



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 May 2012
at Fellowship House at 8.00pm**

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Jeremy Clynes, Charles Gale, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Stephanie Hurst, Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, David Littaur, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres, Gary Shaw, Richard Wakefield, Richard Wiseman and Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council),

Visitors: Joyce Littaur

1. **Apologies for absence and welcome to visiting residents**
Alan Brudney, Ian Tutton and David Lewis
 2. **Questions notified in advance** - None.
 3. **Questions from visiting residents** - None.
 4. **Approval of Council Minutes of Meeting of 3rd April** - Approved
 5. **Approval of Council Minutes of Closed Meeting of 16th April** – Approved.
A discussion took place about whether these Minutes should be placed on the HGSRA web site. A Motion was proposed by Janet Elliott and seconded by Richard Wiseman 'That the Minutes of the closed meeting of Council held on 16 April 2012 be posted on the HGSRA web site'. This was passed by nine votes in favour, four against and four abstentions.
 6. **Minutes of the Executive Meeting of 10 April 2012** – noted
 7. **Financial Report**
Jeremy Clynes reported that he hoped that a set of accounts would be available for the May EC meeting.
- Summer Picnic
David Littaur asked for a further £250 to be made available for a Punch and Judy show in addition to the £2500 already allocated.
Jeremy Clynes said that the RA's expenditure is within its budget and the Council agreed to this extra amount.
8. **Market Place Library update**
Jonathan Seres reported that the library re-opened on 17 April. Since then volunteers had been trained and between 25-50 residents are now using the library every day and seemed to be very pleased and appreciative that it had been re-opened.
Jeremy Clynes said that 'Rhyme Time' had re-commenced and police surgeries and reading groups were being planned.

It had yet to be decided whether there will be a formal RA or LB Barnet opening although LB Barnet had issued a press release. Jeremy Clynes will discuss with LBB to seek their views. JC

JE expressed appreciation and thanks to everyone involved with this project.

8. Report on the Independent Enquiry

Simon Abbott reported that Dr Margaret Harris had amended the existing text in line with what had been agreed at the April 16 meeting and he distributed the final report to Council members. It will be posted on the web, mentioned in Suburb eNews and residents will be able to have a hard copy on provision of an SAE. A reference copy will be available in the Library.

The EC will discuss the Report and prepare a paper for the Council, recommending to the Council what further action should be taken. EC

9. To receive a Report on the recent work of the Community Facilities and HGS Heritage working Group

This was postponed to the July Meeting of Council.

10. Committee Reports

a Consam

Tony Ghilchik told the Council that the representation by Consam on CAAC and PPC as reported from Consam's March meeting, had been discussed at Consam the previous week, and the position has still to be clarified as the decision taken by the RA Council at its April meeting does not meet the requirements of the Trust.

Colin Gregory asked whether Consam had yet discussed either Energy Conservation or the Localisation Act. Tony Ghilchik said that Geoffrey Spyer is still working on the Energy Saving Report. A sub-committee had been set up and will meet on 22 May. It was hoped to produce a structure and four draft booklets in co-operation with the Trust.

With regard to the proposed sub-contracting of LB Barnet's planning services, which was already subject to tender, two preferred companies had been identified. This was considered to be a serious development as the planning officers will be employed by a private company and the decision making process may not be so thorough. HGS, however, had the protection of the agreed Guidelines, the Scheme of Management and leasehold covenants.

Douglas Blausten was concerned that the RA had not made technically articulated representations to LB Barnet on this matter. Janet Elliott said that there was general concern at the outsourcing but the main concern is the 'end product'.

Colin Gregory thought that Consam should produce a Report on the implications of the Localism Act and the RA should not rely too much on the Trust. The Design Guidelines may not carry weight under the new provisions and steps may be necessary to ensure that they are adhered to. If LB Barnet's policy is not as stringent as the Trust's, this would cause problems with future planning applications. Eva Jacobs suggested that this is a suitable subject for an open meeting but that a lot of work would need to be done before an open meeting could be held.

