

## Columbia TRA

### Open Meeting Minutes – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018

Present from the Committee:

1. Kevin McKenna (Chair) – Council
2. Jenny Dunn (Vice-Chair)
3. Penny Creed (Secretary)
4. Ed Furey (Treasurer)
5. Pam Haluwa
6. John Cotter

Others present: S Clark, J White, M Franco, N Islam, S Brown, J Moberly, K Choudhury, G Hutchings, M Burwood.

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1. Apologies for absence from: Jim Connelly-Webster, Shobna (George Loveless)
2. Agenda read out to the attendees:
  - Apologies
  - Previous minutes
  - Matters arising
  - Update from THH
  - Questions for THH
  - A request for named volunteers
  - Dates for people's diaries
  - Treasurer's Report
  - AOB
3. Minutes of the following previous committee meetings were agreed as correct by the committee:
  - a. Open Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018
    - Matters arising: vin
      - The Film Office – have contacted Kevin McKenna and Dominic Reeve-Tucker has agreed to meet him personally
      - ASB – Separate meetings have been held and are ongoing once a month. At the last meeting a WhatsApp has been set up to record incidents of drug crime. Anyone wishing to join the group is welcome. Email Penny
      - Leaseholders' issues – a group has been formed by Jim Connolly-Website – look out for updates.
4. Update from THH and questions: Kobir Choudhury, Housing Officer, Tower Hamlets Homes
  - Kobir introduced himself and related what has been changing
  - THH is moving from 27 housing officers to 22. Kobir is staying in this patch but may also start to cover Virginia too extending his workload. To be confirmed.
  - Kobir works in partnership with every department.

- A recent issue at Old Market Square with concrete falling off. Need to look at the entire block. Concerns were raised about plans for the work, spray painted sections, security and the length of time the scaffolding will be up. Kobir is looking into plans for works and will relay back to the CTRA Committee.
- K McKenna commented that the Tower Hamlets Homes Information pack hasn't worked. P Haluwa confirmed that THH are aware and will be working to address the issue.
- A new map of the housing officers' area is due to be included in the July issue of Open Door.
- Two residents of James Hammett House (G Hutchins and M Burwood) raised the issue that their block isn't being cleaned properly. A bike has been chained to a gas pipe for weeks but nothing has happened. They also reported mice. Another issue is that the new light fittings are having their bulbs replaced with the old orange bulbs rather than the new white ones. Kobir agreed to take the residents' contact details and will meet with them separately.
- K McKenna reported that multiple residents have reported issues with overflowing bins. G Hutchins and M Burwood also reported that people are throwing their rubbish from their balconies towards the bin rather than taking them down or using the shoot.
- J Cotter asked Kobir to define 'major works' i.e when does regular maintenance become major works? Kobir said that he will get a definitive answer and send it to the CTRA committee
- Masimo Franco asked whose responsibility it is to manage the garden in Cuff Point. Masimo confirmed that the resident who was gardening the garden has moved and now no one has touched it. Kobir will look at options for the garden going forward. Kevin reported that as a TRA could help if no one from Cuff Point wanted to maintain it. Masimo wouldn't want it to be tarmacked or grassed. It was suggested that Masimo canvass neighbours to see if any residents would like to take it on
- S Clark and J White reported that the gardeners had cut back bushes by 1-63 Pelter Street but not taken the dead leaves away.
- S Brown reported graffiti on the Hackney Road Pelter Street garages that needs to be removed.
- J Cotter asked if there is a person in THH whose job it is to check contractors are doing their jobs properly. Kobir reported that the policy is for 10% of jobs to be checked. Kevin suggested that if any residents see issues with some contractual work should raise it with Kobir.
- S Clark reported that a neighbour has trees going in their garden that obscures the view from their balcony taking their light. Kobir to follow up.

#### 5. A request for named volunteers

- K McKenna asked attendees if they wanted to volunteer for any of our groups – Summer Event, Community Cart events, community gardening. Residents can contact any member of the committee to volunteer.

#### 6. Treasurers' Report :

- a. February and March income: £1500, no outgoings. The £1500 was made up of the grant for the CTRA Cart Project - £1440 and £60 from filming. That takes us to the end of the financial year. The year's accounts can be found on the CTRA website.
  - b. £6889.49 is the starting balance for the new financial year starting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.
  - c. Ed requested that Spencer contact Santander to close the old bank account at the appropriate time as they will only deal with him.
  - d. A finance group has been set up and financial procedures have been agreed. This can also be found online at the CTRA website.
  - e. P Haluwa asked if we have applied for our new year's grant from THH. We haven't. Ed to apply via Yasmin Aktar.
7. Dates for people's diaries
- a. K McKenna proposed that the AGM take place on 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15pm in the DCA. P Creed seconded.
  - b. 25<sup>th</sup> August will be our summer gathering.
  - c. The next CTRA walk rounds will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 2pm. Meeting at the Ravenscroft park entrance by the birdcage.
8. AOB
- N Islam thanked E Furey for planting some flowers by the Dorset Community Centre.

The next All Member Meeting will be on 10 September at Dorset Community Centre at 7.15 pm

The next Committee Meeting will be held in August – date to be confirmed