# Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 September 2009 at Fellowship House at 8.00pm

Present: David Lewis, in the Chair

Simon Abbott, Douglas Blausten, John Boulter, Carol Boulter, Tony Brand, Charles Gale, Terry Brooks, Bridget Cox, Rosemary Goldstein (Secretary to the Council), Eva Jacobs, David Littaur, Richard Kemp, Tony McGuire, Max Petersen, Selwyn Nakan, Judith Samson, Gary Shaw, Ian Tutton, Richard Wakefield and Alan Walker

Visitors: Derek Epstein, Tony Ghilchik, Sally Lewis, Joyce Littaur and Léonie Stephen

1	Apologies for Absence Alan Brudney, Janet Elliott, Colin Gregory, Rosalind Josephs, Will Sowerbutts, and. Richard Wiseman	
2	Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 7July 2009	
3	Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda	
	Conversion of RA to a Company Limited by Guarantee Janet Elliott is still working on this and hopes to prepare a paper for the November Council meeting.	JE
	Consam/Roads & Traffic	
	Supermarket Display in Market Place Rudy Vis had replied and said that LB Barnet will not take any further action on this.	
	Pavements Derek Epstein had taken up the replacement of paving stones with black bitumen with LB Barnet. It had been agreed that the Highways Inspector will walk round the Suburb with Derek Epstein on his return from holiday and Council members should let him know about any other items that need attention. He will show The Highways Inspector he missing York stone on the pathway between Central Square and Willifield Way. Carol Boulter said that the missing tiles at Sunshine Corner are a 'disgrace' as this is the main entrance to the Heath. The Trust have said that they do not have the funds at present to carry out this work but Richard Wakefield said that there is a gradual programme and everything cannot be done at the same time	ALL

#### Parkview Café

Derek Epstein had taken this up with the planning officer at LB Barnet, Karina Sissman, but she said that this is a private forecourt and in any event LB Barnet are not prepared to take enforcement action as it is not in sufficiently bad repair.

## **Graduated Management Charge**

The letter/questionnaire with the demand for management charge will be posted on 2<sup>nd</sup> September by the HGS Trust.

## Membership

A further mail shot will be sent out at the end of the month.

# 4 Council Membership

David Lewis proposed a Motion which was seconded by Eva Jacobs that Tony Ghilchik be elected to the RA Council. This was passed unanimously.

David Lewis also informed the Council that Dave Brown had submitted his resignation due to pressure of work. David Littaur confirmed that Dave Brown had agreed to remain on the Events Committee. Thanks were expressed to Dave Brown for his valuable contribution, especially during the Centenary Year and good luck wished to him in further developing his career.

# 5 Question Time

There were no questions.

## 6 Finance

Expenditure agreed by the EC and not previously reported to Council

#### Open House

LB Barnet would not agree to pay £3500 plus vat to support the scheme this year so no Barnet venues are included in the booklet. Open House subsequently agreed to include the Suburb buildings and the guided walks on their web site for which they will charge £400. The Trust had agreed to pay £200 and the RA agreed to pay the other half.

#### Tax Advice

Selwyn Nakan reported that the RA agreed some time ago that there was a need to have professional tax advice on their tax responsibilities. Kingston Smith had originally agreed to charge £500 plus vat but having reviewed the accounts they have said that they would charge £1200-£1500 plus vat to identify what the RA's tax liability is. An auditor will be required to prepare the tax return.

Selwyn Nakan said that the RA has an obligation to file a tax return although at this stage it is uncertain whether the RA will have to pay tax.

Terry Brooks proposed a motion that the RA spend up to £1500 plus vat to obtain professional tax advice. This was seconded by Gary Shaw and passed Nem Con.

# **Centenary Fund Account**

John Boulter had circulated a paper showing the receipts and payments for the RA's Centenary. He said that there are some items which are not resolved. There is nothing to stop the insertion of a special designated fund in the RA's balance sheet. He calculated that there would be approximately £25,000 to spend on Centenary items.

Richard Wakefield queried why the donation to St Jude's Proms had come out of the Centenary Fund and John Boulter quoted from the 'Be part of it' leaflet which included the Proms in the RA's Centenary activities.

Simon Abbott said that there should be terms of reference for this Fund and that there are overpowering reasons to have a designated account.

Eva Jacobs said that as a matter of good faith that we should have a Fund ring fenced and used in a different way from other RA money.

Carol Boulter quoted from the leaflet which said that the money is 'to be spent on improving the Suburb e.g. removal of signposts, more street trees and water supply for the allotments'.

The EC agreed to discuss this further.

#### Six Month Review

John Boulter said that the best way to approach this is to review in advance the differences compared to last year's accounts. He thought that the income and expenditure account will show a deficit of approx £4000. Last year it showed a surplus of £2,200 The RA's reserves are approx £30,000.

