Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4th November 2008 at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David B Lewis in the Chair John Boulter (Hon Treasurer), Simon Abbott, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Dave Brown, Alan Brudney, Carol Boulter, Janet Elliott, Derek Epstein, Nicole Gerber, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), David Lewis (Vice-Chairman), David Littaur, Steve Morris, Selwyn Nakan, Max Petersen, Richard Kemp, Judith Samson, Gary Shaw, Richard Wakefield

Visitors: Derek Epstein, Joyce Littaur, Judith Brockhurst, Tony McGuire, Jonathan and Jennye Seres, Howard Spier, Rafael Papadopoulos

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1	Apologies for Absence	
	Douglas Blausten, Colin Gregory, Eva Jacobs, Rosalind Josephs, Leonie Stephen, Alan Walker.	
2	Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting 7th October	
3	Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda	
	Meeting held by Michael Freer held in the Free Church Hall	
	Alan Brudney reported that the new recycling bins will be introduced in November for recycling plastic and cardboard.	
	Richard Wakefield was very concerned that blue bins may be left on driveways and outside houses in addition to the black, and green recycling bins. These look unsightly and when they were first introduced residents were asked to remove them after collection. Consam will look into this.	DE
	Parking Notices	
	Richard Wakefield proposed and Simon Abbott seconded the Motion that the RA Council should make £136 available for printing the parking notices. This was passed Nem. Con.	
	Public Notice Boards	
	Simon Abbott said that the money that had been requested from the RA was a low figure and he may need to come back to Council for additional funding if this is necessary. Regarding the four new notice boards, Events Committee will be meeting next week. They are awaiting more information and also to hear the basis on which the RA are taking over these notice boards.	DLt
	New years Eve	
	Dave Brown will be meeting with Fantastic Fireworks to finalise arrangements	DB

General Development Order

Derek Epstein has been talking to LB Barnet's planning department to ascertain the implication of this for the Suburb. It is now looking into the position on whether the Article 4 Direction needs to be amended regarding paving front gardens and decking.

Volunteers Party

Dave Brown asked for volunteers to help on 15th November.

4 Henrietta Barnett School

The Chairman told Council that the architects had contacted Consam and shown them the plans in April and said that more detailed plans would be provided. This was not carried out until July when not all Consam members were able to attend. His recollection is that these plans did not give details of the fenestration. In his opinion these circumstances justified the resolution passed by Council in September despite the reply from Barnet that full consultation had taken place.

Jonathan Seres told council about the campaign he had started. He only heard about the proposals from the Ham and High on 18th September. He lives 300m from the School and was not consulted. Because of time restraints he saw the plans at the Trust Office on 19th September and also met with Oliver Blond on 19th and spoke to him again on 22nd September to enable him to make his objection.

He said that If HB School gave an undertaking to substitute vertical proportions for the fenestration he would withdraw his objection.

Oliver Blond had told him that he would like to take into account the views of the residents regarding the bricks and the window. A further meeting is awaited with the architects and Oliver Blond. The Chairman of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee who is an architect had written to the Trust regarding the plans, in his personal capacity.

The Trust Council had said it does not consider that its role is to foster a dialogue. Jonathan Seres had shown the plans to seven architects. He is unhappy with the windows which he considers an inappropriate shape for the site and area. All of the buildings in Central Square including the School, the Vicarage and the Manse have vertical windows.

He considers that the facing bricks should be grey with red bricks on the corners which feature on every building on Central Square.

Carol Boulter said that the CAAC had been presented with

'half baked' plans which had to be rushed through to obtain the grant and they were told that everything that the CAAC had objected to had been approved by Consam. They were told that approval of the plans would be conditional.

JS said that LB Barnet cannot hold up the consent for a revised application and it cannot demand vertical windows. The Chairman said that he had attended a meeting of Consam on 29 July which did not show details of the windows as shown in the current drawings. If he had seen these he would have objected. Consam had not been told the dates and the timetable for obtaining planning consent which took place during the month of August.

