

Minutes of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum committee
6.30pm 16 June 2020. Video conference.

Present: J. Griffis (chair), D. Castle (vice-chair), A. Nicoll (communications), S. Taylor (secretary), C. Whittaker (treasurer), L. Chung, Cllr O. Cooper, Cllr M. Higson, O. Froment, M. Gold, V. Harding, A. Haslam-Jones, G. Robinson, N. Sinclair, Cllr S. Stark, G. Wingate

Attending: C. Bub, J. Knowles, S. Kon

1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 7 January 2020 were approved.

2. Committee elections

Candidates: Chair: S. Taylor; Vice-chair: A. Nicoll; Secretary (pro tem) J. Griffis; Treasurer: C. Whittaker; Communications: A. Nicoll

Resolved: to vote on the entire slate.

Resolved: posts approved.

Resolved: to co-opt S. Kon as a committee member

3. Treasurer's report

The Forum has a bank account; CW and JG are signatories. The current balance of about £250 will mostly go to paying our NationBuilder subscription for the coming year (£202.68). CW is looking at other ways to raise funds.

4. Covid transport response

The Forum, working with local councillors and the Hampstead Transport Partnership, conducted a survey to gather suggestions to feed into Camden's transport response to the Covid 19 crisis. Camden has invoked powers under the Road Traffic Act, which requires only limited consultation, to implement measures to improve walking and cycling and reduce traffic volumes.

MH and CW, working with others, drafted a second survey to follow-up on suggestions raised in the first, focusing on seven "quick wins". OC and SS said the results would be useful to Camden as its own consultation was limited and less precise. The survey would end on 21 June.

JG mentioned that Bob Warnock, Heath manager, had requested to distribute the first survey analysis to its consultative committee to assist in drafting their own response to improving cycling and walking.

5. Planning

JG said that AG was continuing to update the website with our latest comments and decisions. She listed the current applications under review: 31 Willoughby Road (GR), 5B Prince Arthur Road (GR), 9 Pilgrim's Lane (GW), 3 Inverforth Close (AG), 14 Prince Arthur Road (JG) and the land next to Jack Straw's Castle. OF was following the Abacus appeal

and coordinating the Forum's response. VH continued to work on Tree Preservation Orders and drafting comments regarding tree felling and tree protection.

Outcomes: GR thanked VH for her help with 33 Willow Road, which was refused.

6. CIL

OC reported that Camden requisitioned 10% from unallocated CIL funds across the ward to help pay for Covid relief efforts. OC and SS said it was fortunate that much of Hampstead Town Ward's CIL pot was allocated, thereby exempt, and added that much of the money taken probably would be returned as unneeded for relief efforts. Funds were awarded to local projects such as the Hampstead Volunteer Corps and the Royal Free Charity.

NS suggested that funding be given to the Heath to help it absorb its increased costs due to increased use and loss of parking revenue.

7. South End Green improvements

OC discussed the possibility of closing off South End Road between the shops and the Green. JK had been researching "streeteries", closing streets to traffic across London and in Belsize Park to help encourage social distancing by providing outdoor dining space and wider pavements.

The idea of closing the slip road has been promoted for many years but the cost (£480k) up to now has been prohibitive. SS and OC said that now that extra money was available, temporary provisions could be erected much more quickly. According to JK, there were issues and hurdles such as licensing and insurance, but ways have been found to overcome these. OC said that Camden believed a solution to the 168 bus could be found, such as having the 168 go directly to the depot and not terminate at South End Green.

8. Pub project

JG said that John Graham had prepared applications for the re-nominations of the King William IV, the Holly Bush and the Duke of Hamilton as Assets of Community Value.

AOB – LC queried the status of Camden's Site Allocations Plan. OC said that many objections to the density proposed for Queen Mary's and the post office sorting office had been received by the Council, including one from the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum.

CB offered to host the next meeting on her Zoom site.

Date of next meetings: 8 September, 10 November