



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

Present: Emma Howard (Chair), Peter McCluskie (Hon Secretary), Steve Morris (Hon Treasurer), Adrian Hodgson (Events), Maria Schlatter (T&OS), Steven Rowe (T&OS), Gren Manuel (REACH), Judy Smith (Publications), Helena Benes (PPC, Trust), Jonathan Waxman (REACH - from 8.30pm)

Apologies and absences

1. Apologies received from Colin Gregory, Shelly Anne-Salisbury, Marie Christine-O'Callaghan and Lynda Cook.

Post-AGM discussion

2. The Chair has discussed and offered to arrange a public meeting for residents with Doctors Grossmark and Harverd who own the Temple Fortune Health Centre building regarding the development. She had explained that it was the wish of the residents to have more information, including an idea of services available and the temporary location of them. Dr Harverd to discuss with Dr Grossmark and revert.

Reinstatement/creation of committees, appointments to committees and other roles

3. It was unanimously agreed that the four standing committees - which are Environment (REACH), Events, Publications and Trees & Open Spaces - should continue.
4. It was unanimously agreed that appointments of Council members to the standing committees should remain as prior to the AGM.
5. The Hon Secretary asked to be notified of any changes to co-opted committee members or non-committee volunteers.

Action Committee Chairs/Secretaries

6. It was unanimously agreed that appointments to representative and other RA roles should remain as prior to the AGM.

RA finances, membership and website

7. The Hon Treasurer ran through the finances at the end of the first quarter. Income and expenditure are in line with expectations.
8. Henrietta Community Orchard: this is the first significant expenditure for the first quarter – around £1,900 for planting.

9. Overall, barring unexpected expenditure, the year could end with a £12,000 surplus. This is assuming that £6,000 will be spent on Events. If for example only £3,000 is spent on Events, the surplus may increase to £15,000.
10. The reserves at the end of 2023 are likely to be over £90,000. This amount will allow enough money to sponsor future projects over the coming years (including environmental ones) and, if desired, to spend a little more on existing projects and events.
11. A further donation, beyond the £2,500 already agreed, for the Hampstead Heath Extension playground equipment may be appropriate but a decision on that will be taken later in the year once residents' and other donations are assessed.
12. Other points were raised such as: the Suburb needs facilities suitable for younger people, a community theatre at the Free Church is a possibility, and a youth theatre was also suggested.
13. The Chair had spoken with Luisa Pettigrew (Parent Governor at Garden Suburb School) about a meeting with the school on how to involve the GS schools more in the community.

Action Emma

14. Membership: The first emailing for renewals had taken place.
15. Membership Secretary: A new membership system was implemented at the beginning of the year which has proven to be efficient. This had cut down the amount of work to process membership payments in the database. The current Membership Secretary has been given notice that her contract will end on 31 July as there will be insufficient work to justify paying for this role going forward.

Steve Morris was commended for setting up the new membership system.

Grants and donations

16. The Chair mentioned the RA had applied for a grant from the HGS Trust towards the Hampstead Heath Extension project (further playground equipment) for £3,000 and had been awarded £500. The Chair had inquired into the reason for the reduction but there had not been a reply to date.

T&OS matters

17. Maria Schlatter reported on the update of T&OS policy and structure and planning applications for tree felling. An effective system is now in place.
18. At its next meeting the committee will be discussing its chairmanship and how it can improve communication with residents and build awareness with other groups in Barnet.
19. The committee is currently working on material for the RA website and proposed a separate T&OS section, similar to REACH's. This was agreed.

Environment (REACH)

20. Two events are being organised this year:
“*Energy Efficiency*” is focused on heating the home and will be held on 15 May at Bigwood Hall. “*Greening your personal finances*” speakers are lined up and the meeting will be held in June.
21. There had been good feedback on previous work, particularly the infrared cameras.
22. The committee chair spoke about the heat pumps event that took place in November last year; since then heat pumps had been installed in several homes in the Suburb. He will update on progress in due course.

Action Jonathan

Events

23. The committee chair reported difficulties with such a limited number of available volunteers. There may need to be consideration of change going forward, e.g., commissioning professional events organisers rather than depending wholly on volunteers.
24. Summer Fair: An early June event is being considered but has to be confirmed.
25. An event later in the Summer is also being considered, such as a ‘screen on the green’ event to take place in the evening. The committee chair is obtaining quotes for equipment.

Action Adrian

Action Adrian

Publications

26. The Hon Secretary reported briefly on behalf of Publications that everything is going to plan for the next issue of Suburb News and the next deadline for submissions is 1st May 2023. Publications welcomes standing committee input for the next issue.
27. The Chair reported on a high volume of enquires for advertising. The revenues from advertising has exceeded £7,000 mark in the last few issues of Suburb News. Signature Care home at Hendon Hall would like to take out a half page ad in the next 4 editions.

Other matters

28. Helena Benes mentioned the green verges on the pavements and the mess caused by vehicles driving over them. Contacting the ward councillors was suggested and Maria and Helen agreed to liaise on what to do here and an article for SN154.
29. It was confirmed that the Coronation event at Golders Hill Park would be going ahead on 8 May with invitations to go out shortly.

Action Helena and Maria

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