



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 March 2021
via Zoom at 8.00pm

1. The Chair's welcome and announcements

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone present to the 108th Annual General Meeting of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association and the first ever via videoconferencing (Zoom). Alan Walker was the candidate election moderator.

1.2 The Chair thanked the attendees including Cllr John Marshall, PC Sandy Clifford, Simon Henderson (HGS Trust), Terry Brooks (SN reporter), Richard Davis (Chair, Police & Community Action Group for Garden Suburb), guest Frank Orman (Mill Hill RA).

1.3 The Hon Secretary demonstrated voting, questions and chat features.

2. Apologies for absence

These were received from Cllr Arjun Mittra and Helen Leiser.

3. Presentation by Noah's Ark Children's Hospice

3.1 The Chair presented Noah's Ark Children's Hospice as the chosen charity of 2021 for match funding as selected by the RA Council.

3.2 Introductions from Rebekah Severn, (Senior Philanthropy Manager) and Megan Evans, (Community Events Manager), presented the story behind the work of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and specifically the progress of the hydro-therapy pool which is currently under construction.

3.3 The Noah's Ark representatives offered a heartfelt thank you to the RA for choosing to support the charity. Generous donations have been received and the hydro-therapy pool will offer a joyful, therapeutic experience.

3.4 Final words from Megan Evans, for those who wish to donate, this can be done through their website or that of the RA and when circumstances allow, visitors will be welcomed to the Ark.

4. To approve minutes of the last AGM (2019)

The Chair proposed to approve the minutes for 2019 AGM, seconded by the Hon Secretary. The minutes were approved Nem Con.

5. To receive and approve the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019. These are in Suburb News issue 142 and are available online at <https://www.hgsra.uk/about/agm/202003accounts-31-december-2019.html>

5.1 The Hon Treasurer shared the figures of the annual accounts for the twelve months to 31st December 2019.

5.2 Membership income had increased, advertising revenue and sponsorship of events was a slight drop. A thank you to the Spaniards Inn for sponsoring the summer fair and fireworks.

5.3 An increase in expenditure through grants and comparable to 2018 accounts.

5.4 The RA reserve levels were discussed during the year and it was agreed for the community orchard project to be initiated.

5.5 The year finished with a surplus of £2,701.

5.3 The Chair proposed to receive and approve the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019, seconded by the Hon Secretary. It was approved Nem Con.

6. To receive and approve the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020. These are in Suburb News issue 145 and are also available online at <https://www.hgsra.uk/about/agm/202102accounts-31-december-2020.html>

6.1 The Hon Treasurer shared the figures of the annual accounts for the twelve months to 31st December 2020.

6.2 Due to Covid, however, all events were cancelled. The generosity of members through RA Membership where there was a significant increase in subscriptions was noted.

6.3 Fellowship donations were also significantly higher than usual.

6.4 The launch for the Royal Free Hospital raised £65,000 through match funding and a thank you to all who donated. The RA had contributed £25,000 from its reserve fund.

6.5 Other Income: credit to The Chair for keeping SN advertising coming in, which was down only £1,000 from the previous year.

6.6 Membership expenditure increased due to a paid Membership Secretary and additional mailings in Spring 2020 to reach out to people to offer assistance if they were struggling under Covid restrictions. Paid distribution for SN also added to the increase as we were unable to use volunteers.

6.7 The year ended in deficit of £19,312.

6.8 The Chair proposed to receive and approve the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020, seconded by the Hon Secretary. It was approved Nem Con.

6.9 Andrew Botterill (Chair of Fellowship) expressed his gratitude on behalf of Fellowship Management Committee, to all who contributed through membership; this was important for their expenses and going forward especially as income had dried up in 2020.

6.5 Fellowship plan to open gradually from April to May 2021 and will comply with Government guidelines. Tuesday Talks and monthly art exhibitions will begin in September 2021.

7. To consider the annual subscription for the membership year 2021 (continuation of minimum of £15 is recommended)

It has been proposed to keep the annual subscription of £15 per household for 2021. This was approved Nem Con.

8. To appoint an Honorary Accountant

8.1 The Chair expressed thanks and appreciation to Paul Hartley for acting as Hon. Accountant of the RA each year.

8.2 The Chair proposed to re appoint Paul Hartley as Hon. Accountant, seconded by the Hon Treasurer. This was passed Nem Con.

9. To elect Officers and Council Members for 2021/22 as notified in the email to attendees.
(All candidates appointed by Council since the last AGM introduced themselves briefly.)

9.1 The following candidates were elected as Officers:

Chair – Emma Howard
Hon. Secretary – Peter McCluskie
Hon. Treasurer – Steve Morris

9.2 The following candidates were elected as members of RA Council:

Patrick Ettwein
Phillip Harlow
Adrian Hodgson
Marie-Christine O'Callaghan
Shelley-Anne Salisbury
Maria Schlatter
Ann Spencer

10. Topics raised by members:

10.1 Crime and security

- A public meeting that had been organised last year with the local Police team had regrettably had to be cancelled due to covid. Richard Davis raised a number of issues such as burglaries, personal safety, and drug users.
- PC Sandy Clifford acknowledged that crime has gone up with break ins prevalent via gardens and items such as bicycles being stolen from garden sheds. Advice on personal safety remained unchanged.
- All residents in the Suburb are currently being updated with the contacts of the local neighbourhood police team.
- Drug users are banned from the area by use of anti-social behaviour orders. Robust action is being carried out with beggars as well.

10.2 Annual fireworks – discussion not held.

An electronic survey will be conducted to seek members' opinions on this subject regarding

the annual new year's eve fire display.

10.3 Street lighting

- Isabell Ficker expressed concerns about the new LED streetlights installed from an environmental and biodiversity point of view. In her view, this needs to be revisited by LBB at the earliest opportunity. Being 4000k and blue rich apparently has underlying consequences on health and affects wild life. She also expressed concern that LBB had not consulted on the new lights before installing them.
- Cllr John Marshall responded on behalf of LBB, that the LED lighting is environmentally better and can be moderated centrally to reflect concern raised by members.
- The Chair informed attendees that the lights could be turned down and other steps taken where their brightness was an issue. Comments from attendees via the comment box were in part supportive of the new brighter lights, and in part concerned about the environmental impact.

11. The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

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