



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on Monday 25th March 2024, at 8pm
at Bigwood Hall, Henrietta Barnett School

Chair welcome, announcements and tributes

1. The Chair welcomed all members to the 111th Annual General Meeting including Cllr Rohit Grover.
2. The Chair thanked Paul Hartley, who diligently scrutinises the RA accounts. Paul was presented with a small gift as a token of appreciation.

Apologies for absence

3. There were no apologies for absence received.

Approval of minutes of 2023 AGM

4. The minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved.

Approval of annual report and accounts for year ended 31 December 2023

5. The Hon Treasurer went through the main areas of the finances.
6. Membership Subscriptions and Fellowship House donations: despite a slight drop in membership, net income from subscriptions for 2023 had increased because of a significant reduction in costs.
7. Suburb News continues to be a success and is attracting a good deal of advertising which has contributed significantly to the RA's finances.
8. Events: The New Years Eve Fireworks and the Summer Fair were both very successful.
9. Grants: these included -
 - Hampstead Heath Extension Playground: a further £5,000 to complete refurbishment
 - Garden Suburb Junior School: £6,850
 - Brooklands Junior School: £7,184
 - Brooklands Infant School awarded £3,137
 - Proms at St. Jude's: £3,000
 - Coronation Celebrations: £1000
 - Further planting at the Henrietta Community Orchard: £1,874
 - 19 street trees, including 4 sponsored trees, were planted: £6,450.

10. The year ended with a surplus of £357 and £78,905 in reserves.

Approval of annual report and accounts for year ended 31 December 2023

11. Approved.

Annual subscription for membership year 2024

12. The annual minimum subscription will continue at £15.

Presentations by the Zoological Society of London

13. Kate Scott-Gatty from the London Zoological Society delivered a presentation on the National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme and reported on the findings of the project within Hampstead Garden Suburb. The project is ongoing and they will be siting cameras again later in 2024.

Election by ballot of Officers and Council Members for 2024/25

14. The following were nominated for re-election as Officers for the RA Council for 2024/2025:

- Chair: Emma Howard
- Hon Secretary: Peter McCluskie
- Hon Treasurer: Steve Morris

15. The following were nominated for election or re-election to Council:

- Adrian Hodgson
- Revd Emily Kolltveit
- Shelley-Anne Salisbury
- Maria Schlatter

16. The following left the RA Council since the last AGM and did not seek re-election:

- Marie-Christine O'Callaghan

Presentations by Trees & Open Spaces, Events, Publications and REACH committees

Trees & Open Spaces - Steven Rowe:

17. Steven Rowe, Chair of the T&OS Committee, said that the T&OS web page (part of the RA website) had been updated, reflecting their commitments and current activities.

18. T&OS works very closely with ward councillors and with the HGS Trust. Steven took the opportunity to acknowledge the valuable work done by T&OS members Colin Gregory, Peter Falk and Maria Schlatter.

19. T&OS had launched a crowd funding campaign to plant more trees in our streets which is part of the national campaign "Trees for Streets". The target for this year is £5,000 to plant 20 more trees, and as at the date of the AGM £1,750 had been raised.

20. Steven also mentioned that the Residents Association donates a significant sum every year, and has done for many years, towards planting more trees.

21. Steven invited members to put themselves forward for the T&OS Committee to help make a difference to the Suburb. For further information they should email: trees@hgsra.uk

Events - Adrian Hodgson:

22. Adrian Hodgson, Chair of the Events Committee, reminded members of the two main events hosted annually by the Events Committee: New Years Eve Fireworks, and the Summer Fair. Adrian also said that he is looking to reintroduce the Hallowe'en event.
23. It is planned to involve younger people and schools and community groups at the summer fair.
24. Revd Emily Kolltveit had joined the RA Council and the Events Committee with the intention of co-hosting some events at St Jude's Church and in Central Square.
25. Adrian invited members to put themselves forward for the Events Committee. For further information they should email: events@hgsra.uk

Publications - Shelley-Anne Salisbury

26. Shelley-Anne Salisbury, Publications Committee Chair and Co-Editor of Suburb News (SN), said SN had been introduced by Richard Wakefield in the 1980s to report on community events and local matters within the Suburb – but so much had changed since then.
27. Shelley-Anne acknowledged the SN Youth Team (Students from Henrietta Barnett School and Archer Academy) for the useful contributions they were making – and the importance of empowering the youth voice of the future.
28. Members were reminded that the SN is their paper, were invited to submit ideas, articles and other contributions. The committee also welcomed any feed back.
29. Shelley-Anne thanked all contributors, the Publications Committee, the Proof Reading Team, the Distribution Team (with a special thanks to Lorna Page). She also thanked the RA Chair, Emma Howard, for the advertising revenue she is bringing in year after year.

