



Waltham Forest LETS AGM - Minutes

30th October 2016 at the Rose & Crown

1. Welcome.

The following members were present: Lanka Gunaratne (83), Janet Weston (832), Paul Gasson (532), Diana Korchien (629), Margaret Packer (538), Junita Calder (820), Rosemary Warrington (750), Sue Wheat (417), Francesca Jaggs (673), Doreen Ryan (530). Non members present: Caroline Arnold, Barbara King. Apologies were received from: Chris Olende, Cynthia Samuels, Eleni Leoussi, Rasheeq Ahmad.

2. 2015 AGM Minutes

There was an outstanding action from the 2015 minutes. A committee member was to review if any members have continued buying after they have exceeded the 200 beams debt limit. Paul will follow this up.

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's report

Rasheeqa's report highlighted the potential for increasing trading activity such as

- holding regular events in different localities around the borough to allow neighbours to meet and identify which skills and offerings they share locally
- being part of community events
- having someone actively responsible for the event programme & promotion
- diversifying offerings via outreach activity to specific groups in the community.

Actions:

- Incoming committee
 - to review most effective ways to improve trading activity,
 - hold more events,
 - conduct a analysis of needs and gaps
- Rosemary & Junita to liaise with Sue over admin rights to Green drinks website
- Paul to check ensure Margaret's plant offering have not been auto renewed
- A vote of thanks was given to Rasheeqa for her 3 years as chair

4. Treasurer's report

Total expenditure was nearly £400 (venue hire & t-shirts for the committee). Total income was £317 from new member joining fees and members who haven't cancelled their standing orders. Total funds has fallen slightly from £2,722 to £2,640. The committee's medium term aim is to reduce reserves to the greater of £1,000 or £5 per member - we have 296 members which equates to £1,480.

There were 224 trades for a total of 5,105 beams . The LETS administration account has dropped from 11,000 beams in debt in February 2015 to 5,000 now.

Actions:

- Junita to undertake some analysis or trading types & patterns

5. Election of Committee

The following members were elected

- Co-chairs: Lanka Gunaratne, Paul Gasson
- Treasurer: Janet Weston
- Administrator: Chris Scheuer
- Member communications: Rasheeqa Ahmad:
- Social media & Green Drinks: Rosemary Warrington
- Junita Calder (focussing on communications)

6. Any Other Business

- Lanka proposed a post-Xmas walk to be held on 28th December. Meet 11am outside the ice rink in Lea Bridge Road.
- Further to Rasheeqa's report, it was recommended that to increasing trading activity we should focus on services, as there are a number of popular online forums which cater for goods. However we should make be aware of the needs of people (potentially more vulnerable members) who need goods but do not have internet access.
- There was a discussion (continuing on from the 2015 minutes) about members charging more than 10 beams per hour, with views expressed for and against differential rates. No action was agreed.