A planning Officer had given a list of organisations that had been consulted before LB Barnet had given its consent but it was suggested that some or all of these organisations had not seen details of the windows.

Carol Boulter was amazed that this had come to Council via Jonathan Seres and she considered that it was one of the worst examples of the lack of consultation. The RA should support Jonathan Seres and other residents and make a stand. She thought that the plans made the School look like a local authority building.

Max Petersen and Alan Brudney supported Carol Boulter. It was suggested that the RA write to Oliver Blond with the views of the RA and ask him to take up these issues with the architects. Terry Brooks said that we should remind LB Barnet that we expect the School to be treated in the same way as residents in a planning application with the same restrictions. Simon Abbott suggested that we send a deputation to see Oliver Blond.

Max Petersen proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Carol Boulter

"The RA Council is delighted that The Henrietta Barnett School has received planning permission and government funding for the long-awaited and much needed improvement and extension of the School's premises. The RA's Conservation and Amenities Committee is pleased to have supported the proposal in principle in order that that outcome could be achieved. While Council welcomes the appointment of Hopkins Architects and endorses the general form of the proposed development, it has serious reservations about details of the submitted design, particularly the fenestration and the colour of bricks and urges the School and its architects to consider designs and materials in closer sympathy with the existing buildings. The Council supports a vertical theme for the windows, and grey and red bricks."

This was passed Nem Con.

5 Question Time

Mr Raphael Papadopoulos expressed his concern at the cost of the Trust management charge which had increased from £2 a year to the projected figure for next year of £110 and at the lack of control over these increases. He wanted a graduated charge connected to the size of the house.

The Chairman said that it is the RA's policy that a ballot of residents should be undertaken by the Trust to seek their views on the graduated charge. Residents can become members of the Trust Company and they have the power to elect half of the Trust Council

Simon Abbott said that when the Suburb was set up rents were less in certain parts therefore the concept of graduation had already been introduced. Perhaps the RA could conduct its own ballot on this subject.

Richard Wakefield said that the Trustees of the Trust Council have to be neutral although they all agree with the idea of a graduated charge. The total sum of the management charge would not be affected. This process could move ahead if there were a petition of at least 1,200 freeholders.

Steve Morris said that that the Land Tribunal decision is posted on the web site.

6 Report by Consam/Roads and Traffic

Street Clutter

Derek Epstein told the Council about the months of frustration and lack of cooperation from LB of Barnet officers and endless delays in his efforts to progress this matter. He talked about the failure of the Suburb Councillors to intervene and give their support.

Gary Shaw said that the Councillors are representatives of the residents and pointed out that the three Suburb Councillors' received salaries of £100,000 a year between them. If we do not take action he considered that in ten years the Suburb will be unrecognisable and we have no Councillors who stand up for us.

He pointed out that a number of residents who had placed for sale notices in their own cars had received parking tickets. Residents in Willifield Way had been ticketed for parking on pavement which has been the practise in this road for many years to stop passing traffic damaging the sides of parked cars and wing mirrors.

Cllr Harper, who is now Cabinet Member in charge of the Highways Department, has refused to intervene in these

matters where common sense should prevail.

Gary Shaw suggested that it may now be the right time to revisit the suggestion that we put forward our own candidate to become a local Councillor.

Carol Boulter said that a potent weapon open to the RA is bad publicity and perhaps we should write to the Ham and High and even Private Eye.

The Chairman told Council that LB Barnet are insisting that some 30 bus stop notices on the Suburb, previously attached to lamp posts are now removed and fixed to new poles next to the existing lamp post.

Richard Wakefield thought that the RA should be careful not to upset LB Barnet and that these matters should be resolved by dialogue and more frequent meeting when these issues could be addressed. The Chairman replied that this method had been tried for over a year in 2007 and achieved no improvement in cooperation.

Gary Shaw proposed and Terry Brooks seconded a Motion that

"The Residents Association Council deplores the continuing uncooperative behaviour of the London Borough of Barnet Highways Department in connections with conservation and other issues on the suburb and deplores the refusal of Cllr Andrew Harper to take control of the situation in the interests of efficiency and in the best interests of his constituents"

This was passed Nem Con

7 | Approval of advert to Horticultural Society

The RA had been asked to place an advertisement in the Horticultural Society's Centenary programme. The Chairman proposed that £100 is made available for this advertisement and this was seconded by Dave Brown and passed unanimously.