# 7 Graduated Management Charge

David Lewis said that the RA is waiting to ascertain residents' views.

# 8 Oral or Written reports from RA Committees

## Roads and Traffic

## Willifield Way Consultation

Gary Shaw had emailed Council members a copy of a letter from Cllr Harper in response to requests from Willifield Way residents to deal with the traffic problems. Cllr Harper had listed certain options and asked residents for their views. All the five options

would have aesthetic implications. GS also circulated a photograph of the yellow speed camera which was one of the options.

GS said that this had arisen because the long established system where residents parked partially on the pavement had been stopped after parking tickets were issued.

Richard Kemp had heard that some residents are concerned at the perceived lack of help from the RA and we should try to work with them.

Gary Shaw said that there are relatively few accidents and that the Suburb is a safe area.

Douglas Blausten thought that it should be applauded that Cllr Harper is interested and has put forward these suggestions. Bridget Cox wondered whether there are lessons to be learnt from the Asmuns Place scheme.

Carol Boulter suggested contacting the Willifield Way residents and organising a meeting.

Selwyn Nakan supported the idea of encouraging communication between residents.

Gary Shaw will ask Cllr Harper to let us know the responses he receives.

Eva Jacobs said that the RA should stand back and consider the policy we wish to adopt.

Richard Wakefield suggested following up Cllr Harper's letter with a letter from the RA pointing out the pros and cons of each proposal.

## Community Centre and Museum Group

Derek Epstein told the Council that the Free Church elders had considered the proposals and they are happy to explore them further. The next step is to prepare a business plan and this will have to come to the RA who will have to decide whether to back the scheme.

Carol Boulter said that the major part of Fellowship's income is from lettings and the rest is from voluntary contributions collected by the RA. She did not consider that there was a need for a Community Centre.

lan Tutton said that all the owners of the buildings which are included in the proposals have been letting their premises for many years and there is enough business for all of them to be well used. There would be cooperation between the various sites and together they would form a Community Centre. He was keen that all the parties should continue talking to each other.

Derek Epstein said there had been a suggestion that there could be training in the use of arts and crafts techniques.

Simon Abbott said that we should all collaborate so that we can get the maximum benefit. HGS is a world wide recognised Suburb and an additional educational resource is worth exploring.

9	Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals and Character Study David Davidson said that all four proposals had been incorporated into the draft document which the HGS Trust had been asked to prepare by LB Barnet.  Planning Application for Hardstandings at 8 & 10 Rotherwick Rd. Derek Epstein reported there had been a number of hardstandings in Rotherwick Rd. where consent had mainly been given before 1990 but others had been created afterwards without permission. DE said that hardstandings remove shared parking space and inconvenience people and the Design Guidelines say that hardstandings should not allow cars to be parked in front of windows. DE then went on to say approval had been given to 27 Rotherwick Road in 2007 but at the time members of Consam were divided over whether consent should have been given. The two Consam members sitting on the PPC at the time gave their approval and he thought Alan Jacobs would vote in favour again and he didn't think this was an ideal situation. The question of representation needs to be discussed but meanwhile Consam will continue to make its own decisions. DL said he was surprised that DE knew how AJ would vote as surely he could only make up his mind after hearing what the PPC had to say (DL could not be at this meeting and another Consam member took his place.) Douglas Blausten said that when he was Chairman of Consam it was the policy then to turn down all hardstandings applications. Carol Boulter said that 8 & 10 Rotherwick Rd are sited at the entrance to the Suburb and these two houses are grade 2 listed buildings and would set a precedent.  Max Petersen said that if the council is to consider a question of representation it would need to received a detailed paper setting out the arguments for and against. DE said that the HGS Trust are quite vigorous in turning down applications for hardstandings.  Executive Committee- to receive the draft Minutes dated 20 July 2009	
	RA Presence at Proms Terry Brooks is bringing this matter to the Publications Committee.	ТВ
10	Any Other Business  Laminated Posters Richard Kemp said that the Horticultural Society is concerned that laminated posters which are now required, are not 'green'	

	and cannot be recycled. They also take time and cost money to produce.  Simon Abbott was sorry that this was not raised earlier when he consulted various organisations. David Lewis said that the Hospice cannot afford to laminate posters. When it rains unlaminated posters go limp and Richard Wakefield considered that they are a bad advertisement for the Suburb. Simon Abbott will prepare a paper for discussion at the next meeting.  Radio 4 Gary Shaw had heard that there may be an item on LB Barnet on Wednesday 3 September on 'You and Yours'.  David Littaur proposed a vote of thanks to David Lewis for chairing the meeting.	SA
11	To note the next RA Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, 6 October at 8pm at Fellowship House Noted	