

HARINGEY LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION

**Minutes from the committee meeting on Friday, 7 December 2007
7:00 pm at the Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green, N22**

In attendance: Sue Brown (Chair); Nick Martin Clark; Sarah Rooney; Anne Crellin and Dennis & Kathleen O'Lea

Apologies: Olive Johnson, Russell Chater, Selim Buyukdogan; Emeka Ekeowa, Delsie Grandson, Janet El Shoubashi

Observing . Mr Sengupta

1. Introduction and minutes of last meeting.

SB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Unfortunately there were no minutes from the previous meeting available as the secretary had not been able to make the previous meeting and had been unable to transcribe the minutes from the recording as yet. It was reported that these would be available shortly.

Matters Arising

- Meeting with HOT (Home ownership team) to arrange
- Advert going in Home Zone . been placed.
- Decent Homes subgroup meetings . SB had sent a letter of complaint about daytime meetings to the HfH chair; no response as yet.

ACTION: SB to get dates of Panel meeting and chase up response to her letter about daytime meetings.

2. Finances

- (a) **Current financial situation** – no change from the previous meeting as there was still the problem with signatories; they could still not be changed as the previous signatories were unobtainable.

ACTION: SB to try and contact Malvinder Gill to change signatories as she may be in London at the moment.

- (b) **Signatories** – It had been decided that it was easiest to open a new account because of the pthe HLA could open a new account with HSBC; SB and SR had to sign the form and the HLA needed to pass a resolution as a committee in order to open the account. NMC proposed the motion to open the account, which was seconded by AC. All voted in favour with no objections. SB and SBu need to give NMC their passport numbers for the form and attend a local branch with their passports to confirm identity. SR and SB signed forms at meeting to confirm resolution had been passed.

ACTION: SB and SBu to give NMC passport numbers and attend local branch

- c) **Innovation into Action report and grant** –This money was being chased as it had already been spent or was owed in wages. The remaining grant should equal approx £9,000.

3. Constitution – response from Simon Godfrey (Involvement & Communications manager, HfH)

The sticking point with the proposed constitution seemed to be in two areas . membership and the chair's action. HfH were arguing that the HLA are not representative and could not say that every leaseholder in the borough was a member when most of them had not heard of them. As an association the HLA tried to be accountable to members as much as is humanly possible and had never had any complaints that they were undemocratic or separatist. The HLA feel that HfH were trying to make them look insignificant by saying that they only consider people who had paid to join as members of the association. If the HLA did do this then they would not be representative of all leaseholders as only approx 100 people gave money. The main argument is that anything, which the HLA achieves is of benefit to all leaseholders, not just paid-up members and therefore the HLA are working to benefit all leaseholders. The HLA agreed to Simon's wording on membership.

ACTION: NMC to contact Simon and advise the HLA have agreed.

4. Meeting with Home Ownership Team & content of document to go in HOT mailout in February

Design and printing of the HLA part in the mailout - SR will get prices on printing 4,500 x 2/0 A4 pages (covering letter) and 4,500 x 1/0 A4 pages (stand order form). The HLA also have contacts who are designers. SR works for a publishing

company and thinks RC is a designer by trade and could help with the mailshot. HfH have estimated £400 for printing costs which the HLA would have to agree to pay for if the HLA did not get approved or apply for funding.

ACTION: NMC will confirm this cost with HfH. SR will get competitive prices.

The HLA will be meeting on 4 January and will discuss the content of the mailout then, including the date for the annual standing order.

5. Guide to Residents

Catherine O'Reilly seemed receptive to the suggestions the HLA made and felt from her response that she had taken a lot on board, but felt that the HLA should be listed as a partner.

6. General Meeting

The HLA think early to mid March would be a good time for the GM as it would be just after people received their Guide to Residents and 2 weeks after the mailout, so there should be a good response from leaseholders.

7. Website

CG and EE were not able to make the meeting so nothing was discussed about the website.

8. Update to Outreach

NMC had obtained a map of every council-owned property in the borough and a list of smaller residents' associations.

9. Any other business

Mr Sengupta raised some questions about the section 20 notices he received but, without a copy of the letter, the HLA could not really comment. He also raised a question about the date between the end of the financial year and the date of the actual invoice for service charges. The HLA felt they could not advise on this as they could be inaccurate on the existing legal grounds and recommend he contacted a citizens' advice bureau.

SR advised she was flying back from Ireland on the day of the next meeting. AC volunteered to take the minutes (thanks Anne).