

Haringey Leaseholders' Association Minutes

Committee meeting on Friday 3 October 2008, 7pm at the Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green, N22

Present: Sue Brown, Nick Martin-Clarke, Scott Russell, Selim Buyukdogan, Emeka Ekeowa, Rita Batzias, Catrina Zahoor, Delsie Grandson, Russell Chater
Apologies were received from: Anne Crellin and Chris Graham

1. Introduction and Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting are to be agreed at the next meeting, as they were not yet available. It was also noted that the minutes from March and April were still to be formally agreed.

2. Finances

Current financial position: Selim reported that he was still receiving bank statements and that he was in the process of tracking the standing orders being paid. It was noted, however, that there had been some confusion around the standing orders, and Selim was checking the system as accurately as possible.

Action: The current temporary treasurer, XXXX, is to start receiving the standing orders and is to liaise with Catrina to check that they are all in order.

It was noted that the full accounts were not fully signed off at the AGM meeting on 17 September, but the accounts were now almost ready to be sent off.

Action: Selim, Nick, Sue and possibly Malvinder to liaise and get the accounts sent off.

3. Correspondence

Sue reported that she had received a survey/questionnaire sent to third sector/charity organisations asking how much the HLA feel they are supported by Haringey Council. Sue reported that she would respond - essentially saying that if the HLA received more money, we could achieve a lot more.

Action: Sue to respond to the questionnaire

Sue reported that she had received a letter from Bruce Nicholas following the AGM on the 17 September, which had generally objected to numerous matters, including complaining about the decisions voted on at the AGM. Sue consider drafting a response.

Action: Sue to possibly send a response.

Nick also reported that he had been involved in correspondence with Nesan over the accuracy of the council's minutes. It was felt that HfH are refusing to minute certain aspects of meetings and/or refusing to accurately minute. There was various discussion over how best to deal with this issue. The possibility of taking a Dictaphone into meetings was suggested (though it was noted that it would be necessary to inform HfH if this were done). It was also noted that the Terms of Reference should be checked to ensure they are being adhered to.

Nick outlined 3 possible stances in relation to HfH's minutes:

- 1) The minutes were simply rejected
- 2) The minutes were accepted on the condition that certain things are changed/included.

3) The minutes were accepted unconditionally

It was felt that the third option was not an option. Nick indicated that he would be prepared to resign over the integrity and accuracy of the minutes, should the third option be presented as our only option. If this happened, Nick asked the Committee whether they would agree, in principle, to boycotting the Leasehold Panel. Although the committee generally felt that it would/should not come to Nick resigning, a vote was taken for those who would be prepared to boycott Panel should this happen. Six out of the nine people present voted in favour of the boycott, if necessary, and so the motion was passed.

Action: Nick to write to Nesan indicating the committee's stance in relation to the minutes. Nick to report back to the committee on any response/outcome.

4. Update on outreach

Nick reported that he had stood down as Outreach Officer and that Emeka had now taken on this role. Nick was thanked for his efforts as Outreach Officer, and Emeka was thanked for taking on the role.

Emeka reported that he had received 6 general enquiry calls so far. Emeka also reported that he was considering placing common complaints/issues on www.youtube.com, as it was very prominent in internet searching, which might mean that the complaints then become more prominent and in the public consciousness. The Committee generally felt that this was a good idea, though it was noted that any legal issues would need to be checked.

Action: Emeka to look into posting common complaints/issues on www.youtube.com

Selim put forward the idea of organising Turkish speaking meetings to ensure that the Turkish speaking leaseholders were kept informed of developments. The committee thought this was potentially a good idea. The possibility of getting the minutes translated into Turkish was also mooted. It was noted that 1 months notice was required to invite people to a meeting and that the Wood Green Civic building was open till 12noon on Saturdays and free of charge on Saturday mornings.

Action: Selim is to confirm the best date to Sue who will then book the room. However, it was noted that Saturday 1 November was a likely date.

5. AGM Feedback

The Committee considered that the AGM meeting on 17 September had been a great success, with the largest attendance ever. Nick, Sue and key members of the Committee were thanked for all their hard work around the meeting.

6. Constitution/Recognition by HfH

Sue passed around HfH equality and diversity questionnaires at the meeting, given to her by Joe Boake of the Resident Involvement team, and said it was up to Committee members whether they wish to fill them in. However, all Committee members declined to do so and handed them back to Sue.

Sue re-iterated to the Committee that the HLA had decided itself that the Constitution needed to be updated and amended and had re-written it to the Committee's satisfaction. The points which HfH had objected to had been voted on at the AGM before the new Constitution had been ratified. In view of the fact

XXXX – the name of our former Treasurer has been removed

that members had voted against his suggested amendments, Simon Godfrey was reported as having again started saying that he was not happy about the two-tier membership and that he was now considering not formally recognising us.

Action: Sue to send Simon a detailed response to his concerns. If Simon still felt he had a reason for not recognising the HLA, he would then be asked to take it to the Board and to let the HLA know when.

7. Membership Secretary

It was reported that Gideon Ball had suggested that the HLA have a Membership Secretary. All present though this was a good idea. Catrina Zahoor expressed that she was willing to undertake this role and all present were happy to vote her in.

Action: Selim, XXXX and Catrina to liaise over money/membership matters

8. Website

Action: Selim and Chris to liaise over technical aspects of the website.

9. London Leaseholders' Network report back

Chris was not present to report on this, and so it was agreed that an updated could be given at the next meeting.

10. Any other business

Rita reported that she had discovered from the council she had a substantial credit on her account . possibly in relation to when her block had a sinking fund. The issue was raised as other leaseholders might be in a similar situation and be owed money. The irony was acknowledged that in the past the council has threatened her with legal action over disputed expenses, whilst all the time they had a large sum of money that was owed to her. The issue of lost interest on the credit was also raised.

Action: Leaseholders to check that they do not have credits on their accounts, whilst the issue of lost interest is to also be looked in to.

Nick reported that he might not be able to attend the next Leasehold Panel meeting on 9 November as his wife was heavily pregnant. It was noted that Anne Goodhew might Chair,

Action: All present at the meeting were encouraged to ensure that key points are raised and minuted.

The possibility of having meeting every 2 months as opposed to every month was mooted. It was thought that this might be implemented for the next year.