HGS REACH (Environment Committee) - Gren Manuel

30. Gren Manuel, Secretary for HGS REACH, addressed the main goals of the Committee:
31. Climate change legislation and its impact on the Suburb and its homes.
32. Reducing the carbon footprint: a number of schemes had been introduced for residents including the loan of equipment to check where homes are losing heat, offering advice on windows, and air source heat pumps installations. REACH had helped people reduce the amount of gas they use, which will also save on energy bills.
33. REACH had introduced a very successful Infra-red Camera Loan scheme: loans had been made to about 40 people over the winter – and there had been very positive feed back.

34. The Suburb Open Homes event in January was very successful. Some REACH members opened up their homes to share ideas on how people in the Suburb can reduce energy loss in their homes.
35. Last summer, an air quality monitor was installed, at the junction of Hamstead Way / Meadway, which shows that the air quality in the HGS is mediocre. This is partly due to the general air quality in London; also the Suburb is very close to the North Circular/A1, and motorists take short cuts through the Suburb.
36. Electric Vehicle and Bicycle Show on 14th April 2024 in St Jude's car park: local residents with electric cars and bikes will bring their vehicles and answer any questions people may have. All residents who are thinking about buying an electric car are invited to come along and get their questions answered.
37. To follow on from the above, on 18th April REACH will host an evening of talks by knowledgeable speakers who will go more in-depth about which car to buy, how to buy a car cheaply, where to charge your car and so on.

Questions from members:

38. Concern was expressed about parking by non-residents and there was a request to make all of HGS a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). Cllr Rohit Grover explained that in the past, it was possible to extend the CPZ street by street basis, which was quite an expensive exercise; each time they did this it required 2 consultations (Informal plus Statutory), which was quite a lengthy process – also the process was not very effective. Barnet Council now had a new policy – to increase the CPZ they will consult all residents. In 2020-2021 there was a consultation with the south side residents; 25% of the residents responded, but this process did not produce a favourable outcome. Since this outcome Cllr Grover has taken further action including requesting flexibility within this policy.
He said that this issue is constantly under review and that, within the next 2-3 years, the Council will likely be reviewing the issue again.
39. A member enquired: (1) are inner parts of Barnet in a worse situation than the outer part of Barnet, and (2) has Barnet Council tried to do anything about this? Cllr Grover said that the current Council has a particular focus on the environmental agenda and are active in this area. With regard to the idea that was suggested to close off particular roads, a number of the roads (A1; A406) that surround the Suburb are the responsibility of the Transport for London (TFL). Cllr Grover said he had been trying to liaise with TFL since his election in 2015 to get them to engage with these types of issues. He suggested members contact the London Assembly member for Barnet and Camden who is the interface with TFL.
40. A member asked about like-for-like replacement of paving stones. Cllr Grover said that because HGS is a conservation area, there is an agreement that replacing paving stones in this area should indeed be like-for-like and should not be replaced with tarmac; but such replacement is very expensive and also not viable where there are tree or hedge roots. Where an issue is reported, and it's a danger to the public, Barnet Council's priority is just to make the area safe. One particular area that the Council has been working on is making safe the areas around tree roots, which cause paving stones to become uneven, by the use of a light rubberised material which is more attractive than tarmac.
41. A member asked about overgrown hedges. Cllr Grover replied he will ask the Council to write to the owners of properties with overgrown hedges and request that they cut their hedges back to the boundary of their garden. He will work with the RA volunteer responsible for reporting problem hedges and pavements and follow up with the Barnet Council. Residents should send through details and photos where they have concerns.

Biodiversity: Britain's Biggest Living Garden Project

42. Dominic Rose spoke about his 'Britain's Biggest Living Garden Project' – wildlife, gardening and biodiversity in HGS. It aims to make Hampstead Garden Suburb a national flagship of how biodiversity can be encouraged and nurtured in an urban environment through the participation of the wider community, building on the founding legacy and ambition of Dame Henrietta Barnett. The high concentration of gardens, connected by what is possibly the highest density of hedging in the UK, makes the suburb uniquely positioned to show how small steps by local residents can make a huge difference to urban biodiversity.
43. The project has support of many local bodies including the RA, HGS Trust, St Jude's Church, Horticultural Society, Friends of Big Wood and others and is hoping to develop a wildlife community garden within the grounds of St Jude's in Central Square with biodiversity there and across the wider Suburb being regularly measured under expert guidance. Website: www.britainsbiggestlivinggarden.org

Volunteering

44. There are opportunities to assist the various RA committees, and residents are invited to come join in making a difference to our Suburb. For further information -

Email: enquiries@hgsra.uk

Phone: 020 3488 9131

Election Results

45. The Chair announced that all candidates had been successful in the ballot and she closed the meeting with thanks to all attending.
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