

Draft Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 12th June 2017
At Highfield House Hotel

- Present. Jerry Gillen, Roger Brown, Chris Klewe, Adrian Vinson, Stephen Connolly, Mark Batchelor, Steven Johnston, John Bradshaw, Bryan Wakely.
- Attending. Councillor Paul O'Neill, Councillor Matthew Claisse, Jon Walsh, (SU), Marcus Hebbes, Adrian Pickwrink.
- Apologies. Councillor John Savage, Ian Dunn, Jill Baston, Nadine Johnson, Simon Hill, Nicolla Martin, Jacky Barnes, Tom O'Connor.

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.
There were no interests declared.
2. The minutes of the meeting on 8th May were approved.
3. Matters Arising.
The Chair reported that the bench outside the coffee shop was still there, and that the white van by the white goods store near Waitrose was still parking illegally. Matthew Claisse agreed to chase the matter up with the Council.
4. University Liaison.
Jon Walsh reported on a number of University activities.
The University were appealing against the planning decision on the steps by Lovers Walk and Jon thought that the appeal had already been sent in. They have also submitted their plans for a 'shared space' in Salisbury Road to the Council and are creating a turning circle behind the maths tower on the University service road, for deliveries to the South Gower building project.
5. The Common, Lovers Walk.
Roger Brown reported on the Common Forum. This had now been formally set up with Adam Wheeler as Chair. It was to be an independent group and has its own website. Its main purpose is to protect the character of the Common and ensure that it meets the needs and requirements of the local community. The Forum will be working with the Council on a new plan that will reflect the options criteria on the new Forum website.
A recent web survey showed that the public wanted better play areas, toilet facilities and prompt emptying of the litter bins.
The next meeting of the Forum would be on 4th July, 7.30 pm at Tauntons College.
There was some discussion of the future of the Hawthorns. At present very few school groups visited, so one of its main purposes no longer existed. Any ideas or proposals for future use would be most welcome.
HRA and the Forum would oppose the Council proposals for widening Lovers Walk.

Addendum from Simon Hill: “SCC cabinet has recently been told by officers that SCC’s 1992 management plan is still extant. Had the plan’s maintenance prescription been adhered to there would have been no need for Common Sense, which was formed to reverse the active neglect of some officers acting to their own agenda contrary to the plan. Much of the plan remains relevant but it needs updating, including a new strategic overview, to represent better the full range of uses and demands on the common, public preferences and how biodiversity can be conserved as far as that is consistent with the primary recreational purpose of The Common”.

6. Reports.

Membership	Nicolla reported by email as follows.
	Total data base membership 508
	Rolling Membership 237
	Total paid up 385

Finance

Mark had been unable to submit a report due to ongoing family problems, but raised his concern about the potential legal cost liabilities if we lost our planning appeals.

Planning

The committee discussed proposals put in for developments in Hilldown Road and Crofton Close. There was a general feeling that the Council planning department were not following their own guidelines, and that relations between the HRA and Planning were getting strained. Paul O’Neill agreed to look at the details of the Hilldown Close proposals to be forwarded to him by Adrian Pickwrink.

Website.

No report due to Nadine’s absence.

7. Party for Roger Brown.

This would take the form of an American Supper style function with some barbequed items as well. About 15 adults and a few children were expected.

.8. AOB

Some difficulties with parking at the Cowherds Inn were reported.

The future of the BlockBuster site was raised. It appears that the plan is to build upmarket student accommodation. The HRA was not formally objecting, but some of the local residents were likely to do so.

A spate of bicycle thefts and car break-ins were reported in Winn Road.

The Meeting ended at 8.50.