



Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations

Campaigning for Housing Rights and Council Homes

*Bells Gardens Community Centre
19 Buller Close, London
SE15 6UJ*

Annual General Meeting Minutes from Wednesday 27th September 2023 - hybrid

Staff: Margaret Onwuta, Amanda Carey, Ahmed Kabba, Joe Snazell-Holding, Ygerne Price-Davies

Attendees: in person 20, zoom 15 = 35

1. Welcome & Introductions

Sally Causer the Director of Southwark Law Centre introduced herself as the facilitator for tonight's AGM and welcomed everyone and thanked Chris Meregini the Chair for inviting her to facilitate the meeting. Sally explained how SGTO and The Law Centre are going strong and how important these organisations are with SGTO helping over 3000 residents with the Councils Cost of Living Fund initiative.

2. Apologies

No apologies were presented at the meeting, but a later email gave one to note.

Carol Vincent

3. Basic housekeeping by the Facilitator

Sally pointed out the fire exits, meeting point, toilets and welcomed people to help themselves to refreshments provided.

4. Business of the AGM

- Minutes of the AGM held on 28th September 2022 & Minutes of Group Meeting held on 26th July 2023

Minutes from 28th September 2022 and 26th July 2023

Both agreed as a true record:

Proposed by Al-Issa Munu

Seconded by Kiri Pieri

- Matter Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from either minutes

- Audited Account – presented by Amanda & Appointment of Auditors

Amanda explained that the report produced by the accountants is a combination of SGTO and Bells accounts. For this reason we include a breakdown for each, so it is clear what income and expenditure relates to each organisation. It was explained that following the break-in to the old site where the two photocopiers were severely damaged, for their replacement, we have signed a new contract which is a third of the price we were paying previously. So every cloud has a silver lining. This also means that we have funds available to pay for an internet connection as Community Fibre are unwilling to provide us service at the temporary centre.

Floor was opened for questions to Amanda and Mel the accountant, but everyone was satisfied with the accounts presented.

Appointment of Kleinman Graham as auditors

Proposed by Al-Issa Munu

Seconded by Kiri Pieri

- Adoption of the Annual Report – Chris Meregini, Chair

Chris explained that the Annual report gave an insight into the activities carried out throughout the year including the financial report presented.

Chris narrated in the annual report the range of services that SGTO provided for our residents as well as the challenges we encountered over the past year. In summary, Chris concluded that it has been a good year. He then opened the floor for questions. No questions were raised so the adoption of the report was requested.

A member spoke out to offer their appreciation and thanks for everything to the Chair as it has been a difficult year and to be extended to the entire tenant's movement. In his commendation, Munu reiterated that we are all volunteers that sacrifice our time to serve the community, so he thanked everyone. He also pointed out that the Council need to support the SGTO and listen to the tenants as we want to develop a good relationship and work together.

Adoption of Annual report

Proposed by Al-Issa Munu

Seconded by Kiri Pieri

- Election of Board Members:

A point was raised by Rodney Estate that their TRA had not met to discuss the nomination form that was submitted by Mr Johnson and therefore requested that their TRA be excluded from the nominations received.

The Chair explained that the SGTO policy is that a nomination form has to be completed by a member of a TRA and seconded by another member of the same TRA and does not necessarily need to be a TRA committee decision.

After lengthy debates, it was agreed by the Chair and the facilitator that the nominations from Rodney Estate be removed as requested and a revised list shared with the membership.

Action: Amanda to remove Rodney Estate nominations and circulate revised list

It was noted in the chat on zoom that the voting was not fair, however the facilitator pointed out that all people who had raised their hands to vote, either in person or on zoom, had been counted, so everyone had been given the opportunity and votes recorded.

Copies of the constitution are available and on the SGTO website if needed.

➤ Chair

Chris Meregini – Proposed by Kiri Pieri

Seconded by Jacqueline Gilmartin
Votes: (13, 3) = 16

➤ Vice-Chair

Althea Smith - Votes: (16, 2) = 18

➤ Treasurer

Johnson McCalthly - Votes: (12, 2) = 14

➤ Board Members

Cris Claridge
Christina Metibemu
Al-Issa Munu
Saidat Oketunde
Kiri Pieri
Emmanual Ojomo
Jacqueline Gilmartin
Kyle Simmons
Zoey Sergeant
Denise Baker

Block voting – Votes: (16, 2) = 18

5. **Any other Business**

It was said that the only way we can work as a tenant's movement is to work together despite our differences and to revisit the SGTO constitution to ensure we do not encounter any problems in the future. Further thanks were offered to the Chair for what has been a difficult year and it is hoped that we can all move forward together for the same purpose of service the tenants and residents of Southwark.

The Chair noted and thanked everyone for all the comments raised and confirmed that they will be looked into and amended where necessary.

The facilitator closed the meeting and passed back to Chair, who thanked everyone for coming and officially closed the meeting.

The board in attendance were then gathered for photographs.

Meeting Closed 20:07pm

DATE OF NEXT GROUP MEETING: 25TH OCTOBER 2023