



**AGM 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

## **AGM at High Town Methodist Church (rear hall)**

### **Present:-**

6 member residents and three members of executive committee. Two residents and fourth executive committee member arrived at 19.55

AGM chaired by DL, minutes taken by GB. Meeting started at 19.00 hours

1. DL welcomed residents to AGM and outlined nature of AGM agenda which differed from usual AGM agenda as it featured a verbal report from three executive committee members on financial irregularities that had come to light recently.
2. DL provided residents with background to the financial irregularities and stated that residents would be informed what had happened, what steps had been taken to protect F of HT funds and what was planned. As it was an AGM all members of the executive committee would be resigning as a matter of course and three out of the four current members would be putting themselves forward for consideration for re-election for the year 2019/20.
3. DL outlined that there had been unauthorised withdrawals from F of HT current account to the tune of approximately £2,700. DL briefly described steps that he and GB had taken to protect F of HT funds and that each committee member would be making a statement explaining their involvement. DL apologised to the residents and said he would be standing down as chair because the incident had “happened on his watch”. DL and GB had taken outside advice on the way in which to deal with the matter. The advice included the point that to only consider reporting the matter to the police if there was little or no chance of recouping the amount taken without permission. KP was invited by DL to start first. DL asked the residents to save their comments and questions until the end.
4. KP began by apologising to the group for what had happened. He outlined how and why he had obtained one of the two group debit cards from SW to purchase fencing for an LBC project in Mussons Path. KP explained that as well as the money from the F of HT account his house guests had also taken funds from his own personal accounts. As a result of their actions they were no longer staying at his home. KP indicated that he was able to repay the amount at the rate of £150 per month. The amount should be repaid over a period of 17 months. KP stated that if it were possible, he will repay it at a swifter rate. As chair, DL has offered to underwrite the amount should it not be repaid by KP for any reason or if F of HT required the



outstanding amount at a faster rate. Until the amount was paid KP stated that he will not take any official part in F of HT (including HTIAG) He will be resigning at secretary tonight and will not be standing for re- election to any post. KP apologised again for the events that had occurred.

5. DL then read out a statement from SW who was at another meeting and would be in attendance tonight when he could. SW in his statement apologised to the residents as he felt his omission had been to not follow advised bank procedures in relation to debit cards. The AGM also automatically led to SW standing down but he wanted to tender his resignation in relation to what had happened.
6. GB was then invited by DL to explain how she became aware of the financial irregularities and the steps she had taken as treasurer to protect F of HT funds. Again, GB tendered her resignation as treasurer and apologised to the group. She explained the steps she had taken to protect F of HT funds, including instructing SW to inform the bank once she was assured that the card was back in his possession. The old debit card has been stopped, a new one was given to SW by GB by hand. GB has also taken advice from the bank's business advisor and will be in receipt of daily text messages giving details of transactions and the daily balance. Other methods of protecting the funds have been considered and the most favourable is to have the bulk of the monies in a savings account and the debit card used for "petty cash".
7. DL then opened the floor for questions and comments. Two residents felt that KP had worked hard for F of HT and one resident felt he was being "punished twice". Another resident proposed a motion that the AGM be postponed for another month. Debate ensued as to the purpose of this action and F of HT would be left with no exec committee as all had resigned. Motion withdrawn as it was felt that a month would not result in wider pool of people to select executive from and newcomers were unlikely to want to take up office in early stages.
8. At 19.55 SW and two residents joined meeting.
9. Committee reports- in view of recent events this item will be on next month's agenda.
10. Election of officers  
Chair- DL proposed by KG, seconded by KP. Agreed  
Treasurer-GB proposed by NB, seconded by KG. Agreed  
Secretary-no one proposed. Left open until next meeting.  
Media-SW-proposed by KP, seconded by GB. Agreed.  
Email to be sent to all on members list to see if anyone willing to act as secretary or volunteer to help in any of the functions.  
A.O.B. None.  
Meeting concluded at 20.10

