



**Minutes of a meeting of the RA Council held on
Tuesday 2nd July 2019, at Fellowship House, 136A Willifield Way at 8.00 pm**

Present: Emma Howard - in the Chair, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Tony Ghilchik, Adrian Hodgson, Helen Leiser, Peter McCluskie, Steve Morris, Hella Schrader, Harry Simmonds, Ann Spencer and Rosemary Goldstein (Asst Secretary to the Council).

(A risk assessment was carried out in accordance with the agreed format)

1. Note apologies and absences

Alan Brudney, Colin Gregory, Jeremy Hershkorn and Simon Sackman

2. Question Time for residents who are not members of Council

There were none.

3. Approve as accurate the minutes of Council meeting held on 4 June 2019

These were approved.

4. Note draft minutes of EC meeting held on 20 June 2019

These were noted

5. RA Events Schedule 2020

Month	Day	Event
January	7	Volunteers Meeting
	16	Executive Committee
February	4	Council
March	19	Executive Committee
	30	Annual General Meeting
April	7	Council
	TBC	Public Meeting
May	14	Executive Committee
June	TBC	Michael Rowley Lecture
	14	Summer Fair
	18	Executive Committee
July	7	Council
August	TBC	Executive Committee/Council (if required)
September	17	Executive Committee
	TBC	Public Meeting
October	6	Council
	25	Halloween Party
November	12	Executive Committee
December	10	Executive Committee
	31	Fireworks

5.1 The schedule was agreed by Council.

5.2 The provisional bookings for Council and the Volunteers meetings would be confirmed with Fellowship House, and the events posted on the HGS website.

Action Peter M

5.3 The AGM, on 30 March 2020, will be held in Henrietta Barnett School hall, which is available on that date. The booking will be confirmed. Tim Hands has been booked for the sound.

Action Tony B

6. Risk assessment form

This item was deferred to the 1 October Council Meeting. **Action Hella S/Adrian H**

7. Tree issues: meeting with Trust

7.1 Colin Gregory reported (via email) that he had met Nick Packard on 6 June to discuss tree related issues. Nick Packard explained how the Trust carry out an annual survey of the trees for which they are responsible and draw up a schedule of work in September or October. They try to complete the work needed before the growing season begins. Colin Gregory asked if the Trust would be willing to share their tree work schedule with the RA. The Trust will consider doing this.

7.2 In relation to the oak on the Big Allotment Site, Nick Packard confirmed that dead wood had been removed.

7.3 Nick Packard affirmed that the Trust's mission to preserve the character and amenities of the Suburb extended to the green cover.

7.4 Colin Gregory proposed that the Trust and Barnet produce a joint statement on trees in the same spirit as the Design Guidance for buildings. Nick Packard agreed to consider this further with colleagues at the Trust and Colin Gregory will raise it with Barnet.

Action Colin G

7.5 The Trust had carried out a survey of trees a few years ago where important trees were highlighted and this should provide some guidance for the survey

8. Charitable grants and RA reserves

8.1 At the end of 2018, the RA had approx £82,000 in reserves and the views of Council were sought about the possibilities of making charitable grants over and above what was (in effect) a charitable donation to the St Jude's Proms each year and other donations such as the contribution to the Chamber Concert Series.

8.2 The HGS Trust has a Grants & Amenities committee and the relevant extract from the Trust's Memorandum of Association, and details of organisations in receipt of grants, had been circulated

8.3 Council discussed whether money should be made available by charitable grants as we need to hold reserves. They considered that funds should be used to make HGS a better place to live and to preserve the environment and an amount available for distribution could be agreed and set aside each year

8.4 Several suggestions for new initiative had been made at the volunteers evening but these involved volunteers to implement and nothing had yet resulted in further expenditure

8.5 Council members thought that the funds should not necessarily be distributed in the same way as the Trust does.

8.7 Various suggestions for grants were discussed. More immediately the Free Church Hall (which contains the RA store) appeared to have many broken windows which were boarded up. The Revd Dr Ian Tutton would be contacted to find out whether the damage was covered by the church's insurance and, if not, to tell him the RA may consider financial assistance. **Action Peter M**

8.8 It was agreed that the RA should ring fence a "fighting fund" (not necessarily called that) of £50,000 to threats to the Suburb. A recent example, now in abeyance, was the proposal for a high-rise building on the Golders Green station site which if built would spoil many views within the Suburb. TfL were pushing for similar developments in Finchley Central and East Finchley and had already started on in Barnet.

8.9 The EC would probably be able to administer grants without the necessity of a specific committee

9.10 The EC will discuss the matter and define a policy and how to advertise that funds are available - possibly with an on line application form on the new website. They will make recommendations to bring to Council in due course.

9. Suburb News/Directory

9.1 Terry Brooks hoped to meet with a resident who had expressed interest in his role, i.e. editing Suburb News, the Suburb Directory and overseeing the Publications Committee. **Action Terry B**

9.2 The next edition of Suburb News will contain a further article asking for a volunteer as there is now more urgency to find a replacement for the Publications editor. A similar request will also be made in eNews and on the HGS List email group. **Action Terry B**

9.3 A university student studying journalism may be interested in assisting in some capacity but it was decided that this was probably not going to be a practical solution.

9.4 The deadline for articles for the next edition of Suburb News, which will be published on 3 August, is 6 July.

10. Litter initiative

10.1 A launch evening was held on 20th June and approximately 25-30 volunteers attended. Cllr John Marshall was also present.

10.2 Volunteers were issued with gloves and grabbers which had been supplied by LB Barnet

10.3 An article will be prepared for Suburb News which may also be offered to LB Barnet's Barnet First magazine. **Action Terry B**

14. Any other business

Mike Freer MP and Suburb security

14.1. It was reported that Mr Freer had met with the HGS Trust and the police regarding Suburb security and the police had identified issues which make houses less secure. The Trust will consider further design guidelines specific to these issues.

14.2 RA (Consam) will liaise with the Trust on the drafting of any such supplementary guidelines. **Action Peter M**

14.3 Mr Freer has said that he will write to all homes on the Suburb on the topic of security.

14.4 There has been an increased police presence in certain parts of the Suburb with unmarked police cars, helicopter surveillance and CCTV.

14.5 There was no further news about any security committee formed as a result of the meeting held at HB School by members of the HGS WhatsApp security group.

15. Next scheduled meeting of Council: Tuesday, 1 October 2019 in Fellowship House.

It was agreed that the meeting would commence at **8.15** due to the Jewish New Year's Holiday.