



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday  
6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Fellowship House Willifield Way at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis - in the Chair, Barbara Bliss, Tony Brand, Lynda Cook, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Jeremy Hershkorn, Louise Hillman (part of Meeting) Peter McCluskie, Max Petersen, Harry Simmonds, Simon Sackman, Gary Shaw, Ann Spencer, Ian Tutton, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council).

Visitor: Paul Wenham at the beginning of the meeting

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Terry Brooks, Alan Brudney, Charles Gale, Anita Harlow, David Littaur, Jonathan Seres, Hella Shrader, Diane Walsh

### **2. Question Time**

Paul Wenham raised the question of drones on the Suburb in view of the research project carried out by Amazon to deliver parcels by drones. He was also concerned about the impact on wildlife.

The Chairman said that there are regulations in force about drones not being allowed within a certain distance of houses but this does not apply to commercial premises.

Lynda Cook thought that we should liaise with the City of London which is looking into the current legislation with the idea of strengthening the parameters. We should also involve the HGS Trust.

Ian Tutton pointed out that drones had been helpful in identifying various problems with the Church and are used by wedding photographers.

Barbara Bliss was concerned at the privacy issues and Tony Brand said that there is a problem with identifying the ownership of the drones.

Harry Simmonds thought that drones will mainly be used for delivery in rural areas.

It was agreed that the someone from the RA should look into the rules and regulations and see how they affect the Suburb.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 July 2016

Cross Country Run Proposal on Hampstead Heath Extension

Substitute 'Consultative' for 'Trees and Open Spaces' in Line 1 Paragraph 1

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on 9 August

These were received.

#### **4. Matters arising from the minutes not on the Agenda.**

Council Meeting held on 5 July 2016

##### Central Square

Tony Ghilchik reported that work on the flower beds will commence on Monday 12 September to put on the top soil, which should take two days, mulching will then be carried out for a further four days to be followed by further top soil on the beds involving another two days. This will enable planting to commence at the end of September or the beginning of October.

Lynda Cook was concerned that despite RA Council asking for no further weed killer to be used and Mr Crisp agreeing to this a further spraying was now planned. Weed killer is not used in Northway Gardens and Lynda Cook wanted to know how much more expensive it would be to remove the weeds manually.

Tony Ghilchik explained that he had put the RA's view forward but he had been outvoted at the meeting of the steering committee. All the existing plants are to be replaced and they must be removed at their roots.

The Chairman suggested that in future we should set out conditions as part of any RA grant. Tony Ghilchik said he had asked Stephen Crisp and Richard Townley to attend Council tonight but neither was available.

Barbara Bliss was concerned that the raised beds may sink in time as they have no support but the Chairman said that Stephen Crisp has a reputation and we will have to await the outcome. Colin Gregory thought that we should leave it to his professional judgement.

Jeremy Hershkorn suggested that we ask for an undertaking that in future no more weed killer will be used to maintain the flower beds. Tony Ghilchik said that the HGS Trust will be responsible for maintaining the beds.

The Chairman will draft a letter to the Trust regarding the use of weed killer, which he will circulate, and he will also put on record that the RA is uneasy about the raised beds. **DBL**

##### Crime on the Suburb Open Meeting

Jeremy Hershkorn told the Council that he had taken up the offer to go out with a police patrol which had given him a different perspective of the Police. He said they are totally aware of everything that is happening on the Suburb and they are doing their best.

It was stated that there seems to be a larger police presence on the Suburb since Open Meeting. He said the Police treat the private security firm as a pair of eyes and in the same way as members of the public. He thought that the RA should keep up pressure on the Police from time to time.

##### Cross Country Race

This will probably be held in February and Lynda Cook asked whether the RA will monitor the event for any damage or disturbance. Some volunteers could be asked to attend and take notes.

##### Memorial Seats

The Chairman has been investigating the possibilities of the proposed two Lutyens benches to be sited at the HB Memorial. The cost of benches varies by a large amount between different suppliers. LB Barnet have agreed to fit a bench if it is purchased from one of their suppliers. It would probably be too expensive for the RA to purchase two benches in memory of Richard Wakefield. Possibly another Suburb resident could be remembered by the second bench.

Barbara Bliss pointed out that there are also many damaged benches that require attention. The Council agreed that the Chairman should continue to investigate the cost and possibilities. **DBL**

#### Executive Committee Meeting held on 9 August

##### Automatic Enrolment Proposal

The Chairman told the Council that this had been discussed at the recent Membership meeting but it was found not to be practical given the existing membership structure. New methods of recruiting were discussed and the minutes will be circulated. **HS**

##### Alexander Stuart Gray Award

The EC had discussed this and recommended to Council that the name of the award is changed to *HGS Residents Association Conservation Award*

Colin Gregory objected and thought that the name should remain but the Chairman said that the existing gives no publicity to the RA. Jeremy Hershkorn considered that the name should be changed and that it would be a much better title for the award.

