

Haringey Leaseholders' Association Committee Meeting

Meeting held on Wednesday 17 June 2015 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)
Yvonne Campbell (YC)
Ruth Ortiz (RO)
Clare Richards (CR)

Leaseholders:

Mercy Boahene
Alan Leveritt
Sue Leveritt
Milly Mboizi

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.20pm

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Michael Blasebalk, Lincoln Grandson and Stephanie Rice.

Draft Committee Meeting Minutes

The draft minutes of the Committee Meetings held on Wednesday 4 March and Saturday 2 May 2015, which had been circulated, were read at the meeting and were agreed nem con.

Matters arising.

- **FoI Request for HfH regarding reductions from agreed maximum price**

PG was asked to draft a FoI request, for NMC and Andrew Lyssis to comment on initially, to HfH asking whether invoices from HfH were lower than the agreed maximum price for the contract or not.

- **Resignation of Chair**

SB said that she would submit her resignation as Chair, which had been given orally to the Committee on 2 May, in writing.

Application for Judicial Review of the HLA's Appeal against De-recognition by the Board of Homes for Haringey on 20 October 2014

Possible Talks with the Resident Scrutiny Panel

NMC reported that the independent mentor to the RSP, Oonah Lacey of Involvis, had suggested to him that it might be possible for the RSP to approach the HLA and review what progress HLA had made since the RSP had reported to the HfH Board in October 2014. He wondered if HfH or the RSP might be having second thoughts in view of the fact that 86 leaseholders had attended the SGM.

SB said that the findings had been a load of rubbish and had never been discussed with the HLA. For example, we did not ask if a leaseholder paid a subscription to HLA before they could seek HLA advice. She would like the full Committee, including the new members, to meet the RSP and go through the whole report. Because of the whistleblowers clause, we had not been told who had complained to HfH or had given evidence to the RSP. She understood that the HfH Board Chair had told the RSP to take out the recommendations from the summary report that had been issued to HLA and the Board, so the Board's decision had been based on just the summary. The Board had implied that it was all her fault and that she was not a suitable person to be on the RSP. The RSP had met in secret without her knowledge and had removed her from the Panel.

SB added that she thought that the complaint could have been made by fewer than a dozen leaseholders who had a grudge against the Committee. HLA had been accused of double counting votes at GMs and of not being quorate.

NMC said that the RSP's report had covered a number of sensitive topics. He wondered whether it would have been possible to let the HLA Committee have a full record of the evidence, while redacting the report for others. He added that Oonah had suggested that HLA write to the RSP so as to give the RSP a chance to climb down in an attempt to reconcile the perspective of the report. He thought that she was giving the HLA a nudge and that we could gain a lot of support from the RSP as an independent residents group if they wrote to HfH, with a suggestion that HLA wished to talk to them.

In answer to CR, who asked why the RSP had written their report, NMC said that they had been asked to do so by HfH and we had hoped that the report would clear up the matters which were of concern to HfH. YC had been right to say that the report contained no recommendations. We were seeking to try to find a way to interact with HfH so that it looked at the report again and that we might be able to suggest to HfH that the matter need not be taken to court. HLA's SGM had been a good meeting where people had been able to speak, even if they did not agree with the Committee. He thought that HfH was hiding behind the RSP report, and that we could ask the RSP for the full report.

The Chair said that the RSP had started a dialogue. We should be allowed to have a look at the whole report to see what had been said. NMC said that the whistleblowing provisions should be applied to protect employees who wished to complain. Mr Leveritt asked why HLA had not asked Haringey Council for the report. SB said that when HLA had requested information previously the Information Commissioner had said that HfH could redact the names of residents but that it could not redact the names of officers. The Chair commented that that could be used to block the issue of the full report. NMC suggested that HLA could

ask for the full report in a friendly way and find a way of renewing dialogue. SB said that the HLA Committee might then meet the RSP.

NMC suggested that officers could make an approach to the RSP and ask them to meet the HLA Committee.

YC asked how it was that only two leaseholders were on the RSP. SB explained that residents applied and were then interviewed. She had been on the Working Group that had set up the RSP, and it was ironic that they were killing her off. NMC thought that the RSP had not been up to handling the most sensitive issue. He felt sorry for them as they had been manipulated and used. The RSP's independence had been trashed. SB said that she had been determined to keep the RSP independent. NMC said that the Chair of the HfH Board had put up his own recommendations and had abused his powers.

Data Protection Act

Committee members signed individual declarations under the Data Protection Act.

Outreach

NMC advised that he had been continuing to do outreach work with leaseholders on behalf of the HLA. This had included attending Tribunal hearings and meeting HfH officers, including at Mountview Court, where Richard Hazard was talking to HfH officers on behalf of residents.

In addition, he was knocking on doors and encouraging leaseholders to answer a questionnaire from HfH about consultation. YC expressed concern that this might be doing HfH's job for them.

Shaping Leaseholder Engagement and Consultation for the Future

PG reported that as part of the development of HfH's Resident Engagement policy for the future, NMC, RO and he would be meeting other leaseholders, Oonah Lacey and the HfH Director of Community Development, Chinyere Ugwu, on Friday 19 June to discuss the detail of a questionnaire on consultation that would be sent to residents. NMC said that residents were going to have a bigger say and that that he would be pressing for the inclusion of a question saying that there should be an independent leasehold voice.

NMC continued that HLA could help to shape the questionnaire and could promote to leaseholders the principle of resident-led consultation. HLA could encourage support for residents controlling their own destiny.

YC commented that it was necessary to get the questions right in the first place. NMC said that we thought that the proposed new strategy was a good idea in principle and we were prepared to spend time to make it work.

General Meeting Arrangements

It was provisionally agreed that the next General Meeting of the Association should be on Saturday 17 October at Wood Green Social Club, starting at 10 for 10.15am. The notice of

meeting should emphasise that leaseholders should arrive early to enable everyone to sign in and the meeting to start on time.

Next Committee Meeting

It was agreed that the next Committee meeting would be on Friday 17 July 2015 at Wood Green Social Club, starting at 7pm.

Treasurer's Report

In view of the late hour, it was agreed to defer the Treasurer's report until the next meeting.