



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3 July 2012 at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: Janet Elliott, in the Chair, Simon Abbott, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Alan Budney, Jeremy Clynes, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Stephanie Hurst, Eva Jacobs, David Lewis, David Littaur, Max Petersen, Judith Samson, Jonathan Seres, Will Sowerbutts, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield, Richard Wiseman and Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council),

Visitors: Judy and Tony Blendis, Basil Hillman, Brian Ingram, Chris Johnstone, Joyce Littaur and Brian Smith

1. Apologies for Absence and welcome to visiting residents

The Chairman welcomed visitors to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Douglas Blausten, Rosalind Josephs and Gary Shaw,

2. Notification of Urgent Business not on the Agenda – Institute

3. Questions from Residents

3a. Notified in advance – no questions had been formally received in advance but exchanges on the 'hgslist' had indicated that some members might decide to attend to ensure that the issue of the recent LBB survey of certain roads about a possible extension of the Temple Fortune CPZ would be raised.

3b. Issues/questions from visiting residents

Bernard Smith raised the question of the currently circulating CPZ survey issued by LBB and told the Meeting that he was surprised to receive a questionnaire from LB Barnet after he had been told by a LBB official (at the RA Open Meeting in December 2011) that there were no plans to extend CPZs). He asked for the RA's support against any extension of the CPZ and especially to the Willfield Green end of Willfield Way where he lived. In discussion it became clear that four of the other visitors were residents living near the junction of Hampstead Way and Willfield Way and were among those who had attended a LBB Residents Forum where they had raised the problems of cars parked in their roads. They said that the majority of residents in their part of their roads would like the Temple Fortune CPZ to be extended on a one-hour-a-day Monday-Friday basis, to prevent all day and longer term parking by those living elsewhere. Barnet Council had responded with the questionnaire, which had a final response date of 28 July. These residents were looking to the RA for support for their pro-CPZ extension initiative.

In the absence of the Chairman of Roads and Traffic, Gary Shaw, Will Sowerbutts a member and former Chairman of the Committee, explained that there are two clearly differing views on CPZs among Suburb residents, one group broadly in favour and another often fiercely opposed. WS explained the views of the R&T Committee including himself remained as they had been at the time of planned introduction of

the Temple Fortune CPZ. It was opposed largely because they both solve and helped create a parking problem by displacing parking further away. He personally would like to see CPZs removed from the Suburb. He also questioned the increasingly high costs of parking charges within CPZs and for other street parking and car parking sites where charges are levied by LBB. He did, however, recognise that LBB would be unlikely to remove all CPZ's from HGS, when there were no plans for their removal from other parts of Barnet. He reminded the meeting that the original survey conducted by the RA at the time of the proposed introduction of the TF CPZ indicated that 96% of residents in the potentially affected area had been opposed.

A lengthy discussion ensued from which the principal substantive points were:

- (a) many RA Council members were either opposed to CPZs or were or had been opposed to their adoption in specific roads where they lived;
- (b) An individual's views on the inclusion or exclusion of a particular road could change depending on whether the roads around had CPZs; which made it difficult for the RA to form a single view which was applicable in all circumstances;
- (c) concern that LBB had again launched consultation at the start of the annual holiday period;
- (d) Concern that once introduced, the Council could keep increasing the costs to residents involved, both for own-car and for visitors parking;
- (e) How the RA should review its policy on CPZs and what might be the best way of finding out what residents really wanted;
- (f) The need for and benefits likely to arise from holding a public meeting on the current survey and the degree of support from Barnet to attend needed to be investigated;
- (g) The costs and benefits of the RA organising its own survey to test residents opinions and views on who should be consulted were argued. In this connection it was noted that there were already 3 separate CPZs within HGS, and that all three also covered streets outside HGS. Temple Fortune included roads on both sides of the Finchley Road which are outside HGS, and in the case of the two others (Golders Green and East Finchley) the streets within HGS, were a minority of those affected;
- (h) There was agreement from the editor of Suburb News that, if submitted, information about the present survey and views both for and against these and other CPZ proposals should be included in the forthcoming issue of Suburb News due out before the end of July;
- (i) R&T was asked to consider range of views expresses and come back with initial guidelines for any action by the Council which they considered appropriate.

