

HARINGEY LEASEHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 92 GLOUCESTER ROAD, N17, ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2012

Present

Sue Brown (Chair) (SB), Nick Martin-Clark (Treasurer) (NMC), Peter Gilbert (Secretary) (PG), Rita Batzias (Committee Member) (RB), Delsey Grandson (Committee Member) (DG)

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Shirley Perlman.

Previous Committee Meeting Minutes

In view of the urgent nature of the main items of business to be considered, the minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20 September 2011 were not put to the meeting.

Proposals Regarding Sub-letting

NMC advised that, at a meeting of the Sub-letting Sub-group of the Leasehold Panel attended by four leaseholders and three officers, it had been agreed that an evening meeting of the Leasehold Panel, to be chaired by Anne Goodhew, should be held on Wednesday 18 January. This would be to discuss HfH's proposals to introduce charges for sub-letting, including an annual charge, with effect from 1 April 2012. HfH had invited all leaseholders on its e-mail register. The sub-group had agreed that sub-letters would not be required to send a copy of the tenancy agreement to HfH each year, as well as that the proposals would not affect leaseholders who rented out a room to a lodger. NMC commented that the current proposals were an improvement on HfH's original suggestion of an annual registration.

SB, NMC, DG and PG would attend the meeting of the Leasehold Panel.

HfH Requirements for Re-recognition of the HLA

The Committee considered what response to make to the e-mail dated 9 January 2012 in which Joe Boake had set out details of the actions that HfH would require HLA to undertake in order to demonstrate compliance with HfH's recognition criteria and to have appropriate measures in place to remedy the shortcomings (as identified in the investigation) that led to (HLA) de-recognition.

NMC commented that the LGO official had provided only an initial finding on HLA's complaint, against which HLA had just appealed. SB agreed with NMC that, while HLA had not breached the HfH recognition criteria, HfH itself had.

NMC added that, even if HfH had considered his email to be racist, HfH had said that it was not de-recognising HfH on account of the email.

SB said that many of HfH's proposals were simply not practicable: HLA had been running successfully for 11 years, and to take away its flexibility by obliging it to spell out a work programme for the year at the AGM would kill it off. The HLA could not know at the AGM what issues would arise in year to which HLA and the Committee would need to react.

Rather than reply to Joe Boake simply by a detailed response to every point, NMC suggested that, particularly in view of the shortage of time before the next meeting of the HfH Board on Monday 30 January, the HLA should look at the big picture. He had had some good discussions with Rowann Limond, who had seemed to be sympathetic to the HLA.

He proposed that the HLA respond by an e-mail requesting a meeting, asking HfH to clarify what HfH's red line requirements were before HLA can apply successfully for re-recognition and to table a report to the meeting of the HfH Board on 30 January, and possibly to ask the Board to set up a sub-committee which could recommend or determine recognition.

NMC added that the HLA position had a number of strengths, as an organisation with several thousand members that worked in accordance with its constitution and had been in existence for 11 years. The HLA also needed to continue our investigation into the series of emails that led up to the payment of the cost of the mail-out for the HLCG meeting. The HLA had not breached HfH's criteria for recognition.

The Committee agreed that NMC should write to Joe Boake on the lines that the HLA had discussed.

The meeting closed at 10 pm.