



**Minutes of the RA Council Meeting
Tuesday, 15th October 2024
at the Central Square Minyan**

Present: Emma Howard (Chair), Peter McCluskie (Hon Secretary), Steve Morris (Hon Treasurer), Council members: Adrian Hodgson, Maria Schlatter, Steven Rowe, Helena Benes, Colin Gregory, Gren Manuel, Judy Smith, Asher Budwig. Shazia Riaz Ahmad (minutes secretary).

Apologies and absences

1. Apologies for absence were received from Lynda Cook, Revd Emily Kolltveit, Dominic Rose, Shelley-Anne Salisbury and Jonathan Waxman

Changes to the Committees

2. Lynda Cook

Lynda has stepped down from Council but will continue as a co-opted member of the Trees and Open Spaces Committee. Council members expressed their thanks to Lynda for her contribution.

3. **Kenwood Landscape Forum:** Steven Rowe has stepped down as RA representative to the Kenwood Landscape Forum after consultation with the T&OS committee. Council approved the appointment of Alex Rook, T&OS member, as his successor.

4. Executive Committee

It was proposed that the Executive Committee be discontinued but an option to re-establish it be retained. Clause 6 of the RA Constitution will be amended accordingly and the alteration will be submitted at the next AGM for members' approval. The opportunity will be taken to give powers to set up committees and create standing orders, which were not specifically mentioned in the current Constitution.

5. Standing Orders relating to the Executive Committee will be amended in due course by Council.
6. Council unanimously approved these changes.

Action: Peter and Colin to draft an amendment to Clause 6

RA Finances Q3 and Membership

7. The Hon Treasurer presented the management accounts for Q3. The projected surplus for the year is £17,000. Council agreed to use the projected surplus funds to further support grant applications.
8. Membership stands at 1,494 as at end of September 2024. The final membership renewal letters and emails have been issued.
9. **Storage Costs:**
Concerns were raised about a 10% increase in storage costs at Free Church Hall and issues with shared space. Adrian had discussed these concerns with David Morris, but damp remains a problem, with no alternative storage at the Free Church Hall. **Action: Adrian**

Grants Requests

10. Garden Suburb Junior School Grant Application:

The Council discussed the grant application from the Garden Suburb Junior School for the purpose of educational visits, IT equipment and swimming. Council approved a £5,000 contribution towards the IT equipment.

11. St Jude's Church Grant Application:

The Council discussed in detail the grant application received from St Jude's Church for the purpose of restorative works at the St Jude's Church. Council approved £3,000 towards the mural restoration.

Action: Emma

Publications

12. **Deadline for the Suburb News:** The RA article deadline for the December issue (Issue 160) is 1st November.

13. It was confirmed that the New Year's Eve Fireworks notice will feature on the cover of the next edition of the Suburb Newsletter.

14. It was confirmed that the Suburb News distribution by volunteers is running smoothly.

Events

15. New Year's Eve Fireworks at St Jude's

The fireworks company has been booked. Arrangements with the HGS Trust for Central Square are being finalised. The event insurance has been received and details will be forwarded to the Hon Treasurer.

Action: Adrian

16. Children's Carnival in February 2025

Council was updated on the provisional plans for the upcoming carnival, emphasising its focus on younger families in the Suburb. Planned activities include a children's party with an entertainer, fancy dress, costume-making workshops, a prize for the best costume, and potentially a trail through the Kids' Garden at St. Jude's.

17. Family Fun Run

The recent Family Fun Run was a successful and enjoyable event. It attracted participants of all ages, fostering a lively atmosphere and strong community engagement. Positive feedback underscored its appeal to families in the Suburb.

18. Summer Fair 2025

Council discussed the pros and cons of holding the summer fair on a Saturday rather than a Sunday. The 2025 Summer Fair was been confirmed for Saturday 7th July.

REACH Initiatives:

19. Heat Pump Talk, 28th November 2024

A talk on the benefits of heat pumps over gas boilers will be held at Fellowship House, followed by a Q&A session.

20. Infra-Red Camera Loan Scheme

Maria is managing the (RA member only) scheme, which will be advertised in Suburb News and eNews.

Action: Emma/Maria

Biodiversity (including Lyttelton Friends proposal)

21. Biodiversity update report

In his absence, Council reviewed Dominic's report on biodiversity efforts, commending his efforts on the astro-turf initiative.

22. Meadows at Lyttelton Playing Fields

Barnet Council is creating new meadows at Lyttelton Playing Fields and at the Henrietta Community Orchard, with 2,000 flower bulbs and 200 tree whips confirmed for planting.

23. Henrietta Barnett School Partnership

Maria has met with the Senior Environmental Prefect/Teacher at Henrietta Barnett School, who have expressed their interest in contributing to the Suburb through environmental volunteering projects. Maria is in conversation with the school to involve the pupils in planting the flower bulbs.

24. Proposal for a New Friends Group for Lyttelton Playing Fields

The Council reviewed, discussed and approved the proposal for a New Friends Group for Lyttelton Friends proposal.

25. Colin offered to act as the RA representative on membership of the New Friends Group. Steven R also offered to serve on the committee.

26. The Chair invited suggestions for neglected Barnet spaces to be revitalised by Dominic's gardening group.

27. The proposal will now go forward to Barnet Council.

Trees and Open Spaces

28. The chiring of T&OS will now rotate amongst committee members, Steven Rowe having stepped down. Steven will continue to assist the committee with publicity. Steven was thanked for his work.

29. Council was updated about the various activities noting that Frank Hawkins (Trust's Green Estates Manager) is extremely helpful and positive, and is meeting regularly with committee members. Frank is collaborating closely with Jonathan Hills (Planning Officer for Trees, Barnet). They have had a meeting with local councillors, including Nigel Young (Councillor at Child's Hill and Chair of strategic planning committee) to develop a clearer policy on tree protection. Significant work is underway both at a high policy level and at a grassroot level.

Member Survey

30. Asher confirmed that he and Dominic are planning a Suburb-wide survey to assess residents' preferences. Dominic has conducted a similar survey previously. The planning is currently in the preliminary stages, with more details to be provided in due course.

Action: Asher and Dominic

Defibrillators

31. Council discussed the availability, accessibility, locations and usage of defibrillators. Gren confirmed that there are about 25 defibrillators within the Suburb, and recommended that cabinets housing defibrillators remain unlocked to meet the British Heart Foundation's guideline of a three-minute accessibility radius.

32. **Costs and Training:** Defibrillators cost around £1,200, with possible discounts and free training through the British Heart Foundation. It was suggested adding First Aid training, which includes CPR, for the potential community volunteers who will support this initiative.

33. Council agreed this should be a community-wide initiative that includes equipment installation, public awareness, and training. Input from local residents will be sought through Suburb News.

34. Gren suggested convening meeting with community groups. He will give this matter further thought and circulate the details to Council members.

Action: Gren

Upcoming Meetings

35. **AGM 2025:** Scheduled for 31st March 2025, at Bigwood Hall.

36. **2025 Council Meetings:** To be notified in due course.

Action: Peter