

HARINGEY LEASEHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HARINGEY CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, N22 ON MONDAY 8 OCTOBER 2012

Present

Sue Brown (Chair) (SB), Nick Martin-Clark (Treasurer) (NMC), Peter Gilbert (Secretary) (PG), Rita Batzias (Committee Member) (RB), Anne Gibson (Committee Member) (AG), Kate Worley (Committee Member) (KW) and (name withheld) (Leaseholder).

Welcome

The Chair welcomed the leaseholder to the meeting.

General Meeting

PG advised that Eamon McGoldrick had agreed to speak at the next General Meeting of HLA, which had been arranged for Saturday 27 October. SB commented that, in view of both the content of the emails between HfH and the Haringey Leaseholders Campaign Group in late 2010 and early 2011 and the unsatisfactory response from HfH to the Committee's concerns that the period of recognition did not comply with the criteria that formed part of the Resident Involvement Agreement which had been agreed with a working group from the Tenancy Participation Panel, it might be advisable to postpone the GM until the issues had been resolved.

KW said that the emails confirmed her worst fears about the way in which HfH had supported the HLCG. Committee members didn't know whether Mr McGoldrick had been made aware of what they revealed between his appointment and their release to HLA. HLA needed to be reassured that HfH would respond appropriately to what they disclosed.

NMC explained that Joe Boake had become the joint head of HfH's Resident Involvement Team after Simon Godfrey had left HfH. He reported to Sharon Morgan, the Deputy Director of Housing Management.

AG commented that under its constitution HLA was required to hold an AGM and at least one GM each year.

NMC said that the first GM after HLA had been re-recognised should be positive, constructive and well-attended. KW emphasised that, if the Committee did not receive any answers before the GM, it would put both the HLA and Mr McGoldrick in an invidious position.

It was agreed that PG should draft a letter for SB to sign to Mr McGoldrick (cc Sharon Morgan) saying that the emails revealed a number of issues that HLA needed to discuss with HfH before and outside a GM. If HfH agreed to such a meeting, the HLA would be willing to handle the matter discreetly and constructively, in a spirit of partnership. Accordingly, HLA felt that it would be necessary to postpone the GM and requested an urgent meeting with Eamon McGoldrick and Sharon Morgan to discuss:

- The inaccurate nature of the update made to the HfH Board's meeting on 19 January 2011 about the arrangements to set up HLCG and HLCG's forthcoming inaugural meeting.
- The ultra vires nature and the extent of the funding by HfH of the initial mailing to leaseholders for HLCG.
- The discriminatory nature of the email dated 24 February 2011 from the RIT to leading members of HLCG.
- The RIT's involvement in discrimination regarding the ballot for members to serve on the HLCG Committee.
- The way in which the close relationship between the RIT, on behalf of HfH, and the HLCG had led to errors of professional judgment.

If the matter could not be resolved satisfactorily as a result of the meeting, HLA would have no alternative but to pursue its appeal against de-recognition in order to clear its name.

Period of Recognition

It was also agreed that PG should write separately to Sharon Morgan (cc Eamon McGoldrick) repeating the points that we had made about the period of recognition for the HLA and requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the matter.

NMC said that one reason why the HLA Committee had not commented on the proposal made by HfH in 2010 to de-recognise the Association was that HLA's recognition following the 2008 AGM had lapsed and that HLA had not submitted an application for recognition to HfH after the 2009 AGM. Accordingly, in 2010 the Association had been an unrecognised body and therefore HfH's action to de-recognise it had been flawed.

Legal Action

Meeting with Nesan Thevanesan and Eamon McGoldrick

PG was asked to offer Nesan Thevanesan and Eamon McGoldrick the options of Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 November for a meeting to discuss issues of concern

to leaseholders that they had offered HLA following re-recognition. The Committee would consider topics for the meeting and PG would notify HfH beforehand.

Alena Breckova

PG was asked to draft a letter to Alena Breckova, for SB to sign, to propose a meeting between her and the Committee to put the past behind them and agree on the way in which the representative body and the leaseholder member of the Board could co-operate in the interest of leaseholders.