

Lordship Hub Cooperative Board Meeting

24 June 2026

Agenda

- Attendance and Apologies
- Board roles
- Finance update
- Income generation and membership
- AGM actions and summer opening hours
- Co-operatives UK business support
- Website, signage and communications
- AOB

Attendance and apologies

Attendees: Ruth Keeling, Sue Jameson, Joan Curtis, Chuku Modu, Nóra White, Sarah Hazlehurst, Dave Selby, Sandra Sutherland.

Apologies: Dave Morris.

Conflicts of interest: Sue Jameson, Haringey councillor.

Board roles

The Board agreed who would take on the required officer roles following re-elections at the Annual General Meeting:

- Chair: Ruth Keeling
- Secretary: Sarah Hazlehurst
- Treasurer: David Selby

It was noted that board members will continue to step forward for specific areas of work as needed rather than creating additional named roles.

Finance update

The annual accounts were discussed and agreed for signing. The accounts need to be completed by the end of June, and arrangements were made for the relevant signatories to sign them promptly.

The May management accounts were reviewed. Board members welcomed the improved format and graphs in the finance pack, noting that the information was clear and easy to understand thanks to the work of Office Coordinator Nóra White.

The overall financial position was described as manageable but not strong, with concern about resilience ahead of winter and the need to improve income without placing unsustainable demands on staff time.

Actions:

- Annual accounts to be signed by the required signatories before the end-of-June deadline.
- Nóra to continue circulating clear finance summaries and management information for Board review.

Income generation

A broad discussion took place on possible ways to improve income. Ideas included

- Partnering with a forest school and charging them for cafe/toilets/room use
- Co-working use of the community room,
- Listing the Hub for supper clubs
- Hiring out Hub for pop-up restaurants,
- Charging a higher rate for evening events so they could be run with appropriate staffing eg security and deposits
- Paid workshops based on community organising and partnership expertise
- Encouraging member-led fundraising such as sponsored runs
- Generating more membership income

The Board agreed that all proposals would need to consider feasibility, staffing impact, risk, costs, marketing and relationships with staff and park partners. There was support for scoping the ideas before choosing which to prioritise.

Membership income ideas were also discussed. The Board particularly welcomed the recent work of the newly appointed community lead to improve membership systems, benefits and communications, including renewal reminders, clearer benefits and options for people to contribute more if they can afford to do so.

Actions:

- Ruth to write up the income-generation ideas, including pros, cons, risks, staffing implications and possible next steps, for Board and Staff input.
- Chuku to look into supper club and pop-up restaurant platforms and gather information on possible profiles, costs and requirements.
- Sarah and Joan to explore the potential for paid training or workshops drawing on community organising, advocacy and partnership experience.
- Dave Selby to speak with Carola about membership growth, conversion and increasing average member contributions.
- Next meeting to review membership statistics, including whether numbers and income have changed following recent membership improvements.

Summer opening hours

The Board discussed the request at the recent Annual General Meeting for longer café opening hours during the summer. Chuku reported on a positive, initial discussion with Amber about possible evening opening.

The proposal discussed was for a limited trial using one paid staff member and one volunteer, with locked internal areas, access to the accessible toilet only, terrace use, clear signage and flexibility based on weather and demand.

The Board agreed that any extended opening must be financially viable and reviewed quickly if sales do not cover costs. The group discussed whether weekdays or weekends would work best, with strong support for after-school opening on Thursday and Friday as an initial test.

Actions:

- Trial summer late opening on Thursday and Friday, 4pm to 7pm, using one staff member and one volunteer, subject to staff agreement and practical arrangements
- Chuku to continue discussions with café staff and managers about the late-opening proposal, including staffing, volunteers, lock-up arrangements, toilets, terrace use and signage
- Other AGM-generated ideas include sandwich boards, late-opening publicity and dog-on-terrace signage could be included as part of the summer-opening project

Actions from the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Other AGM-related points included improved signage, advertising that dogs are allowed on the terrace and Hub involvement in the Borough of Culture.

Actions:

- Staff and board members to note that owners have been allocated to specific actions from the AGM – see the actions table at the end of [Lordship Hub AGM – Meeting Notes 17052026.docx](#)
- Action owners are responsible for reviewing the suggestion and, if appropriate, implementing

Co-operatives UK business support

Office coordinator Nóra White reported that the Hub has been offered four days of funded business support through Co-operatives UK, funded by the Co-operative Bank. The adviser is expected to support work on business strategy, finances, membership and governance. A first in-person workshop is being planned, with a preference for keeping attendance focused on people closely involved in day-to-day operations and relevant Board leads.

The Board also noted governance questions about the Hub's current co-operative structure and the history of advice previously received. Former chair Dave identified as the person most likely to hold relevant background information.

Actions:

- Nóra to arrange the Co-operatives UK business strategy workshop and circulate possible dates.
- Relevant Board and staff members to confirm whether they wish to attend, noting the need to keep the workshop focused and manageable.

Website, signage and communications

The Board discussed the need to update the Board page on the website and to gather wider website improvements for the person who will be working on the site. It was noted that recent upgrades may make the website easier to edit.

The Board also heard that work is underway with the council on a large painted sign on the side of the building, identifying Lordship Hub community centre and café. The Board welcomed the idea and noted that professional design support should be used.

Actions:

- Board members to send website improvement ideas to the Office Coordinator be collected into a list.