

Great Yarmouth Tenants Forum

Minutes

Wednesday, 12 November 2014 at 17:30

PRESENT:

Mr P Kirkpatrick (in the Chair); Mrs C McDonald, Mr N Gallant, Mrs B Dawkins, Mr R Taylor, Mrs A Arger, Mr J McGaritty and Mrs S Taylor.

Cllrs Linden & T Wainwright.

Mr C Osinski

Mr G Hollingdale, Mr T Chaplin and Ms H Notcutt (GYBC Officers)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests declared.

2 CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of conduct noted.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Donna Gillet and Peter Burrage.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October were confirmed.

5 MATTERS ARISING

Peter summarised the 'Improving Financial confidence' initiative, and that the forum had been invited to collaborate on developing ideas to support tenants with financial matters.

ACTION: Simon O'Leary to present information at the December meeting.

6 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE JVC

Graham Hollingdale reported progress on GYN- see attached slides.

A forum member enquired regarding repairs service, and what was being done to improve it. GH reported that an additional 2 staff members are now within the team, to increase capacity in the interim, but that GYN will be working as quickly as possible to utilise new technologies to improve the service (seen as one of the biggest priorities for GYN), however this is likely to take months rather than weeks.

A forum member enquired about premises for GYN. GH assured that, although suitable premises had not yet been secured, they would be based in the borough. GH reported that the liaison board for GYN was being developed, and that there would be 2 spaces available for Tenant Forum members.

ACTION: Expression of interest form to be sent out with meeting paperwork for those interested in applying for a seat. A formal vote will then be held at the December meeting.

7 RENT INCREASES

Trevor Chaplin updated the Forum on historical rent requirements, and also the current situation- see attached slides. GYCH are currently talking to stakeholders, to gain opinions on the appropriate action to take regarding increases, following certain requirements being removed by central government. A vote was taken and the Forum agreed that a 2.7% increase is the favoured option of the Forum.

8 COST SAVINGS MEASURES

Peter Kirkpatrick presented a draft letter to the Forum, addressed to Robert Read, Trevor Wainwright, and Gordon Mitchell. The letter expressed the Forum's position with regard to finances. The letter was agreed.

9 CO-OPTION

Co Option Form

It was noted that no co-option forms had been received.

10 REPORTS AND UPDATES

GYCH Board: Nothing to report. 2 Tenant board member seats are still available, and the Deadline is in December.

Communications group: New magazine is out and receiving good feedback. Request for more contributions to the magazine. 2015 schedule is being finalised. Suggestions for a letters page.

ACTION: Reg Taylor to take to the group for discussion. Budget breakdown to be discussed next meeting.

Foster liaison group: recent meetings have been cancelled. The group is planning to include all contractors.

Scrutiny: Mutual exchanges has commenced. Group updated on overview of regulations and criteria that GYCH have to adhere to. Plan of scrutiny activity is being developed. ACTION: Holly Notcutt to email Peter Kirkpatrick and Christine McDonald meeting documents.

General meetings: the group reminded members that if they are unable to attend meetings that it is their responsibility to contact the relevant person to gain information of meeting details, and subsequent meeting dates.

11 NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Submissions received at the meeting will be forwarded to Christina Webb, to be added to any nomination forms received prior to the meeting.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Energy grants: Holly Notcutt updated that £10,000 worth of grants are available to tenants who cannot afford to heat their home. Requests need to go DIAL Great Yarmouth.

GYBC visioning: Holly updated the group of the work of the council regarding the development of a vision and strategic plan for the long term. Members were asked to consider ideas to contribute to the vision.

ACTION: to be included as an item in the December meeting.

Request for GYCH manager to attend future meetings- was welcomed by members.

13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd December at 5.30pm, Town Hall.

The meeting ended at: 19:30