

18/12/13

EIVT MINUTES

Location: Community Centre, EIV

Date: 18 December 2013

Present: Vladimir Ioannou (VI)
Iveta Nemcova (IN)
Carmen Wallace (CW)
Charles Kelly (CK) - No voting rights

Apologies: Daniel Campos (DC) Proxy given
Abhay Shah (AS) Proxy given

Minutes

The committee meeting was convened at 17:15

Approval previous minutes (19 November 2013)

Rent charge Reduction – Notice on Trust website – All members to verify correspondence details with a valid email address.

Accounts – QuickBooks – Mark Novak (the previous chair) delivered the books of accounts to Gisby Harrison Solicitors after long drawn out negotiations and not before the threat of legal action. The entire legal cost to the trust just for being intransigent was £720.00; this cost would have been avoided had he delivered the records at the Community Centre as requested by the Trust.

In addition it was discovered that in the bag there were unbanked cheques of over £2500 dated back to October 2013.

The records were in shambles. They were thrown into a plastic bag. This shambolic nature, along with other factors mentioned below, has made it impossible to proceed with the preparation of the accounts which needed to be submitted at Companies House by 31 December 2013.

The income ledgers had not been started and the expense ledgers were hardly in an understandable state.

(VI) Embarked on rebuilding the records for the last 2 years from scratch. The purpose of this being as follows:

1. Audit Amber and the trail of cash
2. To have accurate records for effective recovery of debtors
3. Comply with the Charities Commission required record keeping standards

The magnitude of the work is estimated to be over 30,000 income ledger entries and weeks of solid work and envisaged to take at least 2 months.

Trust will endeavour to file accounts by 31 December 2013 however (VI) applied for one month extension at Companies House but he stated that it will be a miracle if that were to be granted therefore we will need to pay a fine.

Investment Properties – Delay sale until February/March 2014. The previous board of trustees had to deposit the security deposit in the guarantee deposit scheme set up by the government, however they missed the deadline twice and therefore had the tenants been given notice to vacate, the Trust would have had to pay compensation of 3/4 months for each tenant (£8,000 in total). (VI) instructed Gisby Harrison Solicitors to offer the tenants to renew their tenancy for a further 6 months therefore the fine would no longer apply as the deposit has now been made hence saving the trust the £8,000 in compensation. In addition (VI) stated that as properties selling season starts in February it might be possible to sell them tenanted whereby the purchasers would inherit a good income with tested good tenants and without the expense of agents' commissions hence yielding a better sales price.

Litter & Fly Tipping

(IN) has designed large fly tipping warning signs to be placed on all bin stores.

(VI) informed the trustees at the meeting that on an earlier occasion Ian Campbell informed him that some block management directors are objecting to signs to be put on their bin stores.

(VI) commented to Ian Campbell that the objections of these directors are very surprising as the intent is solely to keep the island clean for the residents to enjoy. Block management companies who will not allow the signs to go up will have to deal with their own fly tipping problem.

Ian Campbell then said that they are not refusing they are just saying they need to be asked and (VI) instructed him to ask the block directors for their permission.

Monthly Trust Meetings – Recognising that Trustees are volunteers, we will all need to discuss and arrange when is best for us to have Trust monthly meeting. Dates will be posted on the website calendar.

AOB:

Money Matters – The current board of Trustees have become aware that a handful of people who seem intent on putting Amber back in control of our funds have been writing to the Charities Commission with libellous and false information. It is also believed that the same people have written to Councillors at Enfield complaining about current board of Trustees, this has far reaching consequences if the Charities Commission were to intervene as they have the power to withdraw our charity status with the devastating effect to the village. Such action would result in the charity funds being given to another Charity of similar object clause leaving the village without funds and EIV would never receive future funding.

In addition if this were to happen EIV would never receive future funding. Therefore, people with no good intentions could destroy our community's well being.

The Trustees remain perplexed with the attitudes adopted by this minority when the Trustees have made demonstrable positive changes and substantial cost reductions in a 6 month period; changes and reductions that we're not achieved at any other time in the previous 12 years.

Handyman - Trust agreed unanimously to engage a full time care taker for the Island, who will also double up with the new gardener.

Disruptive behaviour - 30 minutes prior to the end of the meeting Mr Mark Turner a neighbour and friend of Mark Novak rushed in to the meeting with his 11 year old son shouting abuse and accusations at (VI) and (IN). In addition during the meeting Mr Turner was taking telephone calls at the table talking aloud preventing the meeting to continue.

Having interrupted on all and everything that was said Mr Turner was informed that he would not be allowed entry in future Trust meetings.

Mr Turner has stated and claimed on various postings elsewhere and in an anonymous leaflet distributed to EIV residents that foul language was used. This is untrue and as the entire conversation was recorded, the trustees will be prepared to play it at a consequent meeting if enough members request to hear it. However, the Trustees do not give credence to such behaviour and would welcome views delivered in a manner appropriate to a Trustees meeting.

Trust agreed unanimously that this kind of behaviour will no longer be tolerated and members who are intent on disruptive behaviour, albeit a small minority, will in future be excluded from meetings or escorted out if they do not follow protocol.

The Trustees are volunteers and they should be given the respect they deserve.

Signed:



Vladimir Ioannou

For and on behalf of Enfield Island Village Trust

15/01/14