



**Minutes of a meeting of the RA Council held on
Tuesday 24 September 2019, at Fellowship House, 136A Willifield Way at 8pm**

Present: Emma Howard - in the Chair, Tony Brand, Terry Brooks, Adrian Hodgson, Helen Leiser, Peter McCluskie, Steve Morris, Simon Sackman, Harry Simmonds, Ann Spencer and Rosemary Goldstein (Asst Secretary to the Council)
Tony Ghilchik and Tony Brand attended for the later part of the Meeting

Visitors: Brian Ingram and Christina Brownson

- Council welcomed Christina Brownson who may be taking on the role of Administrator for the RA

(A risk assessment was carried out in accordance with the agreed format)

1. Note apologies and absences

Alan Brudney, Colin Gregory and Jeremy Hershkorn

2. Question Time for residents who are not members of Council

There were none

3. Approve as accurate the minutes of Council meeting held on 2nd July 2019

These were approved

4. Note draft minutes of EC meeting held on 19th September 2019

These were noted.

5. Northway Gardens Organisation: grant applications

5.1 On the 18th October the Mayor of Barnet will be visiting Fletcher's Gardens and Northway Gardens. There will be an article in the next eNews. **Action Peter M**

5.3 Applications for grants had been made by Northway Gardens Organisation for £925, £550, £400 for work to Fletcher's Gardens for preparing the site for planting, removing the cut branches and trees and cutting back and removing hedges at the boundary of Northway and Kingsley Way. In addition NGO had applied for £1100 for the purchase of materials for the Rose Garden in 2020 which is one third of the total cost. Copies of these applications, together with the recommendation of the T&OS Committee, had been circulated to Council.

5.4 Brian Ingram gave a short presentation to the Council which was followed by questions from Council members. He appreciated what the RA has contributed but

there are few funding options for these open spaces and this project plays a part in the preservation of the Suburb.

5.5 There was concern by some Council members as to whether the hedges should be cut by LB Barnet but they are very overgrown and LB Barnet does not seem to have a budget for this work. Once the management plan is in place it will be clearer how the responsibilities are allocated.

5.6 Council went into closed session to discuss this and decided to write to NGO in the following terms:

(1) In respect of the Rose Garden work for 2020, one-third of the projected expenditure but subject to the previously notified cap of £1000. As in previous years, one half of this amount will be paid upfront, in January 2020, and the other half upon production of receipts/invoices.

(2) In respect of the three applications relating to Fletcher's: a contribution of £500 subject to the production of receipts/invoices (bringing the total grant for Fletcher's to £1000 for this year).

(3) The RA will be prepared to consider further grant applications for work in the Adopt a Place area, outside the Rose Garden, once a Management Plan has been agreed between NGO, LB Barnet together with a representative from the RA.

6. RA Finances

6.1 The second quarter accounts to the end of June 2019 had been circulated.

6.2 Income for the Summer Fair was £1,000 less than budgeted as the weather had been not as good as the previous year and there had been less sponsorship income than in 2018. In addition a further grant of £500 had been made to the Northway Gardens Organisation which had not been budgeted for.

6.3 The next quarter will include £1,000 which was paid to the RA for a film crew to locate on the Suburb.

6.4 The Hon Treasurer envisaged that the RA would break even at the end of the year.

7. Open House London

7.1 Volunteers are required to lead a walk around the artisans' quarter of the Suburb for Open House Weekend 2020. It has been difficult for the HGS Trust to find anyone.

7.2 Helen Leiser agreed to assist next year.

8. FORAB

8.1 A proposal from FORAB had been circulated to the sixteen residents associations who are members asking for a contribution towards room hire for their meetings,

8.2 Emma Howard proposed and Steve Morris seconded a Motion

That the RA will pay £10 pa towards the cost of room hire for meetings of FORAB

This was carried unanimously.

9. Use of RA reserves and new grant form

9.1 The RA has significant reserves and the EC had discussed a policy for making charitable grants. The EC agreed that the RA need to be careful what they spend as they may have to fund items in the future which other organisations (e.g. LB Barnet) should carry out but do not have sufficient money to do so.

9.2 Funding a membership drive was suggested, but it was pointed out that there are 1400 flats many of which are rented and tenants do not have the same interest in the Suburb.

9.3 Council would like to provide some facility for teenagers but a skateboarding park was ruled out as this may attract criminal activity

9.4 Council approved the draft grant application form which had been recommended by EC and which will be included on the web site for completion. An article about grant applications will be drafted for the next Suburb News.

