

HARINGEY LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HARINGEY CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, N22 ON WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2012

Present

Sue Brown (Chair) (SB), Nick Martin-Clark (Treasurer) (NMC), Peter Gilbert (Secretary) (PG) and Delsie Grandson (Committee Member) (DG).

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Rita Batzias.

Arrangements for the dispatch of papers for the AGM

NMC advised that he had been in regular communication with David Sherrington, who, after some discussion, had agreed to incorporate the notice of the AGM in what HfH would piggyback and mail out for HLA. Mr Sherrington had been awkward about what could be allowed. Jackie Thomas had not yet come back to him about whether the flier and questionnaire would be included in the mailing.

SB pointed out that under its constitution HLA was not obliged to send the AGM notice **by post**. The Committee had wanted to send its members details of the proposed changes to the constitution.

NMC added that the only place on the website which had been at all critical of HfH had been the 'about us' section. He went on to say that he would send HfH the notice of the meeting and the questionnaire, together with the sheet of constitutional proposals which the HLA Committee accepted, the next morning. He would also ask whether HfH wanted to include in a separate section the proposed amendments proposed by HfH that the Committee was not able to recommend. The email would go direct to David Sherrington, copied to Jackie Thomas, Rowann Limond and Sharon Morgan.

Freedom of Information Application

SB advised that, although LBH had rejected her request for an internal review of then response to HLA's FoI request, they had included a redacted copy of Joe Boake's email to HLCG dated 20 January 2011 which confirmed that the HfH Resident Involvement Team would provide the cost of mailing the notice of HLCG's inaugural meeting to all Haringey Council leaseholders, a total of £1793.96.

Preparation for the AGM

NMC said that, even if HLA managed to email those leaseholders on its mailing list separately, Committee members should try to ring leaseholders to encourage them to attend the AGM. It might weaken HLA in the eyes of HfH officers if the meeting

failed to be quorate or had an attendance of only just above 30. DG said that she would speak to Shirley Perlman.

Minutes

The Committee read and approved the minutes of the Committee meetings that had been held on 20 September 2011, 16 January 2012 and 8 February 2012, and the notes of the meeting between Committee members and HfH officers on 27 January 2012. The Committee noted that the minutes would need to be redacted on confidentiality grounds before they were posted on the HLA website.

In reply to DG, SB confirmed that HLA would need to consider whether it would be feasible to make representations to the Local Government Ombudsman that his investigator had been biased against HLA. SB said that over the past 5 years the Ombudsman had considered 144 complaints of maladministration against HfH and had cleared HfH in every one.

HLA Constitution

NMC commented that the constitution needed to be tidied up to remove a few references to 'all members' which had been left over from previous revisions.

AGM Agenda

The Committee considered and approved the following draft agenda for the AGM:

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters Arising
3. Chair's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Elections
6. Constitutional Changes
7. Grant
8. Consideration whether to seek a Judicial Review
9. Speakers . Chair of Ferry Lane Action Group, followed by Cllr Richard Wilson

Questionnaire

The Committee considered the questionnaire to accompany the agenda, and agreed:

Name

Leasehold Address

Are you happy for the HLA to represent you in discussions with HfH? Yes/No

What would you like the HLA to do for you?

Annual Service Charge

- How have your service charges increased? 2008/9 2009/10 2010/11 2011/12
- Has there been a big difference between estimates and actuals?
- Is there a particular element that has increased?
- Is there a particular element you are dissatisfied with, eg cleaning or repairs?

Major Works

- Have you had major works bills recently? If so, for how much?
- Were you satisfied with the work?
- Did you feel you had enough information?
- Were HfH helpful in answering your questions?
- Were the payment options useful to you?

Helping Others

- Have you previously contacted other leaseholders in your block?
- Would you be willing to be a point of contact?
- Would you make five phone calls to encourage attendance at the AGM?
- Would you like to become a subscriber to the HLA?

Future Action

SB said that HLA would need to try to meet HfH officers and inform them that, subject to the decision of the AGM, HLA would seek a judicial review of the Local Government Ombudsman's decision. NMC had been advised that HLA could ask for a judicial review three months after the LGO's decision, and accordingly if the AGM authorised the action the Committee would need to take immediate steps to instruct solicitors.

The meeting closed at 9pm, with a vote of thanks to the Chair.