

Haringey Leaseholders' Association Committee Meeting

Meeting held on Saturday 24 February 2018 at Wood Green Social Club, N22

In attendance

Committee:

Nick Martin-Clark, Chair (NMC)
Sue Brown, Secretary (SB)
Salvatore Colavito, Observer (SC)

Margaret Clapson, Treasurer (MC)
Peter Gilbert, Committee Member (PG)
Clare Richards, Committee Member (CR)

The meeting was opened at 1:25pm

Welcome and Introductions

These had been done informally. SC had been put in touch with the HLA by Susan Wright of the HfH Resident Engagement Team.

Apologies

Kevin and Michael sent apologies.

Minutes of meeting held on 18 January 2018

Agreed.

Matter arising not on the agenda

Tina Buckingham has agreed to go to one of the workshops on 19.3.18. She will go to second workshop with PG. MC and SB will go to first one.

SB said that on 28.2.18 TPAS were doing a review with two workshops. SB was going to the first and MC to the second as only one person was allowed to go to each.

Treasurer's report

MC said some standing orders had come in. Balance was £1,106.50 but HfH grant had not yet been received. Grant was payable from 14.12.17 but necessary to remind Kevin Young. NMC would do this.

SC said that money could be raised via raffles. People could donate unwanted gifts. This might encourage people to stay to the end.

Report on meeting with Aman Dalvi

MC asked if HfH would also be doing minutes and pointed out that Chris Liffen had been taking notes. NMC had handwritten notes. SB said Dalvi was willing to meet every quarter. NMC said this was the second meeting and that it was unusual for the HLA to have contact at this level.

NMC said it had been him, SB, MC, PG and Lloyd Grandson on the HLA side and that the meeting had gone on for an hour and a quarter. The mood was positive but practical outcomes were limited. They were listening but wanted to take things away to think about.

HLA wanted to have the next General Meeting in the Civic Centre but HfH were making difficulties. MC said HLA could pay maybe £200 because the location is very central. NMC said he hoped to talk to some Councillors. NMC said Commerce Rd had been offered for free. MC said it was not a good street. SC said there were no proper chairs, not a proper meeting room. CR asked if WGSC was better than Commerce Rd. MC said there was a bus-stop outside the Civic and that the Civic was prestigious. Agreed to try and push for Civic.

Piggy-backing had also been turned down on the grounds that having an HLA notice would distract from the HfH communications. This was unconvincing and had never been raised before.

NMC said he hoped the Council would be more sympathetic in May. HfH were still not embracing the HLA as partners. Aman Dalvi was new in post and the Chair is not a full-time position. Chris Liffen was interim. So the HfH team is not very decisive or clued up. An apology was needed but there was no leadership or sense of ownership from HfH. MC said that these were not the principles that applied in hospitals. NMC said they were not used to being held accountable and that it was a poor organisational culture from which all residents had suffered.

CR said the Council had had a lot of bad press over the HDV. SB said Clare Kober had been complaining about bullying. CR wondered if there was a risk of contagion to the ALMO and if this was why HfH were talking to the HLA.

NMC said the position on recognition was uncertain because HfH were looking again at the recognition criteria.

MC talked about the debate at the Board of HfH on 30.1.18 where she had been present. It had been decided to remove resident Chairs. Only one member had raised any points against. The meeting agreed that this was an important point that needed to be emphasised in consultation. It was also relevant to the Leasehold Panel.

SC said that there wasn't enough community spirit. SB said things had changed over the time she had lived in the borough. CR said she had felt like that to begin with but that now she knew a lot of people.

NMC said the HLA was waiting for HfH to come back to us within the promised ten days. The meeting had been inconclusive but could have been worse. The HLA had been able to make some points.

GM arrangements

Date of 28.4 pencilled in for GM. 21.4 and 5.5 had been discussed but were not as good. NMC proposed to come to London the week of 16-20th April and door-knock. That would be good timing for a meeting on 28th. But venue needed to be sorted out. Meeting in Civic would round out the success story of recognition. NMC hoped for help from Councillors on venue.

PG pointed out that 28.4 was the Saturday before the elections. MC said we should be willing to pay if necessary. Commerce Rd was not suitable.

RSP developments

NMC said that the original derecognition had been down to an RSP report. The report had originally had recommendations in it. The Chair had removed the recommendations at the time but if he hadn't the HLA wouldn't have been derecognised. First HfH had said the recommendations didn't exist, but they did, then that they didn't have them, but they did have them, then that they wouldn't hand them over, but the Information Commissioner had obliged them to. So the HLA now had the recommendations. This was a big part of the contempt case.

The RSP had known about the recommendations but their mentor hadn't stood up for their own Terms of Reference. This was wrong and had led to a lot of costs on both sides. The HLA was talking to the RSP about releasing their secret report. The Information Commissioner was involved but in the meantime the HLA was trying to seek an amicable compromise with the RSP. The HLA had written an email to the RSP about this. SB explained that her removal had not been done in accordance with the RSP's Code of Conduct. She had not been allowed to defend herself. NMC explained that the mentor had had a personal dislike of SB and that she hadn't behaved professionally.

Mr Dalvi had encouraged us to contact the RSP but the Chair of the RSP had refused to meet and wanted communications to pass through HfH.

Website

This needed updating. The website needed to work hand in hand with social media. Different leaseholders used technology in different ways depending on their age.

CR pointed out that Facebook had led to some people making contact with the HLA about their concerns. This had happened with one person who had a problem with her windows. Twitter had been useful when the court case ended and there was some discussion on social media. CR said critical mass needed to be attained. SC said his wife was a web designer working for a law company. SC would liaise with CR.

Update on legal action – contempt of court

AOB

PG informed the committee of changes to data protection regulation at the European level due to come into force on 25.5.18. Potentially the HLA was affected as it was very wide-ranging. NMC said the HLA would need to look into this. PG said that if he had any further information he would email a link to NMC.

The date of the next meeting was pencilled in for the 19th April 2018.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 3:00 pm.