4. Approval of Council minutes of Meeting 1 May 2012 - Approved subject to correction of typographical errors

5. Receipt of Minutes of Executive Meeting held on 22 May and unconfirmed Minutes of 20 June 2012 – These were received.

6. Financial Report

Jeremy Clynes said that the new RA bookkeeper is preparing the accounts. They will be circulated to Council members when they are ready. This should be quite soon. Richard Wakefield reported that the Gallery had made a profit of £798 in the first half of the year.

7. Market Place Library

Jeremy Clynes reported on the opening of the Library on 5 July by Jonathan Ross. This had been a very successful event on a bright sunny morning. About sixty volunteers and other visitors attended including Cllr Rams, local Councillors, John

Marshall, Andrew Harper and Alison Moore, Mike Fahey, who had been the principal LBB Senior Officer with whom the Library project was negotiated. Photos and a You Tube video had been posted on the Website.

The formal licence with LB Barnet had been signed by the operating company HGS Community Library Ltd (on behalf of the Garden Suburb Community Library) and the LBB are now working on the framework agreement.

8. Independent Enquiry

To receive a written report from Simon Abbott on the response following the publication of the Harris Report

Simon Abbott had produced a report on responses to the Harris Report which had been circulated to members in advance. The report showed that respondents, albeit not a large number, had overwhelmingly supported the decision of the RA Council to go ahead with the investigation and praised the way in which it had been conducted.

Since writing the report Simon Abbott had learnt about some further congratulatory comments that had been sent direct to Dr Harris and had not been included in this paper. They shared the mood and covered the same main points. Colin Gregory had previously written some comments on some of the recommendations for possible future changes in RA procedures made in Section 3 of the Report. A copy was passed to SA and they would be sent to all Council members.

Janet Elliott referred the Council to the reference in the EC minutes to the fact that the EC was holding a special meeting the following day, 4 July, to discuss the recommendations in Section 3 of the Harris Report, which dealt with possible changes in Council procedures and formal documentation. Recommendations would come to Council members over the summer with an opportunity for them to submit their comments. The results could then be discussed at the Council's September meeting or at a meeting convened specially for that purpose.

Jonathan Seres said that a working group (himself, Terry Brooks, Richard Wiseman and Ian Tutton) established in line with the May 2011 Council minutes, had met to discuss Open Meetings for the rest of the year. Their initial recommendation to the June Executive Committee and to this Council meeting was that an October Open Meeting should focus on the Harris report and the way forward.

9 Appointment of new Council member – to appoint John Sells, Chair of Consam to the RA Council

The appointment of John Sells to the Council with immediate effect was proposed by Janet Elliott, seconded by David Lewis, and passed unanimously.

10 To receive a report on the recent work of the Community Facilities and HGS Heritage Working Party

The report had previously been circulated to Council by Simon Abbott, Chairman of the Working Party, Simon Abbott. SA commented on the history of the Working Party whose members were principally nominated representatives of other Suburb organisations with interests in the possibility of establishing a Heritage Centre in HGS. Several possibilities for the siting of a heritage centre had already been discussed and found impracticable for a variety of reason. In particular there had been detailed discussions about alterations to and the use of part of Fellowship House. However, Fellowship, had since received a significant bequest and as a result had taken the decision that they wished to proceed alone with any proposed re-development of Fellowship House. However, in answer to a question, SA replied that this situation could still change in the future.

SA stressed that nevertheless progress had been achieved and hgsHeritage is now an independent charitable company with its own objectives which necessarily differ from those of the RA, and that they also have their own logo.

Because of its changed status the issue of informing the RA about the work of hgsHeritage also needed to change. The circulation of the minutes of the charitable company was not appropriate and SA proposed that this might be done perhaps by a report to the RA Council twice a year and also if something important happened. SA also stated that the current members of the hgsHeritage Committee were also willing to continue as a Working Group of the RA for community development but could not undertake any such work currently because of getting hgsHeritage up and running.

On the membership of the Working Party SA said he would like the RA Council to revert to nominating three members. Currently there were only two, himself and David Littaur. It was agreed that the RA would look again at who their representatives might be, including whether it might also include a person not currently on the RA Council.

The question of the 'grant' of £5000 which the RA had made in principle to hgs HERITAGE was raised and SA expressed his concern that the issue had not yet been satisfactorily resolved. The Chairman agreed that clarification was necessary in the interests of both parties and agreed to look into this in September and to involve both EC and SA in the process.

