



**Minutes of a Meeting of the RA Council held on
Tuesday 17th January 2023, at 8pm via Zoom video-conferencing**

Present: Emma Howard (Chair), Steve Morris (Hon Treasurer), Peter McCluskie (Hon Secretary), Shelley-Anne Salisbury (Publications), Adrian Hodgson (Events), Maria Schlatter (T&OS), Colin Gregory (T&OS), Lynda Cook (T&OS), Gren Manual (HGS REACH), Judy Smith (Publications), Helena Benes (PPC, Trust).

Absences

1. Tony Brand, Marie-Christine O'Callaghan and Jonathan Waxman did not attend.

Questions from residents (submitted in advance)

2. There were none.

RA finances, membership and website

3. The provisional end-of-year accounts had been circulated to Council and the Treasurer ran through the expenditure. As at the end of 2022, the RA finances showed a £5,600 surplus for the year. Advertising income had contributed significantly to the surplus as had lower spending than budgeted on events, trees, the Heath Extension playground and REACH.
4. The year ended with 1,786 members which was down by 25 in comparison to the year before. Membership income is down by £900 in comparison to last year.
5. Publications: Income went up by £3,000 to £10,000 this year.
6. Events: There was no expenditure for events last year. The Summer Fair cost £365 and fireworks cost under £3,000. Both figures net of income.
7. Trees: £6,000 was spent on trees and £750 on the sponsorship scheme. £2,000 was saved from planting from last year that was delayed and not charged to us.
8. Running costs: up from the previous year due to in-person AGM and volunteers events.
9. Grants: Were spent as planned with £3,000 granted for Proms and £2,729 towards NGO including the second new bench.
10. Other expenditure: £900 was spent on the Community Orchard, £3,800 for HGS REACH (energy report, public event and infrared camera).
11. £7,500 was granted (out of £10,000 budgeted) to the Heath Extension playground extension project. A total of £48,000 was raised.

12. With the surplus, the reserves at the end of the year would be about £78,500.
13. Bank charges for cheque deposits was a concern raised, but the Treasurer assured Council these charges would be at a slightly lower rate than for PayPal payments.
14. 2023 Budget: An open budget will be used this year - as for 2022, with items of expenditure being approved during the year
15. The forecast income for 2023 is £25,000 from membership subscriptions, £9,500 from Publications and £1,000 in interest, less £4,500 running costs, leaving approximately £31,000 available income.
16. Membership: A new online system is to be implemented by the end of the month.

Action Steve

Grants 2023

17. Proms at St Jude's Following various discussions by the Officers, and at EC and Council, Council agreed that sponsorship of £3000 should continue for Proms, specifically for LitFest. The Proms team will be notified.

Action Emma

18. Heath Extension playground Due to increased cost of equipment, two significant pieces of equipment had not been installed. The additional cost would be £11,500. The Chair proposed a fundraiser with an initial RA contribution of £2,500 – being the underspend on the amount budgeted for 2022. This was agreed unanimously.

19. There have been some delays with HMRC confirming the Gift Aid status and other ongoing issues, however, funding can proceed. Previous donors will be approached.

Action Colin

20. It was confirmed that Olivia W will be interviewed, and the article will be featured in SN to publicise that the playground is now being used much more. This will influence timing of the fundraiser.

21. 9th February is deadline for the HGS Trust Grants Committee who will be approached for a contribution to the fundraiser.

Action Colin

T&OS matters incl community orchard

22. Concern was raised regarding the trees on North End Road. The rebuilding of the pavements are damaging the trees. Andy Tipping (LB Barnet) will be contacted, and an article will be featured in SN.

Action Lynda

23. T&OS will advocate for preservation of trees in the Suburb and challenge insurance companies that require trees to be cut down for subsidence and other reasons. A suggestion was made to feature tree matters on the RA website and show their importance.

Action Maria

24. Three new members have joined T&OS and the committee is in a much stronger position than at this time last year.

25. Community Orchard: The remaining trees have been delivered and a newsletter has been sent out for the new planting day on the 19th February.
26. Future plans were discussed which included a harvest event in the autumn.
27. Approximately £2,000 will be needed for expenditure this year.
28. Hampstead Heath: Tree planting had taken place as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project
29. The London Cricket Trust has granted £60,000 to improve cricket facilities in the Heath.
30. The City of London is hoping to organise a party in Golders Hill Park to mark the King's Coronation and the RA will be involved.

Action Colin

31. HGS Trust will be producing guidance on the importance of trees in the Suburb.

Environment (REACH)

32. IR Camera scheme There have been 10 camera loans already and many more are scheduled. So far the feedback has been excellent. RA members are very grateful for the scheme.
33. REACH had successfully applied for an air quality monitor to be installed in the Suburb; this will be placed at the junction of Hampstead Way and Meadway.
34. The meeting on heat pumps in November 2022 had been a great success.

Events

35. The New Year's Eve Fireworks events had been a great success and was much appreciated by attendees.
36. A King's Coronation event has been discussed by the committee but a clash with the event in Golders Hill Park needs to be avoided.
37. Card payments had worked well at the NYE event and the card readers will be used for other suitable events in the future.
38. A committee meeting has been scheduled for this month to discuss the 2023 events.

Action Adrian

Publications

39. Suburb News: 1st February is the deadline for content to be submitted.
40. More good content is expected in the next issue. This issue will probably be 28 pages, partly to allow more space for copy to "breathe" given the growth in advertising copy.
41. The Publications Chair had recently visited the Archives and met the team. The resources are excellent and potentially very useful.

Any other business

- 42. PPC Trust Committee was reported to be going satisfactorily and in-person meetings had resumed.
- 43. Permitted development rights under Article 4 were discussed, in relation to air source heat pumps. The Trust are not constrained by Article 4 at all and can make their own regulations under the Scheme of Management.
- 44. In-person Council meetings were discussed. The majority view was in favour of continuing on Zoom but perhaps with one in-person meeting a year.

Next scheduled meeting – 18 April 2023 at 8pm via Zoom

(Note: AGM on 27 March)