

## Columbia TRA

### Committee Meeting Minutes – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Present from the Committee:

1. Kevin McKenna (Chair) - Council
2. Penny Creed (Secretary)
3. Jim Connelly-Webster
4. Pam Haluwa
5. Jenny Dunn (Vice-Chair)
6. John Cotter

Others present:

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1. Apologies for absence from: Ed Furey (Treasurer), Alexis Nelson
  2. Minutes of the following previous committee meetings were agreed as correct by the committee:
    - a. Committee Meeting 5th February 2018  
Matters arising: Despite chasing, still awaiting a date from resident engagement team at LBTH. Kevin to chase again.
    - b. General Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
Matters arising:
      - John raised the point that, following the meeting, he felt the committee needs more understanding of major works in order to engage with THH in a more efficient way.
      - Kobir has emailed to ask for further information. Kevin to follow up
  3. Leaseholder Charges – What is our way forward?

Lot of residents have had large bills. What is the best way forward to help leaseholders find out what is going on, ensure they are being charged correctly and organise to deal with issues whilst balancing the needs of private and council tenants. Strickland House tenants have got together to file legal action on the grounds of there being years of non-investment in the block leading to more works being required.

Pam has suggested that we call two meetings a year to discuss this. Buildings insurance has doubled, Pam would be interested to know if tenants are aware of this. Pam also suggested that it would be interesting to understand the outcomes of any disputes with THH to help other disputes.

Jim would be interested to understand that works are properly done and efficiently. Kevin suggested that this would be tricky for the committee to do. Would it make more sense to have an officer on the committee to co-ordinate this.

Initially, Jim is happy to speak to leaseholder services / major works on behalf of the committee to find out more. If a face to face meeting can be arranged, Penny is happy to attend.

4. Weavers Safer Neighbourhood Team Panel – Update and what is our involvement?  
Convened by Met Police for Weavers wards for member groups and local businesses to tackle issues.  
Chair of the panel changed recently. There has been some issues recently with the way meetings have been run. There is a general feeling that the police have been unresponsive to issues, community groups and counsellors. The SNT panel isn't working well because it doesn't have admin support or a clear term of reference. The Police are losing interest in the panel. Crime rates are up by 31%.  
As the CTRA what, if anything do we want to do about this?  
Pam believes that it needs a strong chair. Kevin suggested that we keep a eye on the SNT and keep an eye out for someone who might be appropriate to take on the chair. Kevin to attend Thursday's meeting to see if he can help nudge them towards better governments.
5. Member engagement walkabouts  
The local election is coming to an end Kevin suggested that this would be a good time to knock on doors. The committee agreed that it would be a good idea. Kevin also suggested that we should get some people from outside the committee. Kevin understands current canvassing techniques which will help us. We should use the opportunity to give information about CTRA and our meetings and events as well as collect data/contact details. 5 x 2hr sessions should probably be enough.  
Dates: Start on 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> June  
Worth asking Narul or another Sylheti speaker to attend
6. Summer event planning  
Jenny suggested that she would want to hold something towards the end of August. Suggested a street party in Old Market Square. The committee agreed. Provisional date agreed: 25<sup>th</sup> August
7. Treasurer's update  
We now have £6k in the bank. £1.5k of that is for the cart. Outgoings for the last month included a wheelbarrow for the gardeners. There will be outgoings for the summer event. Ed is still struggling with Natwest Bank. Still ongoing.
8. Community Making Project  
The programme has been delayed which is a shame. This is down to logistics, waiting for money and materials to come through and also to find a space to make the cart. After the next week Jenny will have two days a week for the project. Mears have donated most of the materials needed. The garage will be changing to one at Sivil House to allow better deliveries. The garage needs to be cleared out first. It has been given for free. John and Jenny have been building some smaller things. The next priority is getting the cart built, mostly in the garage but also in the youth centre engaging other groups. Jenny to circulate dates for the build when finalised. Residents of Sivil House will need to be told when the builds are happening. Two tables and some stools have been purchased along with some

cups and teapots. Jenny has linked up with the Public Health Project which has been positive.

9. Chair's Update / Gascoigne Neighbourhood and green spaces update

Kevin went to see Margaret Cox – Chair of Hollybush and Teesdale TRA. They've taken charge of an old social services building and turned it into a viable community centre. They are running it as a going concern. They have a community garden out the back. Key lessons were that all these things are very doable. The community centre gave them a focal point for residents and a place to support different activities.

Kevin has asked Alison Matthews if we can take over one of the Ravenscroft shop units. The other option is upstairs at the Youth Centre. Kevin suggested that we might consider having an office space up there.

Kevin met with Deborah Mayer who is keyholder for Dunmore Hut. They discussed the CIC and Kevin suggested that we talk about linking up with them in the future as well as the DCA. Kevin to get more information on that.

Kevin is putting out feelers for setting up a separate friends group to cover green spaces across wider area.

10. Public Health Project Update

LBTH has a 2.5 year project to improve public health. They have been doing some engagement walk arounds on Dorset Estate and ran an event to understand priorities. Pam and Jenny attended. Pam was looking for more information on what they can do to help it was more of a fact finding event from their point of view. Jenny has met them a couple of times to discuss her project which they are engaged in. They are still finding their way. Something to monitor

11. May General Meeting – Date to be rescheduled

We can't run the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> as it is the beginning of Ramadan. Kevin suggested 8<sup>th</sup> May. Agreed.

12. AOB

- c. John asked if anyone knew of The Tree Musketeers. All about planting trees, have their own nursery now. Should we reach out to them? It was agreed that we should.

**The next All Member Meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Dorset Community Centre at 7.15pm**

**The next committee meeting will be at the Dunmore Hut on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.15pm.**