11. Committee Report and Minutes

11.a Consam

The Chairman asked Council to return to the question of the RA's nominations to the Trust Property and Plans Committee (PPC). She reminded Council that the arrangement agreed at its April meeting had been the result of a misunderstanding. The proposal then agreed had not been acceptable to the Trust who were asking the RA to nominate, as has been the position for some years, just two persons and one alternate to serve on their PPC. The Trust is also asking the RA for some continuity in our nominations. From the RA Council's point of view, we have also accepted in principle the recommendations of the Strategy Working Party, supported in this instance by Consam, that our PPC representation should include more persons with formal experience such as architects, surveyors, and/or town planners, etc.

Consam has now reconsidered this situation and asks the Council to agree that for this year (that is until after the 2013 AGM) our nominees for PPC be Geoffrey Spyer (GS) and Jonathan Rowley (JR) with David Lewis as our alternate. Both GS and JR are qualified and experienced architects

Council agreed to this proposal unanimously and the Chairman will inform the Trust, who have, in any case, already agreed to the appointment of Geoffrey Spyer.

11b. Events

Suburb Picnic

David Littaur up-dated the Council about the Suburb Picnic to be held on Sunday 15 July from 12.30 - 4.30pm. He hoped that all Council members would be available from 11.30am onwards to assist. Members who would be unable to be present were asked to identify themselves to DLitt. Richard Wakefield will prepare another eNews to advertise the event. Poster and flyers are already available and were distributed to Council members.

RWa

RA Display Table

Simon Abbott suggested that various RA reports such as the ones on subsidence and building regulations could be displayed on the RA display table. He suggested that the Publications committee should look to standardisation of the presentation of such publications so that they are instantly recognisable.

Free Church Exhibition

Ian Tutton up-dated the Council about the exhibition on cultural diversity to be held in the Free Church on both 14 and 15 July. He is still seeking examples of artefacts representative of specific cultures from residents and asked Council members to see if they had items suitable for display which they could lend for the event. Such items could be associated with the person/family owning them or shown anonymously. IT also encouraged Council members to attend.

New Residents' Party

Jonathan Seres had obtained a list of residents new to HGS from the Trust and he (subject to no unforeseen eventualities) would like to organise two parties for new residents before the autumn. Further information will follow.

11c Publications

Terry Brooks said that the Publications minutes should be posted shortly. The next Suburb News will be published at the end of the month and copy for inclusion is welcome before 10 July. Both Roads and Traffic and some of the visitors present at the meeting, will liaise with Richard Wakefield regarding articles about the CPZ. It was stressed that Suburb News is always interested in representing alternative views on any issue and stressed that, in respect of all copy received, the Editor of Suburb News reserves the right to edit items for space and/or other reasons.

11d Trees and Open Spaces

Tony Mandelson Bench

Tony Ghilchik said that the plaque is now in place and he was trying to organise a formal unveiling. TG

Tree Planting & Jubilee Tree

Tony Ghilchik is working closely with LB Barnet on tree planting plans and Colin Gregory is negotiating with LBB on the Jubilee Tree on the pavement in Finchley Road near the garden centre. TG and CG

Bigwood Work Day

The next Work Day will be Saturday 29 September.

11e Allotments

Alan Brudney said that the Allotments were pleased that the hose pipe ban had been lifted.

12 Any Other Business

Institute

As the RA's representative on the Institute Council, Janet Elliott reported that some matters discussed at their meetings are confidential. However, she confirmed that, as publicly announced, the new, purpose-built Arts Centre is up for sale. The Institute hopes the sale will go ahead over the summer or early autumn. However, whatever the outcome, the Institute expects to remain for at least one more year on the site and then be able to continue to operate as an independent body.

Retirement of Minister of St Edward's Church

Ian Tutton said that Minister of St Edward's, Father John Helm, is retiring in July and asked the RA to send a letter to wish him well. The Council willingly agreed to this.
JE will write.

JE

13 To note future programme of Council meeting

Tuesday 4 September and Tuesday 6 November 2012 at Fellowship House, plus
Tuesday 8 January 2013 (confirmation awaited on availability of venue).
All meetings at 8.00pm