

HARINGEY LEASEHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HARINGEY CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, N22 ON FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER 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) and Kate Worley (Committee Member) (KW).

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Delsie Grandson.

Treasurer's Report

NMC reported that the balance in HLA's current account was £1989.13. A further payment of £1200 to Neumans would settle their account for advice on whether HLA would be able to take action against the Local Government Commissioner. In addition, HLA needed to reimburse £250 to NMC for a bank transfer to renew HLA's annual fee for the website and £36 to NMC for renewing HLA's phone card. HLA had also paid Royal Mail £103.02 for reply-paid envelopes, including £99.60 for the renewal of the freepost licence that had originally been taken out in 2011 in connection with the return of petitions requesting a special meeting of HLCG. The unused envelopes would be enclosed with the notice asking leaseholders to take out a standing order in favour of HLA.

KW commented that reply-paid envelopes could not be used if the leaseholder was living abroad. It would be cheaper to email those leaseholders whose correspondence address was outside the UK.

NMC said that the prepaid envelopes could be used for returning both the Standing Order form and the survey that would be sent out with the notice of the next General Meeting.

General Meeting

PG said that he had asked Sharon Morgan to arrange for the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre to be booked for the HLA GM, which was provisionally scheduled for 11am . 1pm on Saturday 15 December. As he would be away from 11 to 25 November, he had asked her to confirm the booking to NMC. When NMC knew whether a room would be available, HLA would invite Eamon McGoldrick as the main guest speaker.

NMC had spoken to Ian Giller of the mailing house CDM, who had confirmed that if CDM received the paperwork by Monday 26 November they would be able to mail it to leaseholders by the end of that week and hence meet the requirement for the notice which HLA must give leaseholders of the GM. At the meeting of HLA representatives with Nesan Thevanesan and Mr McGoldrick on 8 November, NT had asked for the AGM notice and its enclosures (a survey and the Standing Order form) to be agreed with him by 21 November. NMC added that the HfH representatives had not raised any objection in principle to a survey, in contrast to the arrangements for the AGM, when David Sherrington had objected to sending out anything other than the proposals for amendments to the constitution.

Meeting with Eamon McGoldrick and Nesan Thevanesan

The Committee noted that at the meeting on 8 November the members had been able to raise briefly with the HfH representatives all the topics that had been on the agenda. NT had said that HLA would be kept in touch with changes in the organisation of the Home Ownership Team, and had suggested a series of meetings every two months with HLA. SB commented that she would not be able to attend meetings during the working day.

The members had been very happy with the positive atmosphere of the meeting. The Committee would now like HfH to investigate whether any other ALMO had made a voluntary levy on its leaseholders for the representative body, including whether this had been tested legally and what the practicalities were.

Action further to meeting with Eamon McGoldrick and Sharon Morgan on 25 October 2012

The Committee noted that HLA had still not received a reply to SB's letter of 11 October to Eamon McGoldrick. At the meeting on 8 November, Mr McGoldrick had said that he would be discussing the matters with Sharon Morgan in the following week. The Committee recognised that, particularly as SB had asked for Paul Bridge, the Chief Executive of HfH, to sign the letter of apology to HLA that she had requested (because he had been mentioned by HLCG in the redacted emails as having taken part in the meeting in August 2010 between the HLCG core group and HfH officers) it would take a long time for HfH to agree its wording.

SB said that if HLA did not receive a suitable letter of apology the Association should pursue its appeal against the de-recognition of HLA by the HfH Board in December 2010.

Recognition Grant for 2012-13

The Committee noted receipt of a letter dated 8 November 2012 from the Resident Involvement Team explaining that the recognition grant for 2012-3 ran from 25 September 2012, when HLA had been re-recognised, and that, because HLA had insisted that recognition should run until no later than three months after the next

AGM, the period of recognition would be for a period of nine months, ie until 24 June 2013 inclusive. Accordingly, the grant had been calculated as £749.99. The RIT had also forwarded a form for completion with HLA's banking details. PG had emailed the correspondence to NMC and handed him a hard copy of the form to complete and return to the RIT.

Although members considered that HLA should have been recognised at the HfH Board meeting on 19 June, and that recognition had been refused because the report from HfH officers to the Board had contained some inaccuracies and misunderstandings, the Committee agreed on balance, in the interest of HLA's improved relationship with HfH, not to pursue that matter.

NMC suggested that, if HfH accepted that the payment of £1700 in 2011 to HLCG was ultra vires and that it should therefore be recovered from HLCG, HLA should ask HfH for a grant to be restored retrospectively for the period when HLA was unjustly de-recognised.

Legal Action

Alena Breckova

As Ms Breckova had not replied to SB's letter of 11 October asking for a meeting, it was agreed that SB should draft a complaint to HfH alleging that she had been in breach of the rules governing the conduct of a member of the HfH Board, for Committee members to consider.

Date and time of next Committee meeting

Tuesday 27 November 2012 at 7pm: PG would ask HfH to arrange a room and to confirm to NMC.