



**Minutes of a Meeting of the RA Council held on  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022, at 8pm via Zoom video-conferencing**

Present: Emma Howard (Chair), Steve Morris (Hon Treasurer), Peter McCluskie (Hon Secretary), Marie-Christine O'Callaghan (Publications), Adrian Hodgson (Events), Maria Schlatter (T&OS), Gren Manual (HGS REACH), Phillip Okrent (Pavements), Judy Smith (HGS Heritage), Helena Benes (PPC, Trust )

**Apologies and absences**

1. Shelley-Anne Salisbury, Jonathan Waxman and Colin Gregory gave their apologies. Tony Brand was absent.

**Written questions from residents (submitted in advance)**

2. There were none.

**New Council and Executive Committee member**

3. Lynda Cook had offered herself for appointment to Council and EC but was unable to attend the meeting. She had provided a statement which was read out to Council.
4. Appointment to Council was proposed by the Chair and seconded by the Hon Treasurer. This was approved by unanimous vote.
5. Appointment to EC was proposed by the Hon Secretary and seconded by Judy Smith. This was approved by unanimous vote.

**Allotments**

6. After discussions with the RA Officers, over a period, the Allotments Committee had decided to disaffiliate from the RA and become an independent group. This was duly noted by Council which offered its best wishes.

**RA finances, membership and website**

7. Membership: as of the 13th of October, the RA had 1623 paid-up members. The figure is 70 below those of last year at this stage.
8. Another email and postal mailing will be sent out to those who've not renewed yet (just over 300). A small net loss of members is anticipated due to residents moving out of the Suburb or passing away.

9. The RA is now 30 to 40 below, in terms of new members joining, in comparison to last year. However, new subscribers are continuing to sign up from September's mailing.
10. The quarterly financial statements had been circulated to the Council. The Hon Treasurer had reduced the membership subscription figure based on slightly lower membership but otherwise the RA finances are looking very healthy.
11. A £5,000 deficit is expected for the end of the year, which takes account of the grant for the Hampstead Heath Extension playground.
12. The second bench for Northway Gardens had been paid for, and the two IR cameras for HGS REACH had now been added to the budget.
13. Running costs and publications were doing well. The cost has gone up for each SN edition. But there was also an increase in advertising income which had more than offset this; the RA Chair, who handles SN advertising, was commended for her efforts
14. RA Website: There's now a new REACH section on the RA website.
15. Access to MTL: It was concluded that the process between membership payments and access to the MTL needed to be improved. There's more than one factor that has been affecting access but a new process will be looked into.

**Action Steve**

#### **Grants incl Proms, Northway Gardens etc**

16. Proms: Following on from the previous EC meeting, where continued sponsorship of the Proms had been discussed, this had been referred by EC for further discussion.
17. Comments for and against continuation were put forward including keeping the sponsorship for the general good of community relationships. There appeared to be little discernible benefit for the RA and the money (£3000) could perhaps be used to encourage new projects and organisations in the Suburb.
18. The discussion having proved inconclusive, it was agreed the RA Officers should consider the issue further.

**Action Emma, Steve & Peter**

19. Northway Gardens: A grant application for a total of £1815 had been received from Northway Gardens Organisation. Council unanimously approved payment of the sum of £1815, subject to NGO's acceptance of the following conditions which, it was agreed, were required in light of a number of issues which had occurred over a period of several years. A deadline would be set for acceptance and, if acceptance was not received by that date, the grant offer would be deemed declined by NGO and the money reallocated in the budget.

(1) Payment will be made in 4 equal amounts in January, April, July and October 2023 upon application by NGO to the RA Treasurer.

(2) Payment will be strictly conditional upon no instance of any attempt, by NGO or any of its officers, to bring the RA or any of its volunteers into disrepute subsequent to the previous part-payment. The decision of the RA Officers on this matter shall be final.

(3) Additionally, if there is any breach of (2), no further grant applications will be considered for any future years.

(4) There will be a sponsorship notice prominently displayed in an area of the RA's choosing. This notice is not to be moved or removed at any time without prior permission from an RA Officer.

### **T&OS matters**

20. RA financial support needed to continue for street tree planting; many empty tree pits remain in the Suburb. The cost is £400 per tree. The expense of trees is high and the actual cost to Barnet Council for each tree is apparently £700 including all overheads, and maintenance.

21. Community Orchard: Barnet Council had offered to investigate whether contractors could install the post and wiring for trees as they will need to be trained against the wire. There are a small number of volunteers who can do this. The cost is to be confirmed and RA Council will be updated.

**Action Maria**

22. A new volunteers' day will be confirmed in due course for tree planting.

**Action Maria**

### **Environment (REACH)**

23. The HGS REACH section of the website is now active, including a video by Gren Manuel on secondary glazing.

24. Turnout for the e-Bikes event had been good.

25. A public meeting about heat pumps will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> including experts on the topic.

26. Gren had been elected as a member of the HGS Trust Council.

27. Infra-red cameras to be purchased will be offered as an RA membership benefit.

### **Events**

28. It was decided that there would not be a Hallowe'en event this year due to venue and volunteer non-availability.

29. A quote from Frontier Fireworks, for New Year's Eve, was awaiting confirmation

**Action Adrian**

30. There will be an Events Committee Meeting at the end of October to discuss events for 2023.

**Action Adrian**

31. The December edition of Suburb eNews will include coverage of the NYE event.

**Action Peter**

### **Publications**

32. Good feedback on the last edition of Suburb News had been received by the editors.

33. The submission date for new content is 1<sup>st</sup> November.

### **Pavements**

34. The number of complaints had risen again after a quiet period over the summer. However, Councillors had been quite proactive with the pavement issues.
35. The issue with tarmac being laid down, often numerous times, continued to cause problems including its use over tree roots.
36. Paving stones are still not being used; Councillors will again be approached on the issue.

### **RA Events Schedule 2023**

37. The draft schedule was slightly revised.

### **Any other business**

38. Concerns were raised about Lime bikes being left blocking pavements and obstructing gates and benches around the Suburb and creating a hazard. The bikes are very heavy and electronically locked so they can only be removed by the company. Barnet Council is looking into the issue.

**Next scheduled meeting – 24 January 2023 at 8pm via Zoom**