

AGM of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Fellowship House Club held at Fellowship House at 3.15pm November 22nd 2016

PRESENT: About 50 members. The Chairman welcomed all members present.

MINUTES: of the last meeting of 17th November 2015 were not available as the Hon. Secretary was suddenly unable to be present.

OFFICERS RE-APPOINTED FOR 2016-2017

Chairman	John Mathias
Deputy Chairman	Janet Elliott
Treasurer	Keith Ellis
Secretary	Jill Purdie
Membership Secretary	John Mathias
Booking Secretary	Elisabeth Kocen

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

He remarked that this was an eventful year as it was the first full year in our expanded premises. Our free classes available for all members were back and running and there was a vacancy in the Book Club if anyone was keen to join. 12 other classes also used our facilities.

He reported that there was serious situation at the croquet lawn as 11 lime trees had grown too big and needed to be reduced and at present the LBB had not given permission for this in spite of recommendation by our arboriculturist. At the moment the matter is being dealt with by the Treasurer and will entail some considerable expense.

He wondered if we should extend our membership beyond the boundaries of the Suburb and it was something that we may consider in the future.

He reported with sadness the deaths of the following members: Joan Hannam, Arthur Kogut, Rima Lester, Gwynneth Roberts and Rona Wood: also Tim Neal, who narrated the 1975 Suburb film that was shown recently.

The Chairman ended by thanking all those members of the Management Committee who keep things going smoothly throughout the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the year end accounts which had been independently examined by Mr Peter Blackstaffe FCA. He was pleased to report that the main income from hiring out the hall and the Eileen Whelan room was in excess of £33k as against £8,700 the previous year. The increase was partly due to the fact that this had been the first full year after completion of refurbishment. Thanks were given to Elisabeth Kocen for her management of the lettings, ably assisted by Jill Purdie and Louise Scheurer. Fellowship relied on this income to more than cover their running costs of over £1,600 per month but income was of course subject to a continued high level of letting, something FH had little control over.

We were grateful again to the Residents Association for collecting donations on our behalf which totalled £9,134 as against £19k on last year's accounts. The previous figure was in fact for an 18-month period and donations remained relatively constant from year to year. It was noted that some people donating through the RA had thought that they were paying their annual subs to Fellowship which was not the case. Subscriptions received remained consistent at a little over £8k. Other income was also on a par from the previous year.

Expenditure was lower than the previous year as all refurbishment work had been completed and paid for, whereas £17,700 had been charged to the previous year's accounts.

He was pleased to report that super-fast fibre optic broadband had been installed and that licences from Performing Rights had been obtained for playing music and films.

Our bank balances were healthy, and excess of income over expenditure was in excess of £29,000 which would allow Fellowship to help further with donations to other suitable local charities.

A sum of £10,000 had been allocated to a "Sinking Fund" to cover the likely cost of tree felling around the bowling (croquet) green. The Treasurer updated the meeting on the progress with obtaining permission from the LBB to fell the trees. The Trust had recommended a 50% reduction in height and thinning out of the 18 lime trees that were subject to a preservation order. LBB had refused this application outright and the Treasurer was pursuing an amended application.

After questions, the Treasurer closed by thanking Mr Peter Blackstaffe for his help in auditing the books and preparing a draft balance sheet.

AOB – MEMBERS QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

1. A member asked the Treasurer how much pressure was being put on LBB to rescind their refusal to allow us to reduce the size of the trees around the croquet lawn. The Treasurer replied that this was an ongoing discussion.
2. Marjorie Harris asked if the Tree Surgeon who recommend the reduction in size of the trees was Mr Anthony George. The Treasurer answered 'Yes'.
3. Micky Watkins asked if there was anyone interested in a class of Country Dancing. About 6 people were but that did not appear to be enough for a class to be started.
4. Andrew Botterill suggested that Fellowship might be interested in financially supporting the Autumn Sunday afternoon Chamber Concerts as this was very much a Suburb activity. The Chairman replied that this could be discussed at the next Management Committee.