

Minutes of Waltham Forest LETS AGM
Sunday 22nd February 2015
at the Quaker Meeting House

Attendees

Alandra Hannay (805), Cynthia Samuels (806), Diana Korchien (629), Doreen Ryan (587), Eleni Leoussi (623), Eric Lange (798), Francesca Jaggs (673), June Cocksedge (253), Lanka Gunaratne (83), Margaret Packer (538), Marian Temple (164), Pat Desir (786), Paul Gasson (532), Phil Mason (800), Rasheeqa Ahmad (696), Ros Bedlow (17), Rosemary Warrington (750), Steve Beecham (749), Sue Wheat (417), Tina Devadasan (745), Zoe Edmonds (550).

1. Welcome.

Rasheeqa welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained that whilst we continued to see a welcome increase in members, we also needed to focus on increasing trade activity, and expanding active support for the committee.

2. 2013 AGM Minutes.

There were questions about the system for claiming beams for LETS support work which Paul explained. The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's report.

Rasheeqa summarised the highlights, including the events that LETS has organised, or had had a presence at. The key issues were a lack of trading activity, and some members not responding to trading queries. Concerns about a dwindling active committee had been allayed after several members stepped forward at December's "LETS Transform" event offering support.

4. Treasurer's report.

Income for Nov 2013 – Jan 2015 was £506.61, expenditure £257.78; reserves (bank and cash) stand at £2,722.21. The 2013/15 accounts were approved. The substantial funds were discussed, with marketing/comms or adverts in the local papers beingsuggested as areas worthy of expenditure. Votes were taken on reducing the joining fee to £6 (£3 for low waged), or to £4/£2. There was a substantial majority in favour of £6/£3. Paul to update documents & website to reflect the new rates.

5. Beams/cash charges.

There was a discussion around beams rate & cash charges issues that have come up in last couple of years (15 mins) There was debate about the principle of members charging a high beam rate for their services. All to contact Sue Wheat with their thoughts on the issue. Sue to come up wording to summarise the discussion.

6. Election of Committee.

The following members were elected to the committee:

- Chair: Rasheeqa Ahmad
 - Treasurer: Paul Gasson
 - Administrator: Chris Scheuer
 - Marketing (press, publicity, social media): Diana Korchien, Rosemary Warrington
 - Events planning: Pat Desir, Eric Lange
 - Beams treasurer: Phil Mason
 - General support & shadowing treasurer role: Cynthia Samuels
-
- The following were agreed as bank account signatories: Cynthia, Phil, Diana, Paul; Paul to liaise to get bank paperwork completed.
 - The following members have been co-opted: Zoe Edmonds (social media), Lanka Gunaratne, Doreen Ryan
 - Eleni offered to support Rasheeqa in her chairing role.
 - Paul announced his intention to stand down as treasurer at the next AGM; Paul to show Cynthia how he currently manages the role.
 - Simone had decided to stand down as a committee member; she was thanked for the work she has done over the years.
 - It was confirmed that neither Sue Wheat nor Robert Maggio would be on the committee, and thus that they should be removed as Coop Bank signatories.

7. LETS Calendar.

There was a discussion on what LETS events people wanted to see for the forthcoming year. Suggestions included an Art Trail event (deadline is 7th March), Leytonstone Festival, Green adventures, Apple Day, Lloyd Park festival. The publicity group to run through the various online events calendars seeking opportunities for LETS stalls etc.

8. Any Other Business.

- Rasheeqa explained the WFLETS was now hosting the WF Green Drinks on the 1st of every month, and asked for suggestions about speakers. The venue will change every month and members will be informed.
- A member wanted to know what the current beams balance in the admin account was (post-meeting feedback from Treasurer: it is 16,000 in debt due to an issue which occurred many years ago).
- Curiosity was expressed about why there had been an increase in beams trading (the treasurer has subsequently investigated this and believes the reasons are the 15 month period between AGMs (previously 12 months), and that a large credit transfer from North London LETS to WF LETS had been erroneously entered as a trade).
- It was pointed out that some people have exceeded their 200 beam debt limit; a committee member needs to investigate to establish if any of those members have bought since their limit reached.
- A vote of thanks was given to Rasheeqa for her sterling (or should that be beaming?) work as Chair.