



Waltham Forest LETS AGM - Minutes 1st July 2018 at the Rose & Crown

1. Welcome.

The following members were present: Antony Rawlinson (835), Francesca Jaggs (673), Janet Weston (832), Lanka Gunaratne (83), Owen Roberts (832), Paul Gasson (532), Ros Bedlow (17), Rosemary Warrington (750), Vicky Grandon (845)
Non members present: Omair Khan, Perveen Khan

2. 2016 AGM Minutes

There was an outstanding action from the 2016 minutes. A committee member was to review if any members have continued buying after they have exceeded the 200 beams debt limit. Paul stated that there were a few members who had exceeded the limit. **Paul** will check what the system does if you trade with someone in debt. *[Post meeting note: if you attempt to trade with a member who is more than 200 beams in debt you will get the following message "This user is currently over the assigned debit limit by xxx beams. Please do not sell to this user while over the limit." However the system does not prevent you from trading. There were 9 members over 200 beams in debt, which includes the admin account, and 2 closed accounts. The biggest active account debt was 365 beams.]*

Lanka will assess membership list and recommend which ones should be deleted because they have left.

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's report

Lanka had prepared a report. Despite 10 new members joining in the last 12 months trading activity was disappointing. What is noticeable is that members that trade regularly, tend to continue with established transactions or trade with the same members. She thanked the committee for their work, and hoped that the forthcoming year would see an increase in trading and admin support and promotion for LETS.

Paul reported that the number of trades had dropped substantially – annual figures for the last 5 years to 1st July were 379 (2014), 159 (2015), 110 (2016), 110 (2017), 55 (2018). Just 52 members had logged into the trading system in the last 12 months. He believed the lack of integration between the trading system and social media meant LETS struggled to compete with other local schemes (eg Walthamstow sell or swap on facebook).

It was agreed that we will auto renew wants & offers after we have sent out a newsletter explaining this is what we are doing.

Rosemary suggested we had a facebook 'Offer of the week, which we could kick off by emailing members asking if they wanted to feature.

Owen will send out the email, **Rosemary** will handle the facebook aspects.

Paul to send Rosemary the twitter ac details.

Owen said we should improve our design for poster & fb to better explain what LETS is. **Owen** to try out wording. **Paul** to send Owen the poster we used to use.

4. Treasurer's report

PG proposed that a total of £500 is donated to one or more local causes. We will email our membership asking for suggestions. The committee will make the final decision as to who benefits. Vicky suggested the Bank Job. **Paul** to send out HSCB link to attendees.

Paul added that the admin account had dropped from 18,000 beams to 1,800.

Paul will brief Janet on how to review beams.

Rosemary asked if organisations can join - they can. Transition Leytonstone may wish to join.

5. Election of Committee

The following members were elected

- Chairs: Lanka Gunaratne (Events and Promotion), Owen Roberts (Administration)
- Treasurer: Janet Weston
- Administrator: Chris Scheuer
- Social media, communications & Green Drinks: Rosemary Warrington
- Consultant: Paul Gasson
- Secretary: Vacant

6. Any Other Business

- Offer of house
- Bring sign-up forms to Green Drinks. Drinks to continue as advertised.
- Add newsletter to the website
- GDPR has been considered and we are compliant.