



**Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on  
Tuesday 4 June 2019, at Fellowship House, 136A Willifield Way at 8pm**

Present: Emma Howard - in the Chair, Tony Brand, Alan Brudney, Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Jeremy Hershkorn, Adrian Hodgson, Helen Leiser, Peter McCluskie, Steve Morris, Simon Sackman, Hella Schrader, Harry Simmonds, Ann Spencer and Rosemary Goldstein (Asst Secretary to the Council).

Visitors: Brian Ingram (NGO) and Lynda Cook

**1. Risk assessment**

1.1 A risk assessment was carried out in accordance with the agreed format.

1.2 The Risk Assessment form will be looked at again and possibly simplified as it currently covers lots of building related aspects (such as asbestos) and can probably be restricted to trip hazards, fire exits and general health and safety.

**Action Hella S/Adrian H**

**2. Note apologies and absences**

These were received from Terry Brooks

**3. Question Time for residents who are not members of Council**

There were no questions.

**4. Northway Gardens Organisation: grant application**

4.1 An application had been received from NGO for a grant of £500 to pay towards the removal of 6/7 dead Acacia trees and the adjacent tree in the same bed in Fletcher's Field. The RA's Executive Committee had declined this application based on a recommendation from the Trees & Open Spaces Committee.

4.2 NGO had appealed the decision and asked the RA Council to reconsider. Brian Ingram stated he had met with and discussed the work with members of RA (T&OS) prior to carrying it out and they had been supportive of the work.

4.4 In reply to questions, Brian Ingram, on behalf of NGO, said:

4.4.1 LB Barnet had given their consent to the removal of the pear tree. The pear tree was overgrown and had never been managed and is blocking light. It was not included in the grant funding application.

4.4.2 Most of the volunteers of NGO are not members of the RA.

4.4.3 LB Barnet gave their approval to the removal of these trees in writing.

4.4.4 The tree next to the acacia trees was dead.

4.4.5 He will prepare an article about the work being carried out by the NGO which will hopefully be included in the next edition of Suburb News.

4.4.6 Many elders and sycamore need to be removed and there is a need to bring in wood chip to smother the ground for the seedlings. NGO have no intention of removing the ash trees growing along the side of the stream.

4.4.7 The HGS Trust had made a grant of £500 this year which is ear marked for wood chips and £400 last year which was used for manure and compost for the beds. There is a need to maintain the soil which is very impoverished after years of neglect.

4.5 The RA Officers agreed that a vote by email, under SO 36(g) should be taken prior to this meeting and the following resolution was passed Nem Con:

*'Council resolves to close the meeting to enable a discussion to take place, and a decision to be made, about the Executive Committee's refusal of the Northway Gardens Organisation's grant application (£500 for work in Fletcher's Gardens).'*

4.6 The RA Council went into closed session and after discussion approved the application. However although the grant had been approved on this occasion, future grant applications would not be considered if the relevant work has been carried out prior to the RA's decision, unless the RA had specifically agreed this before NGO did the work.

## **5. Approve, as accurate, the minutes of Council meeting, held on 2 April 2019.**

These were approved

## **6. Note minutes of EC meeting held on 16 May 2019.**

These were noted and an amendment will be made to the header and the incorrect membership and financial figures as stated in clause 4.2.

**Action Peter M**

## **7. Forum of Residents Associations of Barnet (FORAB)**

Tony Brand had attended this meeting and reported that nothing directly relevant to the suburb had been discussed. He will attend the next meeting in September and report back further to Council.

**Action Tony B**

## **8. London Forum: update from recent meeting**

8.1 A detailed summary of the meeting had been circulated by Helen Leiser who had attended on behalf of the RA.

8.2 She considered the Forum to be well organised and important and it covered a large range of similar and different interests and concerns. There had been an interesting brain storm regarding widening the appeal of membership of Resident Associations to a broader community in terms of age range and ethnicity. It was noted that the current litter picking initiative seems to be creating some interest from people who are not currently members.

8.3 Colin Gregory supported the RA's membership and he will try to attend meetings if Helen is not available.

## **9. Security issues on the Suburb**

9.1 There had been an increase in criminal activity on the Suburb including street robberies, aggravated burglaries, drug dealing, car theft and vandalism. There is a lot of small scale drug taking in certain areas with local teenagers partaking which is of particular concern.

9.2 As a result of an aggravated night time burglary when a couple were physically threatened, a security meeting at HB School was organised by a group of residents. The police agreed to an increased

presence on the Suburb for two weeks but due to cuts and the merger of the Barnet police command with Brent and Harrow their resources had to go to the areas most in need.

9.3 LCS attended the meeting and talked about their work for their 500 current members in the Suburb including 'meet and greet' but it is expensive and labour intensive to provide this service. Current monthly charge is just over £100.