Action Terry B

9.5 Grant to North London Hospice

9.5.1 Cllr John Marshall carried out his last sponsored walk in aid of the North London Hospice on 21 September. He has been a local MP and Councillor for many years and very supportive of the Suburb and the RA. The EC recommended to Council that they sponsor him for the sum of £500.

9.6.2 A Motion was proposed by Emma Howard and seconded by Hella Schrader

'That £500 is given to the North London Hospice for the sponsored walk in recognition of the work that Cllr John Marshall has carried out for the RA and the Suburb over many years'

This was carried unanimously. Emma will speak to John Marshall to give him the good news and send him the cheque.

Action Emma H

9.6 Grant to Free Church

9.6.1 The Free Church requires money to carry out repairs to its roof and windows although no formal grant application had been made.

9.6.2 Council noted the work that the Revd Dr Ian Tutton does for the community including hall hire at modest rates; refreshments for parents of girls sitting the HBS exam, concerts, and a homeless winter night shelter project.

A Motion was proposed by Emma Howard and seconded by Terry Brooks

'That the RA makes a grant to the Free Church of £1500 in recognition of all the work which the Revd Dr Ian Tutton carries out for the HGS community'

This was carried unanimously

Action Emma H

11. Suburb News/Directory

11.1 Two Suburb residents have volunteered to co- edit Suburb News when Terry Brooks retires at the end of the year. They have both co-edited before and will work with Terry Brooks on the next issue of Suburb News as a practice run and to decide who does what.

11.2 Terry Brooks will continue taking photos and prepare reports of open meetings and the AGM, as a non-committee volunteer.

11.4 A volunteer is required to take over the Suburb Directory and collate the changes, in March 2020.

12. Litter initiative

12.1 There are now some 70 litter pickers and a group litter event will be held in Lyttelton Playing Fields on 20 October at 11.00am

12.2 Volunteers will be issued with grabbers which had been supplied by LB Barnet and there will be small grabbers for children.

12.3 The Gaya Café in the Lyttelton Playing Fields have agreed to provide free drinks

12.4 Emma Howard will prepare an article for the next edition of Suburb News and this event will be advertised in the next eNews. **Action Emma H/Peter M**

12.5 The local Guides have expressed interest in helping

13. Events

13.1 Halloween

13.1.1 This will be held at Fellowship House on Saturday 26th October

13.1.2 The Guides had said that they wish to be involved

13.1.3 The event will be slightly over budget. There will be an entertainer, arts and crafts and a face painter but it was hoped that the event would encourage new members as it had been decided to make it an event that was free for members to attend **Action Hella S**

13.2 New Years' Eve

13.2.1 Platinum Fireworks have been paid and the appropriate application to LB Barnet has been made

13.2.2 A volunteer co-ordinator is required together from the Events Committee together with more volunteers to manage the party in St Jude's, the bucket collection and the stewards. This will be discussed at the meeting of the Events Committee on 9th October **Action Hella S**

14. HB School: examination day traffic management

14.1 Approx 2,950 girls and their families attended the School to sit the entrance examination. HBS management team had met with Emma and Adrian of the RA and representatives from LB Barnet to try to minimise disruption this year and some improvement was noted. Roads were coned with appropriate signage by LBB who had also supplied a traffic enforcement officer to seek to keep traffic flowing. There was some improvement with traffic management on previous years. Emma had met the HBS Head teacher earlier to discuss possible improvements for 2020.

14.2 Although the head teacher had told parents not to drive to the School many did and there was chaos on Northway and some bad behaviour. Next year there should be cones along the whole of one side of Northway and more traffic enforcement staff.

14.3 It has been suggested that the entrance examinations are held elsewhere but the School has said that it cannot afford this

14.4 Revd Dr Ian Tutton had organised free refreshments and toilet facilities for families of those sitting the exam in the Free Church.

15. New website

15.1 Steve Morris demonstrated the new web site he had created to Council. He said that he has tried to keep it simple and user friendly and he asked Council for their feedback before the views of RA volunteers are sought

15.2 Council expressed their thanks to Steve Morris for the huge amount of work involved with this

15.4 The web site will be accessible to everyone but will have 'members only' sections e.g. the Master Tradesperson List

15.5 Steve Morris is looking into 'GoCardless' which is similar to Pay Pal but cheaper and it would be able to deal with Direct Debit payments

15.6 Nominated people will be able to update the web site **Action Steve M**

16. Any other business

HBS Film

The film The Boy who harnessed the Wind followed by a Q and A session with the executive producer, Joe Oppenheimer, will be shown on October 10 at HBS School at 6.30pm and tickets are available for sale. This will be advertised in the next eNews. **Action Peter M**

17. Next scheduled meeting of Council: *Tuesday, 3 December 2019 at 8pm in Fellowship House.*

Confirmed.