Thornhill Houses

4th June 2013, 7pm

Thornhill Houses Community Room

Minutes of the Tenants And Residents Association meeting

**Attendees:**

Sharon

Rita

James

Jacqueline

Anu

Ray

Penny

Claudia

Mike

Gonzalo

Colleen

Apologies : Michaela

There were not enough people present for a quorum (the minimum number of people needed to vote in the new committee) and Lee Mc Dermott (LBI) was not in attendance but it was decided to go ahead with the meeting anyway.

James volunteered to chair the meeting.

* It was decided to review the posts needed to be filled and make an interim committee of people interested in doing the jobs, then circulate the names to all neighbours and schedule another meeting to have the vote.
* Ray read out a letter from the outgoing Chair, which raised concerns about the conduct of particular people at the previous meeting and stated he would no longer be involved in TARA activities.
* Penny pointed out that the Chairperson needs to be objective, because they are representing all the residents, even the ones they might not always agree with or get along with. All agreed that the whole committee needs to remain objective.
* There was agreement that the activities of the TARA could have been better communicated to all tenants and residents.
* A discussion followed about how best to get information to everyone. One suggestion was to arrange a place for people to put questions/information/issues for the council that is accessible by the committee (possibly by putting a “suggestion box” in the shed). Another suggestion was to have a designated committee member in each block who would distribute materials to their immediate neighbours.
* There was discussion about how the previous Chair obtained access to all blocks to distribute information. James agreed to follow up with PC.
* Access to the shed was discussed. In the past, this had been used by the Caretaker to store large items to either be disposed of or sold. More recently, some have been using it as a bike shed, although not all have access It was agreed that decisions need to be made about who has access and how that should be managed fairly and safely. There was a suggestion that bikes stored in the shed should be registered with the Committee so there is a record of usage/access.
* The front gate was discussed and who has the key (just people with bikes/scooters?). It was agreed that there should be transparency about this, but there were not enough people present to effectively make a decision or represent the interests of all who use the yard for parking.

* An interim committee was elected based on interest:
  + **Penny** - Chair
  + **James** - Secretary
  + **Ray** - Treasurer
  + **Colleen** - Bookings Co-ordinator / H&S officer
  + **Anu** - planning representative – (Anu to liaise with Lee re. details)
  + **Mike**, **Sharon** & **Rita** – Committee members
* We discussed the possibility of sharing the roles in case people cannot attend all the meetings and to share responsibilities.
* We decided to have the next meeting on a different day of the week to allow others to attend who couldn’t make Tuesdays.
* We discussed the idea of having meetings once a month possibly at the beginning to get things going as we are a new team and there are quite a few issues to address.

The agenda for next meeting was set:

Date/time: Wednesday 3rd July - refreshments at 7pm, meeting at 7.30pm - 9pm

1. **New committee voting in** (and opportunity for others to stand if interested)

2. **Dissemination of information to the whole of Thornhill House**

In the past we have left copies of letters etc. with the caretaker to then put onto each block's notice board. Do we need a new system?

3. **Communal spaces**

Managing the use of the bike shed

4. **Gardening**

Who is and should be responsible? How will we manage this? (previous conflicts re. who should do what; we need to decide!) "Capital Growth" scheme has been used in the past - shall we elect someone to take it on again? (Penny to liaise with Lee/PC before next meeting to find out what happened before)

5. **Name of the group** - are we a TARA or a RA?

The division between leaseholders and council tenants isn't helpful and we need to ensure we have a proper balance of views

6. **Next meeting's agenda** and date

7. **Any other business**