

Haringey Leaseholders' Association

Committee Meeting

Meeting held on Thursday 13 July 2017 at Wood Green Social Club, Stuart Crescent, N22

In attendance

Committee:

Nick Martin-Clark, Treasurer (NMC) – in the Chair
Peter Gilbert, Secretary (PG)
Yvonne Campbell (YC) – Committee Member
Michael Olulode (MO) – Committee Member
Lohendy Olulode (LO) – Leaseholder

The meeting was opened at 8.20pm

Welcome

NMC welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Michael and Lohendy Olulode, who were attending their first Committee meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Lloyd Grandson, Chair, Sue Brown, Vice-Chair, Michael Blasebalk, Innocent Okoli and Clare Richards. .

Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 24 May 2017, which had been circulated to Committee members, were read at the meeting and were approved.

Matters Arising on the Minutes – none

Revised arrangements for HLA AGM

NMC reported that, as a result of new arrangements that HfH was proposing to consult residents, in accordance with the Court Order which had been obtained, on the arrangements for formal recognition and support of umbrella/borough-wide organisations, HLA officers had agreed to change the date of the AGM to Saturday 9 September. This had been posted on the HLA's website.

He added that, as there had been no meetings of the Leasehold Panel since 26 April, HfH officers had arranged a couple of drop-in sessions for leaseholders, the second of which would take place at Wood Green Civic Centre on Saturday 15 July.

Discussions with HfH further to the agreement on 14 June 2017 in relation to the application for Judicial Review

NMC explained that, one day before the hearing of HLA's application for a Judicial Review had been due to take place, HfH's lawyers had put forward proposals to quash the decision to end the current arrangements for the formal recognition and support of borough-

wide/umbrella organisations. HfH had agreed not to end recognition arrangements without consulting all residents and giving HLA the opportunity to address the HfH Board. The decision had been well publicised in the local Press. MO commented that HLA should be pro-active.

NMC continued that on Friday 30 June HLA Committee members had met the Vice-Chair of the HfH Board, an elected leaseholder Board member. Since then, on Tuesday 11 July the HLA officers had met HfH's interim CEO and the Director of Corporate Affairs. The HLA had emphasised that it wanted the consultation to be genuine. The HfH officers had not been able to provide anything in writing about how HfH would consult. They had said that HLA would be invited to a focus group which HfH would convene to discuss the consultation. HLA was seeking the advice of its lawyers about whether to send a letter to HfH's solicitors.

(MO asked whether a leaseholder who wanted to renew would be able to pass on the lease to someone else and whether a bank would regard the successor as having enough security of tenure.)

MO asked what advantages recognition conferred on the HLA. NMC explained that when HLA had been recognised it had been part-funded by HfH and had been enabled to hold meetings at the Civic Centre as well as to piggy-back its meeting notices on communications from HfH, eg notices of service charges. He added that HLA wanted the consultation to be carried out fairly and that it was important for there to be a fair choice for leaseholders. HLA had instructed its lawyers to ask HfH officers for another meeting to set up a fair compromise.

Leasehold Panel

NMC said that at the meeting of the Leasehold Panel on 26 April members had called for the election of the Chair to be the first item on the agenda. The HfH Executive Director of Operations had insisted that she was the only person who could chair the election of a Chair for the Panel. A suggested consultation on the Leasehold Panel by the end of June had not taken place.

He added that a report had been made to the HfH Audit and Risk Committee that leaseholder satisfaction had sunk to 36%.

(MO said that as a result of a long-standing problem his block had had no gas since Friday 7 July.)

Treasurer's Report

No up-dated report was available. .

Update on Leaseholder Meetings

NMC reported that on Tuesday 11 July he and LG had attended a lively meeting of Love Lane Leaseholders, an affiliate of HLA. It had been reported there that LBH would be holding a fresh consultation in relation to the regeneration of its estates.

HfH Board Meeting

NMC and PG agreed to consult LG and SB on whether it would be more appropriate to seek to address the HfH Board at its meeting on Tuesday 25 July or whether it would be more appropriate to ask written questions. In particular, HLA had now received the original recommendations of the Resident Scrutiny Panel as the result of its investigation of HLA and it was arguable that if those recommendations had been put to the HfH Board at its meeting on 14 October 2014 the Board would not have decided to de-recognise HLA.

Next Committee Meeting

It was agreed that if a further Committee meeting was necessary before the AGM on Saturday 9 September it should be held on Wednesday 16 August or Wednesday 23 August.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.23pm