

HARINGEY LEASEHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HARINGEY CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, N22 ON THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 2013

Present

Sue Brown (Chair) (SB), Nick Martin-Clark (Treasurer) (NMC), Peter Gilbert (Secretary) (PG), Rita Batzias (Committee Member) (RB) and Anne Gibson (Committee Member) (AG).

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Kate Worley and apologies for lateness were received from Anne Gibson.

Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meetings held on Friday 9 November and Tuesday 27 November 2012, which were circulated at the meeting and had previously been emailed to Committee members, were approved, subject to minor amendments. The Committee also agreed the redactions to be made in regard to confidential business before the minutes were posted on to the HLA website. The draft minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday 15 December 2012, which had also previously been emailed to Committee members, were noted and it was agreed that these should be posted on the website prior to being agreed at the next General Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

NMC reported that the balance at the bank was now some £750, including some subscriptions from members. He had incurred expenditure of £30 on emails and £10 on postage prior to the General Meeting. Although he had completed the Resident Involvement Team's form with the HLA banking details and returned it to the RIT in November, no instalment of the grant due from HfH had yet been received. NMC was asked to chase Sharon Morgan of HfH about this.

Legal Action

Complaint against leaseholder member of HfH Board

NMC said that according to the Land Registry Alena Breckova was still a leaseholder from HfH at an address in Haringey. It was agreed that SB should ask David Sherrington why Ms Breckova had not been eligible to serve on the HfH Board since August 2011 and why nobody at HfH had known about the relevant change in her circumstances until comparatively recently, as well as whether she had claimed any expenses in respect of the period since then to which it now appeared that she had not been entitled. Later in the meeting, the Committee agreed that SB should also maintain HLA's complaint in respect of Ms Breckova's involvement in the decisions

of the Board on the ultra vires payment of some £1700 to HLCCG and should ask what HfH would be doing to recover that sum.

Appeal to HfH Board against the de-recognition of HLA in December 2010

The Committee noted the process for hearing the appeal that David Sherrington had set out to SB with an email of 21 January. In discussion, the Committee agreed that SB should reply to him including the following points:

- According to the Umbrella Group Recognition Criteria, the Appeal Panel must consist of three or more Board members, not the proposed two. The Committee would also like to know which Board members were being proposed, as well as who would be chairing the Panel, to ensure that there was no conflict of interest, and the Committee would like to meet them before the hearing to explain what HLA was and what the Association did, as some Board members had previously shown a lack of knowledge about HLA.
- The Committee felt that 25 minutes would be insufficient to cover all the issues that it needed to address in presenting its case, as it was necessary to go through the officers report to the Dec 2010 meeting of the Board item by item to demonstrate the inaccuracies and cover other issues.
- The Committee would need facilities for a PowerPoint presentation.
- The Committee would like to know exactly who had written the report to the Board's June 2012 meeting which had stated that HLA would never be re-recognised by HfH, and, if necessary, would make a FoI request for sight of e-mails relating to that report.

SB said that she was preparing a PowerPoint presentation to make to the Panel. NMC suggested that we needed to make an Executive Summary of the appeal and that the written appeal should be in three parts, the jurisdictional issues, the events leading up to de-recognition and the events from de-recognition. SB said that the latter would be relevant in showing what bias and discrimination had existed. It might be necessary to make an FoI request to get the minutes of the August 2010 meeting referred to in the e-mails.

In reply to AG, SB said that the Committee wanted HfH to withdraw de-recognition, to apologise to HLA and to compensate HLA by an award of the grant to which HLA would otherwise have been entitled and by paying HLA the fees that the Committee had incurred in preparing its complaints to, eg, the Local Government Ombudsman.

Complaints from Leaseholders regarding HfH

SB said that she had had e-mail correspondence from a leaseholder asking what the process was for challenging the charge that HfH proposed to levy for Decent Homes work and whether this would be worthwhile. She had sent him a holding reply and a

Standing Order form. This leaseholder had said that he might come to the meeting but had not, so it would be dealt with outside the meeting.

Another leaseholder had contacted SB because, following a substantial loss of sub-letting income as HfH had taken a long time to fix a leak in the leasehold property, HfH was now threatening to take the leaseholder to court as she had not paid for the repairs, despite the fact that the insurance claim had not yet been settled.

Annual General Meeting

The Committee agreed that the AGM should take place on Saturday 20 April 2013. PG was asked to notify HfH formally, to book the Council Chamber at Wood Green Civic Centre, and to check with Nesan Thevanesan when the estimated charges for 2013-4 would be notified to leaseholders and when the notice of the AGM needed to be with HfH to enable it to be incorporated in that mailing.

It was also agreed that PG should enquire about inviting the new Director of Housing Management (Eamon McGoldrick's successor) to speak at the AGM. If this was not possible, HLA should invite a representative from Lease.

Meetings with HfH

PG was asked to arrange a follow-up to the meeting that the Committee had had with Nesan Thevanesan and Eamon McGoldrick on 8 November 2012. (Mr Thevanesan's reply to PG's email of 1 February regarding the despatch of AGM papers included a request for the Committee to suggest dates towards the end of February for such a meeting.)

Next Committee Meeting

It was agreed that this should be arranged (by email) for a date before 28 March.

Website

In reply to RB, NMC said that the domain name servers for the HLA website had been removed from the registry held by Easily.co.uk on 13 December 2012 and that was why the website had disappeared for some time. He had got in touch with Nominet, who had restored the domain name servers to the registry, but the website now needed up-dating. He had emailed Ian Morris, who administered the website, to ask whether he could recall these events, and was awaiting a reply. SB stated that, when she had looked at the website that day, she had been unable to access any minutes or campaign details. NMC to investigate.