



RA COUNCIL

Minutes of the HGSRA Council Meeting Tuesday 17th October 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/REACH), Steven Rowe (T&OS) Helena Benes (PPC, Trust), Colin Gregory (T&OS), Gren Manuel (REACH), Judy Smith (Publications) and Shazia Riaz Ahmad (Minutes Secretary)

APOLOGIES, ABSENCES, AND WELCOME

1. Apologies were received from Lynda Cook, Shelly-Anne Salisbury and Jonathan Waxman.

RA FINANCES, MEMBERSHIP AND THE WEBSITE

2. Finances

Finances at the end of the third quarter are in a healthy position, and the income and expenditure are in line with expectations. There is likely to be a net surplus of around £7000 by the end of the year (but see note re grant to Brookland Schools, para 6 below)

3. Membership

1530 members as at the end of September. Renewal letters were sent out at the end of September. There will not be a 'speculative' mailing to non-member addresses this year because of the delay in membership operations this year. Council discussed, and agreed, inviting residents from The Orchard and Emmott Close housing association developments to join as new members from 2024 at a special rate of £10 per year. Council agreed that, those who join, will be invited to the New Years Eve celebration and will each get a free drink at the bar. RA to reimburse Church for this.

Action: Shazia and Steven R (with Steve M)

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

4. Hampstead Heath Extension Playground:

We have reached the fundraising target for the Hampstead Heath Extension playground; Emma and Colin had met the relevant people who are involved with this project (4-person seesaw, toddler slide and climbing tower and the rebuild of the willow structure). We have a small surplus to use towards an additional bench outside the playground.

5. North London Music Festival:

We have sponsored certain aspects of the 2024 North London Music Festival, including the piano prize. Council agreed that the name for the prize should be the '*HGS Residents Association Piano Prize*'.

Action Emma

6. Brooklands Junior School Application:

The Brooklands Junior School have made a request for funding support for various projects at the school: (1) to carry out works to their playground to improve the line markings, (2) to purchase a couple of whiteboards and (3) a new computer. The total cost: £7,184. Council unanimously agreed to grant the full amount.

Action Emma to inform them

7. Garden Suburb Theatre:

Colin outlined that Garden Suburb Theatre are considering the possibility of hosting a youth theatre for children to learn about theatre skills. It was suggested that the youth theatre is run during term time, by a trained professional, at the Free Church. For children between the age 10-16 years.

8. Shazia suggested we consider a resident from Emmott Close, who is a trained actress and works at the Globe Theatre leading tour groups. Shazia to forward the contact details to Colin. **Action: Colin/Shazia**

PUBLICATIONS

9. Everything is on track for the next publication of the Suburb News (no 156) to circulate in December. To include NYE Fireworks and AGM notice. The advertising had been finalised.
10. It was confirmed that we will no longer continue with the Suburb Directory; everything currently on the RA website will continue.

TREES & OPEN SPACES

11. Kenwood Landscape Forum

Maria informed Council that she is now stepping down from this role. Council unanimously agreed to appoint Steven Rowe as the new representative on the Kenwood Landscape Forum.

12. Tree Felling Application

Council discussed the felling application for the 100+ year old oak tree at 109 Hampstead Way and agreed that residents should be encouraged to oppose the felling.

13. Council appointed Peter McCluskie to the T&OS committee. *(Post meeting note: Peter subsequently declined the appointment).*

ENVIRONMENT (REACH)

14. As a result of the survey at the end of the summer, we are currently reviewing 2 member events :

15. Energy Efficiency

A system of visiting houses with heat pumps, secondary glazing, and other energy saving ideas.

16. Electric cars

Supporting people in making decisions on choosing electric cars.

EVENTS

17. New Year's Eve Celebration

Council discussed the provisional plans for the New Year's Eve celebration at the St Jude's Church and Central Square. The plan is to start the event at 8.30pm, a pay bar, a live band/music and dancing at 10pm, then fireworks at midnight.

18. Donations will be collected through the 'Square' card-reader and cash-buckets.

19. A call for volunteers for events will be announced through Suburb eNews.

20. Adrian to forward the NYE event details to Hella S for the poster. **Action: Adrian**

OUTREACH incl SUBURB WHATSAPP GROUPS

21. Council discussed the possibility of considering additional communication through various online community groups, e.g. WhatsApp, in the Suburb. A list of Group Admins would be a useful start.

Action: Peter

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

22. Council unanimously agreed to award Life Membership to Tony Brand for his services to the RA and the HGS community. Tony would be notified and there would be recognition in Suburb News and, in due course, the AGM.

Action: Peter/Emma

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

23. The date of the next Council meeting is **16 January 2024 at 8pm** via Zoom.