

HARINGEY LEASEHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 92 GLOUCESTER ROAD, N17, ON TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2011

Present

Sue Brown (Chair) (SB), Nick Martin-Clark (Treasurer) (NMC), Peter Gilbert (Acting Treasurer) (PG), Rita Batzias (Committee Member) (RB), Delsie Grandson (Committee Member) (DG), Lloyd Grandson (LG)

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on Friday 5 November 2010 were not available for confirmation.

Complaint to H for H about de-recognition of HLA

SB opened the meeting and outlined the detailed complaint that she was making to Homes for Haringey (H for H) following the de-recognition of HLA following the meeting of the H for H Board on 1 December 2010. She was asking H for H to withdraw the inaccuracies in the report, and advising that otherwise HLA would complain to the Local Government Ombudsman. NMC suggested that unless the Ombudsman found the process to be flawed he would uphold H for H's decision: it might be preferable to apply for recognition following the HLA AGM on Saturday 26 February and, if the application were rejected, to point out that H for H had helped Haringey Leaseholders Campaign Group (HLCG) by publicising the HLCG launch meeting on Tuesday 15 February via e-mail and to contrast H for H's treatment of the two leaseholder organisations. In the discussion on this, PG read out Joe Boake's e-mail to SB of 3 February to set out H for H's position re that action.

SB agreed that HLA should also complain about this: although such a complaint would in the first place be addressed to the H for H feedback team, it might have to be forwarded to Haringey Council's feedback team as it was essentially about Jackie Thomas and the Resident Involvement Team.

Haringey Leaseholders Campaign Group

NMC suggested that, if HLA made a gesture of reconciliation to HLCG, this might help to heal the divisions in HLA that had led to the problems of the previous 15 months. During 2010, SB had simply been exercising the Chair's powers in order to try to stop HLA Committee members from acting unconstitutionally. NMC added that the Chair's role is just to facilitate debate in accordance with constitutional procedure and to exercise a casting vote, and that the Chair has no additional power over policy issues. In that context, he wondered whether SB might consider stepping down as Chair of HLA in the hope that somebody else (other than the former Vice-Chair or Treasurer) would be elected, with the result that the unity of the leaseholder organisation in Haringey could be restored. SB said that she would not give in to them.

DG said that if HLA Committee members attended the launch meeting of HCLG they would be able to ask what the founders of HCLG and any other leaseholders attending wanted.

NMC said that his work for HLA had never been about holding office, although he and SB had both been accused of wanting to keep power. He added that if the HLA AGM was not quorate HLA would be unable to re-apply for recognition by H for H. He was not able to go on fighting . it took a huge effort and was very time-consuming, quite apart from not being what HLA was supposed to be doing. SB indicated that the only one of the others she could work with was Ian Lush: DG said that XXXX, Elena Breckova and Piers Johnson had all said that they were unable to work with SB and NMC.

SB pointed out that recognition had in fact lapsed in January 2010 and HLA had not formally applied for renewal of recognition following the AGM in September 2009.

SB said that HLA should write saying that it was not in the interests of leaseholders for there to be two representative organisations and asking for a meeting to discuss working together. PG and NMC agreed, and added that this should be in advance of the HLCG meeting on Tuesday 15 February.

DG asked what would happen if the HLCG leaders rejected the offer. NMC said that it would then be up to the leaseholders attending the HLCG launch meeting to decide who was being reasonable and whom they should support if there was any disagreement. Those who were elected would have to respect other people and work within the adopted constitution. He added that the only policy issue which had been outstanding was whether HLA should apply for a grant which would enable it to set up an advice centre and help local leaseholder groups to establish themselves under the umbrella of HLA.

In reply to a question from RB, NMC said that there could be no objection to any leaseholder members of HLA attending the HLA AGM and putting themselves forward for office.

SB said that XXXX had neither returned the HLA database nor signed any document saying that she held no other copies of the database.

It was agreed that SB and NMC should draft an appropriate letter outside the meeting, with a view to sending it to HLCG in advance of the launch meeting on 15 February. Committee members should attend the HLCG launch meeting and bring leaflets advertising the HLA AGM.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm, with a vote of thanks to the Chair.