

Haringey Leaseholders' Association

Committee Meeting

Meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at Wood Green Social Club, Stuart Crescent, N22

In attendance

Committee:

Nick Martin-Clark, Chair (NMC)

Sue Brown, Secretary (SB)

Michael Blasebalk, Vice Chair (MB)

Margaret Clapson, Treasurer (MC)

Clare Richards, Media Officer (CR)

Lloyd Grandson, Committee Member (LG)

Peter Gilbert, Committee Member (PG)

Grace Lungu, Committee Member (GL)

John Nolan, Committee Member (JN)

Susan Smith, Committee Member (SS)

Tina Buckingham, Committee Member (TB)

Kevin Mann, Committee Member (KM)

Gillian Stewart, Committee Member (GS)

Gian Stewart, Observer

The meeting was opened at 7:15pm

Welcome and Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves to one another. All attendees signed data protection forms. KM had a good story about how to get a refund. The meeting asked for this to be written up for the newsletter. GL was co-opted as a committee member. PG asked about the maximum limit. NMC said that, from the numerous leaseholders who came forward at the AGM, committee meeting attendees would be adopted as members until the limit was reached.

Apologies

Apologies received from Innocent Okoli, Derek Martin.

Minutes of the meeting from 16 August

It was agreed to hold these over to the next meeting. PG distributed copies of minutes for members to read at their leisure.

Report on AGM

NMC said that the AGM was quorate with 51. Respectable turnout. Officers were elected and new committee members came forward. HLA had complied with its constitution and was still able to apply for the benefits of recognition.

SS said it was her first AGM and that it was a good meeting. Lively, people were interested. Speakers were good. Interested in regeneration issues. LG and GL also from Love Lane. SS explained the the large scope of the HDV proposal.

KM said it was his first time. He thought some people wanted to raise their individual issues and that there hadn't been enough time for that.

TB said it would be good to have a forum for the top ten gripes where leaseholders could help each other on specific issues. PG pointed out the constitutional obligation to hold one other GM during the year. Suggested a circular to pick up topics. KM suggested doing local workshops perhaps in local schools.

MB said HLA ran an advice service but that the focus had shifted over the last two years to the recognition struggle. It was time to refocus on what the HLA was supposed to be about. MB said HFH took a hard-nosed, statistical, approach to court action. It didn't make sense to have spent 170,000 fighting the HLA when

recognition would have cost so little. HLA could be useful to HFH in helping raise issues affecting numbers of leaseholders. SS said HFH was not interested in consultation.

KM said that taking photos and videos was crucial to making a successful complaint. Agreed to lead a workshop on this. Said workshop meeting should not be too long. KM wanted to use the database to organise workshops in given parts of the borough.

MB said it was important to make contact with leaseholders who had taken HFH to court to share experiences and success stories.

Treasurer's Report

MC is new Treasurer and will be added as signatory but NMC would present report this time. 487 in the bank. Mail-out with survey cost a lot, about 3,000 then 200 on phone calls ahead of AGM. There will be Royal Mail invoices postages from the pre-paid envelopes to pay as well as the accountant. Plus NMC has some other expenses that he incurred. About 18 standing orders had come in as a result of the survey.

GS asked about applying for grants. NMC said this is something the Association would need to look at in the future. It had been important to clear the HLA's name so that it could fundraise in the future. SS said she might be able to help.

Update on Leaseholder Survey and HFH correspondence

Total of 78 hard copy surveys plus 13 online ones. Not a disgrace but could have been more. 10 responses said that borough-wide groups should not continue to be recognised. More than expected. Possible that some leaseholders misunderstood. NMC to contact one leaseholder in particular whom he knows well to ask if he was confused. Perhaps it would have been better to specify that the HLA was a borough-wide group.

Trust in HFH, quality of HFH communication, how much say people feel they have on these there are very poor scores for HFH.

MB said some of the questions were difficult for leaseholders to understand. He thought response was good. NMC read out a letter from an elderly leaseholder enclosing a cheque for HLA who said that she did not know what HFH was for.

MB pointed out that we don't know if HFH survey went out to everybody.

NMC said that everyone had seen the correspondence. The HLA was hoping for some kind of meeting but it wasn't guaranteed.

Consultation on new HFH contract

KM said there had been rumours that HFH would be taken back in-house. SB said there was a road-show the next day in Wood Green Library from 4-7 and asked for people to attend. SB asked who had had the survey. Some members had, some had not.

Lorna Reith

NMC explained that she was on the ALMO and the Labour group whip. She lives on Ferry Lane. NMC said it would be useful to talk to her ahead of the 28.11.17.

Preparation for Board meeting on 28.11.17

NMC proposed some door-knocking with a leaflet and standing order ahead of the 28.11.17 Board meeting. Important to work with ATR.

AOB PG read out a letter from a frustrated leaseholder about a leak. SB had responded. KM to take further

NMC closed the meeting at 9:25