Jonathan Seres said that the Chairman of CAAC had asked him whether there was an HGS resident Town Planner who was able to sit on CAAC. JS added that possibly Consam could also benefit from having a Town Planner among its members.

the committee. JS suggested that he will talk to Geoffrey Marriott and Pippa Aitkin who was appointed to the Trust by the Town Planning Institute for further advice. **JS.**

Douglas Blausten asked whether Consam had looked at the impact of climate change on listed buildings and Tony Ghilchik said that this would be included in the report on Energy Conservation.

b Events

Michael Rowley Memorial Event

Richard Wakefield distributed the posters for this event and urged Council members to support it.

c Publications

eNews

Terry Brooks was pleased that Richard Wakefield had been able to persuade advertisers to back the “eNews” and it should now be self-financing.

Promotion and publicising of events.

There was a discussion about whether the small attendance at the Hustings, was the result of inadequate publicity or other reasons. David Littaur wanted the Council to understand that it had, despite the small attendance, been a lively meeting which he considered was due, in no small part, to Richard Wiseman’s skilful chairmanship.

Terry Brooks considered that the RA posters did a good job and there had been a general lack of interest in the Hustings throughout the London area. ENews was proving popular but sending too many emails to residents could be counter-productive as they may be deleted without being read. Publications will discuss the advertising of events at its next meeting. **TB**

d Roads and Traffic

Gary Shaw reported that a meeting of this Committee had taken place when he had been appointed Chairman. The Committee is looking for more members and there will be more frequent meetings. Gary Shaw is working on trying to remove the loading bays on the north side of Market Place.

Richard Wakefield referred to parking fines which were incurred when a Suburb distributor stopped her car to deliver copies of Suburb News to a distributor on a loading bay in Market Place and this will be appealed.

Charles Gale thanked Gary Shaw for all the help and advice he had given to numerous suburb residents on parking tickets over the years and he expressed appreciation for all the time Gary Shaw had spent to save them paying a large number of fines.

A vote of thanks was endorsed by Council.

e Trees

Bigwood Working Day

A small number of residents had attended the Bigwood Working Group Day but a great deal of work had been done by those who came.

Asmunds Hill/Southway

Rosalind Josephs reported that trees in these roads had fallen down in the storm. As there are street trees they are the responsibility of LB Barnet. However, replacing lost garden trees is the responsibility of owners.

11 Meadway

Douglas Blausten asked why a flowering cherry had been planted in this location which was the only one of its kind and out of keeping with other trees in Meadway. Tony Ghilchik informed Council that he is going through the original planting list with LB Barnet to prevent this happening in the future.

Lyttelton Fields Children's Playing Area

Jonathan Seres reported that stage 2 had now been completed by the responsible organisers and stage 3 would be completed in the autumn.

10. Any Other Business

Future Open Meetings

Janet Elliott informed the Council that it was still undecided whether to hold an open meeting in June. The first Tuesday in the month is a Bank Holiday

The following suggestions were put forward:

Crime on the Suburb;

Energy Saving;

The effect of the Localisation Act on HGS;

Care for the elderly on the Suburb and nearby area;

Trees and Subsidence;

Schools;

Health issues;

'Activities for young people on the Suburb'.

Some members were concerned that since last autumn, the arrangements for Open Meetings by the Executive with help from the Events Committee had been too ad hoc and that not enough emphasis was being put into thrashing out appropriate subjects. There were strongly expressed views that a meeting should be held before the summer: preferably in June but with early July as a possibility, but with the objective of focussing on a procedure to roll out Open Meetings over time. .

A motion was proposed by Jonathan Seres and seconded by Colin Gregory 'That the EC should consider the question of a sub-committee being set up to organise and implement a programme of open meetings'.

This was passed unanimously.

11. To note future programme of Council

The next Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 3 July at Fellowship House at 8.00pm. There will be no meeting in August.