

Haringey Leaseholders' Association Committee Meeting

Meeting held on Thursday 28th February 2019 at Wood Green Social Club N22

In attendance

Committee:

Sue Brown, Chair (SB)
Margaret Clapson, Treasurer (MC)
Barbara Fenning, Observer (BF)

Nick Martin-Clark, Secretary (NMC)
Lloyd Grandson, Committee Member (CR)
Kevin Mann, Committee Member (KM)

The meeting was opened at 19.20 pm

Welcome and Introductions

None necessary.

Apologies

Julie Weir, Michael Blasebalk, Michael Hardy

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2019

Agreed.

Matters arising not on the agenda

Dipak's cheque had been cashed on 8.10.18 and it was for £390 not £290.

SB needs to check Ltd Co articles. She also has not yet had the LIF presentation to circulate.

NMC to send email re 200 word stories. Committee needs to find support for NMC for the website. KM asked if it was worth paying someone to keep the website updated.

Treasurer's report

Dipak has been paid. £1,000 had been received from HfH. Balance is £3,663.89 as of 2.2.19. There is an anomaly of £279.86 however. NMC has given MC invoices for sums he is claiming back. PO Box has been paid. There is £21.60 for dmclub, £35.64 for dotmailer and £276 for Virtual Leads. MC wants telephone access to bank account. MC wants to collect mail from PO Box starting from April.

Meeting with HfH

Reda Khalledi and Chinyere Ugwu were present for HfH. Reda seemed quite knowledgeable. He had previously worked for HfH for nine months. It was a very encouraging meeting. There will be a discussion about piggy-backing. SB had been able to raise the issue of the database. HfH were much more open than before. CU said sorry to SB on behalf of predecessor officers.

KM asked whether the contempt case had played a part. NMC said it had not been discussed. SB should write to the Board about being removed from the Audit and Risk Committee and the RSP. The RSP had not respected their procedures.

NMC will send out notes of the meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for 7pm on 26.3.19 at Commerce Rd. Commerce Rd was being offered as venue for future committee meetings.

Yvonne Denny has left the RSP and Nesan Thevanesan has retired.

Update on contempt

Information Commissioner

NMC went to see barrister in the morning to prepare appeal to Information Tribunal following negative Decision Notice from the ICO. Appeal has to be lodged by 5th March. The general position is quite positive in

that the ICO never even saw the full report. NMC had bumped into Phil Hettierachi while door-knocking and he had known that HLA were seeking the report. It would be six months before a hearing.

The meeting closed at 21:05

Minutes of HLA / HfH meeting 28th Feb 2019

Meeting took place at HfH's Commerce Rd premises starting at 16:25pm

Present for HfH: Reda Khelladi (RK), Chinyere Ugwu (CU); for HLA : Sue Brown (SB), Nick Martin-Clark (NMC), Margaret Clapson (MC)

CU: Changes to the Recognition Criteria (RC) had been parked following the meeting in August between HLA and HfH. Local Resident Associations have had new RC from January 2019 but umbrella groups were sticking with the old system.

HfH wants to support the HLA to achieve its aims for next year. Would like to know what the plan is for the next 12 months. HLA recognition was approved in January 2018.

NMC wanted to check that the applicable RC were the ones adopted in 2007. The application from HLA was based on the version they submitted. There seems to be different versions following various reviews between 2007 and 2012, prior to both CU and RK joining HfH. This is one of the reasons that the document would need a review. CU and RK interested in moving forward and supporting HLA as an independent Borough-wide group.

RK said that HfH could see that HLA had been let down in the past. He would like to do a review of the 2007 RC over the next 3 months. Legislative and regulatory changes have taken place since 2007, mostly in 2012. The empowerment standard was less stringent. RK said that the 2012 changes were widely seen across the social housing sector as removing the Resident Involvement Agreement (RIA). NMC said that this was controversial. RK promised that no changes would be made without consulting the HLA.

SB brought up the collapse of the Leasehold Panel as an example of changes being made to the RIA without consultation. SB said that there were many causes of dissatisfaction with the new Leasehold Improvement Forum.

RK explained the changes that took place in 2012 when the Audit Commission ceased to exist and the introduction of customer standards etc. I suggest the rest of the notes in this paragraph are too much details and not needed. RK wanted to explain why 2012 was so important. Previously HfH had had to work to 'Key Lines of Enquiry' (KLOE) under the Audit Commission. There were specific KLOE for Resident Involvement with a lot of prescriptive points including the need to have a compact with residents. In 2010 the government wanted to get rid of quangos and go for light touch regulation. NMC said that this shouldn't have led to the scrapping of the RIA. He said that it was replaced with a 'Customer Involvement Strategy' when no-one had been consulted on the use of the word 'customer' for instance. RK said that the word 'customer' crept in because the Cameron government introduced a 'customer standard'. The word 'customer' had now been abandoned. RK said that the HCA left social housing providers in the dark and did not help them. RK asked what the HLA wanted to happen.

SB said that there was a long list of topics. SB mentioned piggy-backing. CU said that this was not done for any other group. NMC said that this should not be considered to be a sufficient answer as the specific needs of different groups should be taken into account. RK said it would not be the answer he would give but that the issue of how HLA communicated notices of meetings to its members should be looked at in the round. RK said there would be a cost now to piggy-backing as mail-outs were contracted out. It was agreed to look at the pros and cons of piggy-backing in more detail in an open-minded way. The HLA did not want it to be ruled out. RK assured HLA that it had not been taken off the table.

RK informed HLA that Nesan Thevanesan had left HfH.

NMC asked if a joint meeting with the ATR could be envisaged. CU responded that this might be possible at a future date.

*SB asked if HfH would send a letter to all leaseholders asking if contact details can be passed to HLA. This is because the HLA's database is now out of date. CU and RK said this would be looked into. RK said there would be a need to check that the data would be held securely. He said that work would be involved and that he would need to consult **HfH's Record Manager**.*

CU said that Commerce Rd could be used for future committee meetings without charge. For insurance purposes an HfH officer had to be present.

NMC asked if the Civic Centre could continue to be used for AGMs. CU responded that the Civic Centre is managed by the Council and they charge for it. HfH pays to hire it for its meetings.

NMC raised the issue of Levy from Leaseholders and CU said that the issue was covered in the Business plan consultation and did not get enough support.

NMC said that the consultation that had taken place over the levy had not been done in the way that the HLA had requested following the mediation agreement. CU said that there were also potential outside sources of funding and that HfH would support the HLA in attempting to access those.

RK said that a meeting every six weeks would be a good rhythm and that the next meeting should discuss piggy-backing and room-hire. NMC could be included by telephone.

CU suggested bringing leaflets to the next LIF. 40 copies could be printed out by Susan Wright.

The question of SB's treatment by HfH when she was removed by HfH from the Audit and Risk committee was raised. CU said that that involved the Governance Team which was separate from the Resident Engagement Team. CU offered a personal apology to SB.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 26th March between 7 and 8 pm at Commerce Rd.