



## RA COUNCIL

### Minutes of the RA Council Meeting Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at 8pm via Zoom video-conferencing

**Present:** Emma Howard (Chair), Peter McCluskie (Hon Secretary), Steve Morris (Hon Treasurer), Adrian Hodgson, Steven Rowe, Helena Benes, Colin Gregory, Gren Manuel, Judy Smith, Jonathan Waxman, Lynda Cook, Shelly-Anne Salisbury, Shazia Riaz Ahmad and Revd Emily Kolltveit.

#### **APOLOGIES, ABSENCES, AND NEW MEMBER**

1. Apologies were received from Maria Schlatter.
2. The Council welcomed Revd Emily Kolltveit. She was proposed for membership of Council by Emma Howard and seconded by Peter McCluskie. Council voted unanimously in favour of her appointment.

#### **RA FINANCES (incl 2024 budget), MEMBERSHIP**

3. **Finances:**  
The end-of-year accounts had been circulated to Council and the Treasurer ran through the expenditure. The total expenditure for the year, as at the end of 2023, is £41,431, showing a surplus of £357 (reserves £78,905).
4. The year ended with 1,718 members which was down by 68 in comparison to the year before. However net membership income had increased by £1,800 because of a reduction in reminding and its associated postal costs.
5. Publications net income was up by £2,000 in comparison to the previous year, due to advertising.
6. **2024 Budget**  
Council reviewed the proposed budget for 2024 and increased the REACH budget to £2,000. Council agreed to the 2024 budget of £42,000 (income and expenditure) and no net surplus or deficit as proposed.
7. **Membership**  
Council discussed different ways in reaching out and involving the community, with a particular focus on those live in certain blocks of flats. In view of the high postage costs, it was agreed to hand circulate membership letters.  

**Action Steve M**
8. It was suggested we consider running a poll for our members, by engaging them in contributing ideas on what they would like to see in the Suburb.
9. It was suggested that, to widen the community reach, Council considers circulating new member leaflets via the local libraries.

## GRANTS AND DONATIONS

### 10. Brookland Infant and Nursery School Grant Application

In December 2023, through an electronic vote, Council unanimously agreed to fund the grant application from the Brookland Infant and Nursery School, to the amount of £3,137. This funding will cover 2 Bicycle racks and 3 new sheds.

### 11. Hampstead Heath Extension Playground:

It was confirmed that the play equipment was installed last week. The City of London Corporation had thanked the RA for its contribution and had also acknowledged the importance of the collaboration between the City and the HGS community.

### 12. Proms 2024 - LitFest

Council unanimously agreed to sponsor LitFest to the amount of £3000.

**Action: Emma**

## PUBLICATIONS

13. 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 was confirmed as the deadline for copy for the Suburb News 157.

14. Volunteers to assist the publication voluntary team should get in contact with the Editors.

## TREES & OPEN SPACES

15. A new volunteer would be joining the committee.

16. Work is continuing on a new section on the RA website for T&OS matters.

## REACH

### 17. Infrared Camera Loan Scheme

Council was informed that 33 people had expressed interest in using a camera; 25 had already done so. 3 new people had joined the RA as a consequence of the scheme.

### 18. Open House Event

4 Council members had opened their houses for people to see the things they have done to their homes. 25 people attended the event and each paid £10. The total of £250 has been donated to the Finchley Food Bank Hub.

### 19. Electric Mobility Show in April – Central Square, exact location TBC

Barnet are installing a new kind of charger in the Suburb. In conjunction with this installation, REACH will be hosting an Electric Mobility Show and a talk, covering in-depth discussion of the economics, charging and so on.

20. Suburb residents with an electric car will be invited to participate in the show by coming along with their electric car. Any Suburb residents interested in buying an electric car will be able to come and speak to the owners and get first hand knowledge.

### 21. Uptake of Heat Pumps

Council was updated on the uptake of Heat Pumps in the Suburb as the key to hit Net Zero. Jonathan shared his experience of using an Air Source Heat Pump in his home and is happy to show and explain how it works. The Government is giving £7,000 subsidy to homeowners interested in installing an ASHP.

## EVENTS

### 22. Hampstead Gardeen Suburb Youth Theatre

Shazia confirmed to Council, at present, she has not been able to contact neighbour regarding the set up of a Youth Theatre in the Hampstead Garden Suburb.

**Action: Colin/Shazia**

**23. New Years Eve Celebration at the Free Church:**

Council was updated on the success of the Fireworks display: perhaps the best display to date and also on very good feed back regarding the party hosted in St Jude's Church. The evening overall had been a great success.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

24. The AGM will be held on 25 March 2024, at Bigwood Hall, Henrietta Bartnett School (entrance Bigwood Road). The hall is booked and refreshments will be provided prior to the meeting. The volunteers will be confirmed in due course.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

25. Council was informed that Simon Henderson, HGS Trust CEO had offered a meeting with the RA on Monday 29 January at 2.30pm. Committee chairs were asked to notify any interest in attending

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Council meeting is for **9 April 2024 at 8pm via Zoom or in-person**