The Horticultural Society had also asked the RA to make a grant of £1,000 for the upkeep of the flower bed in Willifield Green.

Council agreed that it should be asked to complete the usual application form which John Boulter will send.

The Trees and Open Spaces Committee was asked to consider the proposed design and to report back to the December Meeting as to whether the design would be appropriate and also whether the amount requested was reasonable.

JΒ

8 Administrative Matters

	Update on Tax Status	
	The Secretary had been asked to report on this.	BR
	Move to a Limited Company	
	Derek Chandler had resigned from this committee. The draft Memorandum and Articles had been sent to Colin Gregory and Peter Beesley for their comments. The Chairman will send a reminder to Peter Beesley.	DBL
	Simon Abbott said that this should now be dealt with and perhaps the RA may have to pay for a lawyer to progress this. Gary Shaw was also concerned that these matters need to be settled.	
	Benefactors Board	
	Publications Committee was asked to design a board and get it costed. Permission has already been obtained to place the board in Fellowship House.	ТВ
9	Proms at St Judes	
	The Chairman told the Council that he had received a	

The Chairman told the Council that he had received a brochure form the Proms Committee where Sponsorship for the day time concerts had been offered at a cost of £1,500. The Chairman had suggested that the RA sponsor these concerts but the Proms Committee proposed that the RA take silver sponsorship at a cost of £2,750.

David Littaur, who is on the Proms Committee, at the request of the Chairman explained that this extra amount would ensure that the RA had its name on the programme, that it would have a free advertisement and that its name is printed on the leaflets.

The Chairman explained that it is more appropriate for the RA to support the day time concerts as many Suburb residents attend these, including local school children and the concerts are free. The evening concerts attract audiences from outside the Suburb. He thought that the RA should be supporting local charities.

Max Petersen considered that £2,750 was too much money and it was not the RA's objective to fund this. He would prefer to see money given to fund local organisations. The scale of the proposed amount relating to income of the RA is disproportionate, particularly with the recession.

Steve Morris supported the lunchtime concerts but thought that we should look at the extra £1,250 to see whether it maximises publicity for the RA. Richard Kemp thought that we should seriously look at other alternatives to spend this amount for example to put on lectures on the Suburb.

Richard Wakefield said that we should be very proud of the

	Drama which are a fontactic achievement	
	Proms which are a fantastic achievement.	
	Richard Kemp thought that as the Proms are now firmly established we should seriously now look at supporting alternatives for other times of the year and cater for those with other interests	
	The Chairman queried whether Council members who are involved with the Proms and serve on its organising committee should vote. Simon Abbott said that under the RA's Standing Orders they can vote providing that they derive no financial interest. He said if the RA supports the concerts it does not mean that we are directly supporting the charities that benefit.	
	The Chairman proposed that we agree to support the lunch time concerts at a cost of £1,500 and discuss a further donation at the next Council meeting.	
	Terry Brooks proposed and Richard Wakefield seconded a Motion that £2,750 is made available for the HGS RA to become a silver supporter for the lunchtime concerts at the Proms at St Jude's.	
	This was passed by 11 votes in favour and 4 against.	
10	Discussion regarding the possible loss of £27 million in Icelandic Banks by LB Barnet	
	This was deferred until the next Meeting.	
11	Any Other Urgent Business	
	Future Officers for the RA	
	The Chairman told the Council that he, the Vice-chairman and the Secretary will be resigning at the AGM. Council members should urgently consider who could take over these roles.	
	Fireworks Insurance	
	David Littaur needs to provide evidence of insurance for the fireworks. The Council authorised the Treasurer to pay the necessary premium for this insurance.	JB
12	To confirm the date of the Next Meeting on Tuesday 2 December at 8.00pm at Fellowship House	
	This was confirmed .	