Brudney

City of London's Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Colin Gregory

Community Barnet

Rosalind Josephs

English Heritage Liaison

Geoffrey Spyer (Consam & RA Council)

Federation of Residents Associations of LB of Barnet (FORAB)

Carol Boulter

HGS Trust, Grants and Amenities Committee

Simon Abbott

Eva Jacobs

+ (volunteer needed).- alternative to above if either is unable to attend.

HGS Trust, Property and Plans Committee

Alan Jacobs (sec. Consam), David Lewis, (RA Vice Chairman and Consam),
alternate: Geoffrey Spyer (Chairman Consam)

HGS Trust – Estates Committee

Pia Duran
Rosalind Josephs

HGS Conservation area Advisory Committee (CAAC)

Carol Boulter, Alan Jacobs, Max Petersen, Geoffrey Spyer

HGS Fellowship

Carol Boulter

HGS Institute

Janet Elliott

HB School Governors - Observer

Vacant – to be followed up.

Kenwood Landscape Forum

Eva Jacobs

London Forum

Derek Chandler

North London Hospice (North West Support Group)

David Lewis

Orchard Housing Society

Simon Abbott

HB School

David Lewis will talk to the Head Teacher regarding RA representation.

Safer Neighbourhood

Some Council members expressed their wish to have a representative. No one volunteered. But Janet Elliott confirmed that she is kept up to date by Derek Chandler and passes on information to the racouncil.hgs.org. email and on occasions to the hgs.list.

9 Feedback from AGM**AGM Motion**

The contents of Andrew Botterill's emails were noted.

Arising from the motion carried at the AGM, Janet Elliott asked Carol Boulter to put in writing what in addition to previous actions/decisions she would like the RA to do. Carol Boulter referred to emails she had previously sent to Council members and to the contents of her speech at the AGM in support of her motion. She said that her main proposal was to have a residents' forum on a regular basis and more consultation.

Janet Elliott asked Carol Boulter what she would like the RA to do about her motion. Referring to what she had said in her speech at the AGM in support of her motion, Carol Boulter said she had already written several times before, some years ago to Janet, and recently to Richard Wiseman, as well as to all Council members about her proposed reforms, including the one she had specifically mentioned at the AGM concerning her main proposal for a regular Residents' Forum. She agreed to put it all in writing again.

Simon Abbott spoke of four proposals on which he wanted the views of the Council. The first was covered by Carol's agreement as set out in the previous paragraph. Simon then proposed the RA should commission an independent enquiry to assess the role of the RA in the affair of the new HBSchool buildings. He suggested that it would probably be necessary to pay a fee, perhaps upwards of £1,000, for someone to carry this out and that an understanding of community organisations would be needed. The Chairman asked Simon whether he expected the 'adjudicator' to be able to demand that specified individuals attended to which Simon replied that their attendance, and/or answering of questions would be voluntary. After discussion, an independent enquiry was approved by a vote on a motion proposed by Simon and seconded by Colin Gregory that an independent enquiry was agreed in principle. This was carried nem con. After the vote Simon agreed to write a paper with more detail for the June meeting.

Simon's third proposal was that the RA carry out a survey to discover residents views on the new HGS buildings and to obtain suggestions concerning possible improvements. It was clear from discussion that there were divided views on this.

Simon's last proposal was that no member of Council should propose a resolution at the AGM or a special general meeting without the agreement of Council. This was supported by some and opposed by others, including Ian Tutton who declared he had voted for the resolution at the AGM. No agreement was reached.

Ian Tutton commented that he regretted that there was no reference to the RA's Centenary at the AGM. The Chairman commented that this was not intentional and the 100year Centenary logo was on the annual report and the banners displayed that the AGM.

10 Reports from RA Committees on Other Issues

Trees and Open Spaces

Central Square Lighting

Tony Ghilchik confirmed that the original scheme will be modified. There will be fewer lampposts which will be possible because there will be lanterns instead of globes.

27 Willifield Way

Tony Ghilchik confirmed that that LB Barnet has placed a Tree Preservation Order on this tree.

Northway Gardens

Colin Gregory reported that Councilor John Marshall had asked the officers to remove the offending signs.

Consam

Telephone Boxes

Geoffrey Spyer said that 16 of the 19 planning application for Open Reach boxes had been withdrawn but BT are re-applying. Barnet are taking a tougher line on the boxes and supporting the RA's view, that any such boxes approved will be placed against the hedges, wherever practicable.

11 Urgent Business

Library

Marjory Harris and Deborah Warland are pursuing efforts to try to save Market Place Library. Support from RA and from individuals is being actively sought. The second consultation period had started and would last for some weeks.

Surveyors Report on HGS Trust's Management Charge

As reported at the March Council meeting, the decision had been made by the appointed Surveyor that the Trust had not spent money inappropriately and a letter confirming this had been sent to the members of the concerned residents group. The full report is on the Trust website.

The Chairman reported that Trust had offered to attend the May Council Meeting to talk about the Surveyors report and to discuss this issue. Carol Boulter suggested that representatives from the Concerned Residents group are invited to attend, to which JE replied that a public meeting with the Concerned Residents if appropriate was a quite separate issue for the Trust.

Simon Abbott said that the Trust should address the issue of the Surveyors report and not other issues. Council agreed that the Trust Manager and Chairman be invited to attend and speak to the Council at its May 2011 meeting. No other specific group would be invited. Questions from Council members would be taken.

Children's Playground

Ian Tutton reported that the Church Elders had met and unfortunately would not agree to fund the children's playground financially as had been anticipated. He apologized to the Council for suggesting this to be the case and Council appreciated his position. The Council noted that the non-availability of the funds from the Free Church meant that the RA Council's associated plans could not go ahead unless alternative funding sources.

12 To confirm the date and venue of the next meeting on Tuesday 3 May at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Confirmed