

Haringey Leaseholders' Association

Committee Meeting

Meeting held on Wednesday 16 March 2016 at Wood Green Social Club, Stuart Crescent, N22

In attendance

Committee:

Lloyd Grandson, Chair (LG)
Sue Brown, Vice-Chair (SB)
Nick Martin-Clark, Treasurer (NMC)
Peter Gilbert, Secretary (PG)

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.12pm

Welcome

LG welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Michael Blasebalk, Yvonne Campbell, Yvonne Golding, Lincoln Grandson, Grace Lungu, Barbara Moore and Clare Richards.

Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2016, which had been circulated to Committee members, were read at the meeting and were approved.

Matters arising

- **Bank Account Signatory**

NMC reported that he had found the signatory form which the bank had sent him and would liaise with LG in order that the latter could be added as a signatory to HLA's bank account.

- **Facebook Account**

It was agreed that this would be deferred to the next meeting which Clare Richards, HLA Press Officer, was available to attend.

- **Housing and Planning Bill – approach to Catherine West, MP**

SB said that she had not yet written on behalf of HLA to Catherine West.

- **Application for Recognition**

NMC reminded Committee members that in an email on 14 July 2015 Catherine Hardy-Smith, Secretary to the HfH Board, had said that HfH would not be considering applications for recognition until the new Resident Engagement Strategy was agreed and put into effect.

It was noted that HfH had indicated that the Strategy was likely to be approved in April. The Committee agreed that a fresh application should be made for consideration by HfH.

Treasurer's Report

NMC added that he was compiling the necessary information, including copies of bank statements that the bank had sent in error to a former HLA Treasurer, and would be asking Anne Gibson, his immediate predecessor, if she had any records in respect of the 2012-3 and 2013-4 financial years. PG agreed to draft an email to her.

NMC went on to say that at its meeting on 30 January 2014 the HLA Committee had agreed to vary ad hoc a cap of £100 on expenditure which could be sanctioned by Chair's action to £500, simply to enable HLA to obtain public liability insurance in respect of its office. At its meeting on 2 November 2013, the Committee had discussed varying the cap for a particular campaign but had not come to a decision. Anne Gibson had promised to report back on the issue when setting out a budget for the normal running costs of HLA, but in the event had not done so. He added that all expenditure on court cases had been approved by General Meetings of HLA.

The Committee agreed to remove the cap and to ratify expenditure that had been incurred on individual campaigns since 30 January 2014.

Leasehold Panel Matters

LG said that the Leasehold Panel had not met since 9 December 2015. After sending another email to Nesan on Friday 11 March 2016, a reply was eventually received on Monday 14 March 2016 asking for clarification about the issues we have raised regarding RIA. In that reply, Nesan copied the HfH Governance Team and Chinyere Ugwu into the correspondence.

In discussion, it was agreed that HLA should continue to pursue the replacement of the Chair of the Leasehold Panel. It was noted that we would need to canvass support from leaseholders who attended meetings of the Panel, as well as persuading Committee members and supporters to attend the next meeting of the Panel.

It was also agreed to see whether a potential alternative Chair would be prepared to stand.

PG agreed to check whether the Leasehold Panel was subject to the rules governing political activity in the period prior to the elections for the London Mayor and the Greater London Assembly on Thursday 5 May.

Possible Follow-up Review by the Resident Scrutiny Panel

PG reported that there had been no further reply from the Chair of the RSP since the last meeting of the Committee.

Possible challenge to the Renewal of LBH's Contract with HfH

Meeting with Tracie Evans, Chief Operating Officer of Haringey Council

It was noted that the officers had met Tracie Evans, Chief Operating Officer of Haringey Council, and Anne Woods, Head of Audit and Risk Management, Haringey Council, on Wednesday 24 February. PG had sent a note of the discussion to his fellow-officers.

In the meeting, Ms Evans had promised to let HLA have a report on their findings and to try to broker an agreement between HfH and HLA.

NMC added that he thought that Ms Evans would do this by email rather than having another meeting with HLA. She should also let HLA have a full copy of the RSP report into its investigation of HLA and report to NMC on his complaint about Catherine Hardy-Smith.

FoI Requests

SB advised that she had been given a reference number for the FoI request that she had made towards the end of February.

PG said that he was awaiting a reply to the FoI request that he had made on 24 February.

AGM Arrangements

In the light of SB's extensive commitments until the end of April and NMC's holiday in the earlier part of that month, in conjunction with the requirement to give at least three weeks notice on the website of any proposed amendments to the constitution, it was agreed that the AGM be delayed until June 2016. (PG subsequently indicated that either 11 or 25 June would be more convenient than 18 June for him.)

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Committee meeting should be held at Wood Green Social Club at a date to be arranged in May.

PG would notify Committee members when the officers had agreed a date.

The meeting closed at 9.41pm