9.4 Steve Chait who had organised the meeting referred to at 9.1 will organise a small working group to try to discuss what can be done but no other action had been agreed.

9.5 Emma Howard had discussions with the HGS Trust but it is not possible or practical for the RA or the Trust to organise a scheme for residents to contribute to a security company.

9.6 It was suggested that the RA work with LCS possibly to offer discounts to RA members, but this had already been discussed with their Managing Director by Emma Howard and they were not prepared neither to give discounts to RA members nor to have a flexible price structure with lower rates for the more modest cottage homes in the Suburb.

9.7 It was suggested that the press and media are asked to give publicity to this and Harry Simmonds will talk to the managing editor of the Evening Standard. **Action Harry S**

9.8 Concern was also expressed about the parked rental vans in Winnington Road and a petition is being organised to request a CPZ by residents

#### 9.9 Queens Court

9.9.1 There is also an ongoing problem with Queens Court and other Housing Association flats on the Suburb where new tenants being housed by LB Barnet who are causing some issues.

9.9.2 The regulator for social housing could be involved with this as Clarion has been approached but little progress seems to have been made. Details of the regulator will be circulated. **Action Simon S**

9.9.3 A support agency for drug addiction could be asked to write an article for Suburb News in an effort to help reduce drug taking on the Suburb. The local schools could be asked to help. **Action Colin G**

9.10. It was also reported that travellers had returned to Henley's Corner. Adrian H has reported to police.

9.11 Council were sympathetic and would like the RA to help but it is a voluntary organisation without the resources to do so and cannot take on individual cases.

9.12 A further meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June at Westminster with Mike Freer MP, The Trust and the Police Commander where Emma Howard will raise these various issues **Action Emma H**

9.13 There will a public RA meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September with Councillors and the police to discuss personal, building and vehicle security matters.

## 10. Proms at St Jude's: lunchtime concerts

Tony Brand will set up the roller banners for the lunchtime concerts and there will be an RA desk with leaflets and copies of Suburb News. **Action Tony B**

## **11. Wordsworth Walk: Twitten oak tree**

No noticeable work had been carried out and this and other tree matters will be discussed with Nick Packard when Colin Gregory meets him this week. **Action Colin G**

## **12. Charitable grants and RA reserves**

This was carried forward to the 2 July meeting due to lack of time for a full discussion. **Action Peter M (for next agenda)**

## **13. Suburb News Editor and writing competition**

**13.1** A new editor for Suburb News has not yet been found and there will be a further article asking for a volunteer in the next issue plus postings on the HGS List and eNews in due course. **Action Terry B**

**13.2** A judge for the children's writing competition has been found - this is only open to Suburb residents.

## **14. Roads & Traffic Committee chair**

A new chair had not yet been found for this committee.

## **15. The Orchard: planning application**

**15.1** Alan Brudney who is the RA's representative and sits on the management committee explained the background to the Orchard and the planning application to install decking for residents to access the garden from the community room and to enlarge the parking area by 10 – 12.5%.

**15.2** Council members would be welcome to attend the Orchard and would be shown round.

**15.3** It was explained that CAAC, who had recommended refusal of the application, could not reconsider the matter unless LB Barnet brought the case before that committee again.

**15.4** Any individual can write to LB Barnet to support or object to the planning application, right up to the date of the planning decision.

## **16. Litter pickers**

**16.1** A new group of litter pickers is being coordinated by volunteer coordinator Michael Green and there will be a launch on 20 June when grabbers will be handed out. Council members were asked to become involved. The local girl guides group will assist in Willifield Way near Fellowship House and on the Green.

**16.2** It was hoped that HB School would take responsibility for cleaning litter around their School premises.

**16.3** It was suggested that letters could be given to the managers of building sites on the Suburb asking them to dispose of their rubbish responsibly. **Action Harry S**

## **17. Summer Fair: volunteers and marquee**

**17.1** Two additional tents have been purchased

**17.2** More volunteers are required to help set up in the morning of the Fair and Hella Schrader will send a note to the HGS List asking for assistance and also requesting cakes for the cake stall. **Action Hella S**

**17.3** It was hoped that some HB School girls will volunteer.

## **18. Any other business**

### HB School

HB School would like to have police assistance with traffic management on entrance examination days in order to help manage the traffic. Assistance has been sought via the Councillors by Emma H in co-operation with the School's head teacher. It was suggested that private traffic marshals could provide this service which would need to be paid for by the School. and Adrian Hodgson will supply details of companies who carry out this work.

**Action Adrian H/Emma H**

## **19. Next scheduled meeting of Council:**

Tuesday, 2 July 2019 at 8pm in Fellowship House confirmed.