

## **Haringey Leaseholders' Association Committee Meeting**

**Held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 92 Gloucester Rd, N17**

### **In attendance**

#### **Committee**

Sue Brown (Chair) (SB)  
Delsie Grandson (DG)  
Rita Batzias (RB)  
Piers Johnson (PJ)  
Nick Martin-Clark (NMC)

#### **Others**

Peter Gilbert, leaseholder (PG)  
Lloyd Grandson, relative (LG)

The meeting was opened by Sue Brown at 19:10

### **1. Recognition**

SB said that this item was in fact on the agenda by mistake as the next step with respect to it was to meet up with Joe Boake. It was agreed to postpone this item. SB said that she learnt only last night that Simon Godfrey had left the Resident Involvement Team and that it was now being run by Joe Boake and Sheryl Henrickson. Joe was responsible for the HLA. PJ asked what the main issues on recognition were. SB replied that we had to fill in the application form and get it signed. Some of the officers who needed to sign had called for derecognition.

### **2. Update on membership**

Kali and Mark had emigrated and had resigned from the committee. Sarah and Belinda's resignations had not yet been accepted but SB agreed that they would now need to be, regretfully.

### **3. Minutes of previous meetings in April and May**

NMC said the minutes were more lengthy than usual because the interest of those meetings had been very much the conversations between people. SB said that the April minutes hadn't been approved in May because of the discussion about recognition. PJ said that he had been 10 minutes late coming in to the April meeting and that in that time item 3 had been moved up the agenda and new committee members had been voted in while the meeting was not quorate. SB said the meeting had been quorate. PJ said that it wasn't because NMC wasn't a committee member at the time. SB said he was. PJ said that there should have been wider consultation about NMC coming back to take part in the HLA. SB said that there wasn't anything in the constitution about that and that she had never accepted his resignation and NMC had withdrawn it prior to the meeting so the meeting had been quorate from the start and the item had been moved up the agenda to give the new members a chance to participate from the beginning. SB said that PJ should not have been late for the meeting as he was in the building and being late for meetings is against the code of conduct. Had he not been late for the meeting this point would not have arisen. SB asked for the minutes to be

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agreed. PJ said he had no disagreement with the minutes. The April minutes were agreed, 3 in favour, 1 abstention, Chair did not vote.

SB said the May meeting had been a good discussion. RB said that she had just been resting her eyes and had been accused of not doing anything. SB said that had been out of order. SB said these minutes contained a good discussion of the issue of recognition and the Resident Involvement Agreement which nobody apart from her had actually read. The minutes were agreed unanimously by all who had been present.

#### **4. Call for resignation of signatories of letter to HfH**

SB proposed that those signatories who were still committee members should be called upon either to withdraw their signatures from the letter calling for derecognition or to resign. NMC said that we had to act. PJ said it would be premature to write a letter asking for resignations if we were at the same time trying to find out if mediation would work. NMC said we had already bent over backwards, lost a year, and been set way back as a result of Lynne's intransigence. The HLA had lost credibility and we could no longer afford to look weak. We had to look both strong and fair not just weak and weak. PJ said it would be premature to write a tough letter for the next week. The meeting agreed that we could wait a week. The proposal that a letter should be written if PJ did not return within a week with a credible proposal for mediation was put to the vote and carried with 3 in favour, 1 abstention, the Chair not voting.

#### **5. Mediation**

PG said that mediation sounded a good idea but asked who could enable it to take place without costing too much. NMC responded that it cost about £100 an hour per party. PG asked if the other side would accept the idea in principle. PJ said he didn't know if they would but that he would put it to them. PJ said it would need to be professionally done. PG asked when the next AGM had to be held by. SB responded that it had to take place before January 2011. PG said that was a tight time-table. PG said that the mediation question needed to be sorted out within the next fortnight. PJ said he would have feedback next week. NMC asked if XXXX had been asked about mediation formally yet. SB said no but that it had been raised in the April meeting. NMC said that the logic of raising mediation at that meeting was that if XXXX failed to apologise to the committee for making a threat in a meeting then she was to be asked if she accepted mediation. She hadn't apologised so now the committee should ask her about mediation. DG said we should give XXXX a chance. PJ said that he would find out if mediation would work and that that would be the best solution. NMC agreed. However NMC said that mediation had been on the table for a long time and had been consistently rejected by XXXX. In his opinion she would continue to reject it because she was counting on victory at an AGM.

#### **6. Defamation case**

SB said that the letter to HfH had defamed NMC. NMC said that he was going to take XXXX to court because she had been behaving maliciously. Would the HLA help him financially? PJ said it would be a waste of everyone's money? NMC asked why. NMC asked why XXXX couldn't say what she had to say openly without resorting to devices such as a spurious attempt to conceal his identity. NMC said he had been accused of being a bully, of being offensive and of harassing people. PG said that harassment was a criminal offence. NMC asked how he was supposed to get a hearing at the AGM when he was easily identifiable from the letter. His name was even mentioned and he was the only male member who was remotely active who was not a signatory. It was like what had happened at the Tribunal where he had been unfairly discredited ahead of the hearing. NMC said it was just not right. SB said it was one thing when the letter had just gone to HfH but that now it had gone to

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500 people on the mailing list. NMC said he had told her not to publicise it more widely but that she had gone ahead. She wasn't entitled to do that. PJ said he wasn't aware of the widespread publication. SB asked if that meant he hadn't been consulted before XXXX sent the email. PJ declined to comment. SB asked for a vote on financial help. NMC said he had been in long discussions with lawyers over the last week. DG asked if XXXX knew about it. NMC said that she would now because PJ would tell her. DG said we should wait until the week had gone by. NMC agreed but asked for an agreement that if there was no positive response the HLA would agree to financial help. NMC said that the lawyers wanted £1000 + VAT on account in order to start the case. A vote was taken, 3 in favour, 1 abstention, the Chair did not vote. DG asked whether NMC would go any further if XXXX apologised. NMC said no but it had to be a proper apology.

## **7. Referral of abuse of database to Data Protection Agency**

NMC said XXXX had used the HLA database for her own private campaign. NMC said that we had to stop her from doing this because people were writing in angry emails in capitals saying 'I'm not interested in your childish internal politics. Just stop!' NMC said that XXXX was entrusted with the database in her role as Treasurer because of standing orders and that she had abused her position. The HLA was not to be used for non-HLA purposes. XXXX had set up a web-group independent of the HLA and sent an email to Councillor John Oakes saying that it was independent of the HLA. SB asked if XXXX had handed the database over to Alena for her campaign mail-out. HfH had said that they hadn't handed it over to Alena and we were the only people who had it otherwise. If Alena did use it she had had an unfair advantage over Peter which was out of order. A vote was taken to contact the DPA to see if XXXX had been in breach of the Act. It was carried unanimously, the Chair did not vote.

## **8. New committee member**

NMC asked if PG wanted to join the committee. PG said he was happy to join the committee until the AGM and then hope that the HLA had become a functional organisation again by then. A vote on co-option was taken and passed unanimously. SB thanked PG. SB said that she had backed PG when he was standing for election as a Board member as he had been a supportive member of the HLA whereas Alena was no longer a member and had been trying to falsely imply HLA backing in her publicity. SB asked the committee to ratify her decision to back PG, which was given.

## **9. The next meeting**

SB said the meeting with HfH over recognition should not take place until we had sorted ourselves out. That meant we had to wait for an answer on mediation. SB said we should hold off on the next committee meeting until we knew where we were.

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