Peter McCluskie said that we would no longer depend on the HGS Trust to make nominations. This year they had not responded to his request for nominations. A motion was proposed by Peter McCluskie and seconded by Jeremy Hershkorn:

*That the name of the Alexander Stuart Gray award should be changed to HGS Residents Association Conservation Award*

This was passed with 6 votes in favour, 2 against and 5 abstentions

Peter McCluskie said that he was unable to find original terms of reference for this award and Consam will prepare new draft terms of reference. **PM**

##### Pavement Working Group

Harry Simmonds and Lynda Cook have been working on this but despite efforts to find volunteers no residents have agreed to help them. They are unable to continue devoting so much time to this and would like the Working Group to be dissolved.

Cracked pavements are a big problem on the Suburb and Barnet has admitted they have been neglected in the past.

The Chairman said that we must ensure that pavements are in a similar style. If there is a particularly dangerous paving stone Barnet will deal with it quickly or the Councillors can be involved.

Barbara Bliss thought that residents should be encouraged to make more complaints. It was suggested that residents were invited to send their complaints to the RA for forwarding to LB Barnet.

The question of the aesthetics was a separate issue and it was said that the matching tile paving slabs in pink are no longer available. It was suggested that Consam be responsible for the aesthetics and Roads & Traffic for damaged paving stones. Gary Shaw said that this would impose a huge amount of work on Roads & Traffic and it does not have the resources to deal with this.

It was suggested that Residents could be asked to inform 'Fix my Street' about any problems but Ian Tutton thought that Barnet has a short sighted approach which can involve different non-matching patches on a stretch of pavement which is unsatisfactory.

Simon Sackman said that the Suburb pavements are in such a bad way that there could be some merit in taking up the general issue with LB Barnet. He was aware that Abbots Gardens have excellent pavements and Gary Shaw said that Hill Rise had recently been repaved.

Harry Simmonds had walked around his road with Councillor Rosenberg but he had found him unsympathetic. He agreed to continue to help with pavements if Roads & Traffic are able to take over this portfolio.

The Chairman proposed and Barbara Bliss seconded a Motion:

*That the Pavement Working Group is dissolved and that Consam and Roads & Traffic should agree what their respective responsibilities should be for looking after pavements.*

This was passed unanimously

## **6. Committee reports and any other urgent business**

### Orchard Housing Society

Diane Berger the RA's representative on the Orchard Housing Society had given the report and accounts to the Chairman who has passed them to the Treasurer.

### The Institute

Ian Tutton reported that the Institute had gone into voluntary liquidation. The Board of Trustees had managed to keep the Institute open until the end of the summer term but they had received legal advice and they were unable to use fees collected for the Autumn term to pay the August bills. There have few assets. The brand name of HGS Institute may be sold.

Ian Tutton has coordinated an informal group of people who could provide classes on the Suburb. There is also a group of local artists who have formed an Association.

Colin Gregory proposed a Motion which was seconded by Ann Spencer:

*That it is with regret that the HGS Residents Association has learnt of the winding up of the Institute but the RA derives some hope from the establishment of HGS Learning Group which aims to revive some of the classes.*

This was passed unanimously.

## **7. Finance**

The Treasurer reported that the RA was heading for a deficit of £2,004 for the coming year although she said that the RA has healthy reserves. It had a cash balance of £90,000 at the end of June and the annual turnover is £57,000.

Advertising revenue is reducing and Peter McCluskie thought that we should watch the expenditure on Events. The Chairman mentioned a proposal to extend the length of the fireworks but Tony Brand said that this suggestion was not being pursued. The Chairman thought that we needed a better planned and larger number of volunteers to collect donations on the night.

The Chairman said that if necessary the fireworks could be cancelled but Jeremy Hershkorn thought that this is the main event of the RA and it could be used to sign up new members. Louise Hillman suggested charging for refreshments but this was not thought easy to implement.

The Chairman stated that Membership would like to carry out a further mailing. The Chairman stated that it was thought that the financial yield for each mailing so far this year had exceeded the cost and that the number of positive replies far exceeded the response from commercial mailings

Ian Tutton suggested that we have corporate/institutional membership which the EC agreed to discuss.

Harry Simmonds suggested that shops offering discounts to RA members should be given stickers to display. Gary Shaw will visit Charles Gale and ask him for a copy of the one that had been used in the past. **GS**

**The Treasurer asked Standing Committee chairmen to prepare their budgets for next year and send them to her.**

## **8. Any Other Business**

### AGM

The Chairman proposed and Gary Shaw seconded a Motion

*That the AGM of the HGS RA should be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017*

This was passed unanimously

### Noise Abatement Working Group Poster

It was proposed that notice board holders would be invited to display these but it would be optional. It was also suggested that if there were enough space this could be featured in the next edition of Suburb News. **T Brooks**

## **9. To confirm the date of the next two RA Council meetings as Tuesday 4th October and Tuesday 1st November 2016 at Fellowship House.**

These were confirmed

Open Meetings: normally on a Tuesday to be arranged subject to topics – all ideas welcome.