

Haringey Leaseholders' Association Committee Meeting

Held on Thursday 18 May 2009 at 57 Yarmouth Crescent, N17

In Attendance

Committee

Sue Brown (Chair) SBr

Catrina Zahoor (Membership Secretary)

Rita Batzias RB

Delsie Graham DG

XXXX (Treasurer)

Russell Chater (Secretary/minutes) RC

Anne Crellin AC

Piers Johnson PJ

Leaseholders

Alena Breckova AB

The meeting was opened by Sue Brown at 19:30

1. Apologies

From: Nick Martin Clark, John Ruskin, Selim Buyukdogan

It was noted that Ayten Goknel had resigned from the committee.

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 24 February 2009 were agreed as an accurate record pending the addition of Anne Crellin to the Apologies.

3. Matters Arising from Meeting held on 9 January 2009

a. (3a) SBr is still to request a chequebook and locate Rupert Marsh's resignation letter to pass to the bank. AB is to help chase Rupert as she lives in the same block as him.
Action: SBr/AB

b. (3b) PJ reported that the future of the FLAG was looking uncertain, but it is now continuing due to recent revived interest. PJ is to email FLAG informing them what HLA does and discussing the possibility of us raising money for them and working with them. It was noted that the HLA can only affiliate with the FLAG leaseholders group. PJ is to check that he has received the necessary contact details from CZ and/or XXXX in order to help him make the necessary contact. Action: PJ/CZ/XXXX

c. (4c) SBr reported that she now just needs to photocopy attendance sheets from the AGM meeting before she then sends off the various paperwork for the Umbrella Organisation Recognition and Funding department. These attendance sheets will help demonstrate the support of leaseholders to the HLA - one of the criteria the funding department seeks.
Action: SBr

d. (4d) AB reported that she had forwarded the council's window information pack to SBr in order for it to be put on the HLA website. Selim is to upload this on to the HLA website if he hasn't already. Action: SBr

e. (5d) AB reported that her investigation into the possibility of securing funding from the European Union was still pending and that she would report back at the next HLA meeting. Action: AB

- f. (10b) SBr reported that there had not been sufficient support/availability from leaseholders to justify being involved in the Stall for Independence Day event on 30 May 2009. It was noted that the date was also Cup Final Day.
- g. (12a) SBr informed the committee that NMC has now officially stepped down as Chair of the Leasehold Panel meeting. It was reported that Anne Goodhew did not want to be Chair and so there will be a series of volunteer Chairs on a rotating basis - with Martin Laheen noted chairing the next panel.
- h. (12b) SBr reported that the issue of the council undercharging for communal lighting in her block was an ongoing argument, which she had raised at the last leasehold panel.
- i. (12c) AC reported that if a leaseholder received a major works bill for less than £10,000, then the council would not put a legal charge against the property. It was noted that the figure had previously been £5,000 - so this was an improvement. However, there was general discussion over whether the council can legally put any charge against a property without the individual's consent.
- j. (12d) AB reported that she will report back at the next HLA meeting on possible insurance for the HLA. Action: AB

4. Correspondence

- a. SBr reported that she had received an email indicating that John Bevan might come to the next leasehold panel meeting to discuss issues around digital aerials.

5. Finances

- a. XXXX is to email SBr and NMC a report on current finances. Action: XX
- b. There was general discussion around needing to generate more funding in order to, for example, open an advice centre or pay a solicitor for certain periods with timed phone lines. It was noted that solicitors might be more open to various arrangements due to the current financial climate. Whilst it was also noted that NMC was looking into various funding possibilities, the committee generally were asked to think of possible funding streams. Action: All
- c. AB reported that her investigation into the possibility of securing funding from the European Union was still pending and that she would report back at the next HLA meeting. Action: AB

6. Membership Matters

CZ reported that the membership database was all up to date, although she is still to get further contact details of people on the database. It was re-iterated that all committee members need to be aware of what they can and cannot do in relation to data protection. CZ had drafted a document clarifying this point, which is to be forwarded to committee members to sign. CZ will bring this document to the next HLA meeting. Action CZ

7. Business case for funding levy

SBr tabled a Business Case that she and NMC had worked on outlining the case for why HfH should (financially) support HLA more than they are at present. The committee generally felt that the case was well written, although members are to send any

suggestions/comments to NMC. One immediate suggestion was that the case should have a 'Risks' section. It was also suggested that it might be useful to add a paragraph relating to timeframes for the council to respond - with the next AGM in September 2009 being mentioned as a logical date. It was noted that the Business Case will be sent to Paul Bridge in the first instance. Action: All leaseholders to read the business case fully and contact NMC with any suggestions.

8. Digital aerials and other matters arising - what next?

AC reported that she was continuing to find evidence of huge discrepancies in the cost of installing digital aerials. AC had raised this at the last Leasehold Panel with Larry Ainsworth and that his feedback was still pending.

All leaseholders were encouraged to start getting quotes to check that they were getting a competitive rate.

There was also discussion of whether the costs to leaseholders in smaller blocks might be significantly higher as the costs for installing the aerials were thought to be the same regardless of the size of the block.

It was also discussed that money towards the digital aerials was coming out of the Decent Homes Funds - something that should not be the case. Indeed, it was argued that leaseholders should not pay anything at all, as it was a government directive to have digital aerials fitted. SBr reported that, having been part of the early work done on setting the Decent Homes standard, she knew that aerials had never been part of the Decent Homes funding.

9. Website

It was noted that the website was now up and running. The link was: www.haringeyleaseholders.org.uk The website would be discussed more fully at the next HLA meeting.

10. Outreach and Action Plan

It was agreed that this could be discussed at the next meeting.

11. London Leaseholders' Network Report Back

It was agreed that this could be discussed at the next meeting.

12. Any Other Business

At the last Leaseholder Panel it had been reported that council tenant pensioners received £2 a week off rental for garage spaces, whereas leaseholders did not - which was seen as unfair.

It was noted that Scott Russell had not been sent a notice of the committee meeting as he was not on e-mail. In future he needed to be phoned. He was organising the Service Charge sub group. Action: XXXX to contact Scott

AC kindly agreed to host the next Service Charge sub group meeting on 29 May 2009 at 7pm. Her address is: 54 Carlton Lodge, Carlton Road, N4 4NJ.

13. Date of Future Meetings

The meeting will take place on Friday 19 June 2009, 7pm at the Wood Green Civic Centre.

Meeting concluded at 9.30pm

XXXX – the name of our former Treasurer has been removed