

# Haringey Leaseholders' Association Committee Meeting Meeting held on Thursday 3rd of October 2013 at the Civic Centre

In attendance

## **Committee:**

Sue Brown (Chair) (SB)  
Rita Batzias (RB)  
Nick Martin-Clark (Secretary) (NMC)  
Lukie Hewat (LH)  
Philip Hettiarachi (PH)

## **Apologies:**

Kate Worley  
Tome Moniz  
Raksha Thakore  
Anne Gibson

The meeting was opened by Sue Brown at 19:10

### 1) *Minutes of 8/8/13*

Matters arising (action points):

- i) SB has done a table
- ii) LH got info from Mike Beston of Hfh on what constitutes an estate
- iii) NMC will look into possibility of putting LVT judgements on website
- iv) SB has written to A K-O and the office is on the agenda for the up-coming meeting with Hfh

### 2) *Recognition*

HLA has achieved full recognition. SB explained that Joe boake had recommended conditional recognition on the grounds that the HLA had not offered AGM notices in other languages / formats. However Peter Gilbert, secretary at the time, had sent an email asking Hfh to include this offer when they sent out the notices and this had in fact actually been done what's more. So that was nonsense on the part of the RET. The RET had also got the recognition period completely wrong by saying that the HLA had requested that the period should run out at the end of the financial year. This was wrong. The HLA had insisted that the recognition period should run in accordance with the recognition criteria to a date 15 months after the last AGM on the strength of which it was applied for. Shortly prior to the board meeting A K-O had taken SB's points over the phone and agreed to them. It had been a stressful few days.

At the demonstration A K-O had come out to speak to the demonstrators. She had said that most of the meeting was going to be confidential and that it was not worth waiting for the public part of the meeting. A K-O had sent an email confirming full recognition until 20/7/14.

SB said that it had already been agreed that the RET should confer with the HLA prior to recognition reports being sent to the board but that once again the RET had failed to do this. SB said that a big complaint about Joe Boake should soon go in. The emails received from the Information Commissioner were very damning and he was still causing trouble.

### 3) *Meeting with A K-O*

The recognition system was to be discussed. There was a problem with recognition lapsing due to infrequent board meetings. HLA recognition needed to be approved at the June board meeting.

LH said that the list of outstanding business should be presented to A K-O. SB said action lists had already been sent in a table.

SB suggested adding the CAB to the action list but noted that her actuals said there was no charge for the CAB. SB said that repairs are on the action list and produced a list given to her as a key leaseholder. It was unsatisfactory. Bills were difficult for the HOT to allocate because of the poor quality of the information. SB said she, for example, was being charged for repair to a balcony / drain on another block. SB to meet with the HOT to discuss her personal situation prior to meeting with A K-O.

PH said the time taken on a job should be noted. NMC asked if bonuses were mentioned. LH said the number of workers should be noted and who they were.

LH had volunteered to be a key leaseholder but heard nothing back.

NMC said the question of sinking fund leases should be raised with A K-O.

**Action point:** SB to set up meeting with A K-O prior to General Meeting.

#### 4) *GM agenda*

SB apologised for not having LH's detailed suggestions to hand. NMC suggested asking Richard Wilson to attend as a speaker on bonuses. Maybe someone from HfH could attend to make a debate. If not the new cabinet member for housing. LH suggested asking the journalist Flora Drury.

**Action point:** SB to contact Alan Strickland

**Action point:** NMC to look into Shropshire Hall for Saturdays for the office.

On the website LH said that Bowes and Bounds Green Community Group had a very good website which included interactive features such as a discussion forum. There was also a FAQ. PH would give an update on the CESP at the GM.

**Action point:** PH to ask Vicky Ladizhinskaya for latest on CESP.

**Action point:** NMC to give deadline for contributions to newsletter

**Action point:** SB to draft a final agenda

#### 5) *Landlord leaseholder campaign*

The petition of 118 signatures of a good response of had been handed in at the demonstration. A question had also been asked to the board. The HLA has won the right to be included in an up-coming governance review. The letter received to that effect only mentioned a written submission from the HLA but A K-O had assured the demonstrators that the HLA would be allowed to send representatives to meetings.

UK Engage twice oversaw unconstitutional elections. Why were they simply re-employed?

The prejudice against landlords was discussed. At the demonstration two resident board members had expressed hostile opinions. One said "Why should someone living in China have a say in what happens in Haringey?" The HOT considers subletters to be businesses but large companies are few.

**Action point:** SB to make a FoI on the number of landlord leaseholders living in Haringey / London

NMC said the definition in the Articles of Association of HfH smacked more of muddle than principle. If there was a real attachment to principle why had they had two flawed elections? SB said the steering group had never mentioned the exclusion of subletters. NMC said that outside the Articles "leaseholder" meant everyone including subletters. NMC asked about a compromise whereby subletters could vote but not sit on the board. The committee did not back the compromise. SB wondered if the Chairs of consultation panels were now going to be restricted to owner-occupiers.

#### 6) *Updates*

##### i) Outreach

**Action point:** NMC to give SB addresses for Vincent Square

**Action point:** PH to ask VL about a leaseholder sub-group in FLAG. NMC keen for a meeting on this.

ii) Panel attendance

AG has attended the Asset Management Panel. There will be a leasehold panel on Monday.

7) *Legal case*

8) *AOB*

AG had said that the bank signatories needed updating. AG wanted cheque books and statements. NMC has some costs to reclaim. LH proposed a vote of thanks to PH for his work on the database. Accorded.

£300 renewal cost of the website done under Chair's action approved. This was felt to be too expensive however for the long term. The HLA should have a target of changing the website to a cheaper host before September 2014.