

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 14th August 2017
At Highfield House Hotel

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

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.
The Chair welcomed those attending, including Adrian Pickering of Hilldown Road, who had agreed to attend a few meetings with a view to being considered for joining the committee.
2. The minutes of the meeting on 10th July were approved with minor amendments.
3. Matters Arising.
All on the agenda.
4. University Liaison.
Jon Walsh gave an update on current activities. "The Steps" were in the Appeal process with the Council and there was to be further discussion regarding the proposed extinguishment of the Public Rights of Way over Salisbury Rd.
The main work at the University was accepting next September's Student intake either by direct application or via the Clearing System.
5. Meeting with Mr Sam, Fox head of Planning at Southampton Council.
Following circulation of his minutes of that meeting, the Chair gave a further report. The meeting could best be described as being "full and frank" and many areas of interest were discussed. However, a large number of outstanding questions remained unanswered (attached below), and as Mr Fox was now away until the end of August, this was felt to be a good opportunity to involve Richard Crouch, the Director responsible for Planning. Cllr O'Neil undertook to follow this up. It was suggested the Chair should contact other Residents Associations for additional support in this regard.
6. Reports. Membership No report available.

Finance In the absence of the Treasurer there were no detailed accounts available but it was confirmed we were solvent and still had money in the

Contingency fund. Discussion took place on how best to replenish the fund and perhaps to set a higher target than the present £10,000 approved many years ago. This matter was deferred for fuller discussion at the September meeting, when it was hoped there would be more Committee members present. It was further suggested we should look again at organising Social events in the interests of community involvement

Planning There was a final review of the Judicial Review for **12 Russell Place** and in spite of being unsuccessful, it was felt the exercise had been justified and worthwhile and that some positives had come from it; not least putting the Council on notice for any future similar cases. Reference was also made to the Judge's criticism of the Council's handling of the case.

It was confirmed that following a previous decision not to oppose the proposals for the **Blockbuster** site, that an objection had now been lodged, following requests to do so from members.

Adrian Pickering gave a report on the progress of the **Hilldown Rd** site, where work had now commenced, in spite of the last Planning refusal. The question was, whether the applicant was now implementing the original permission for residential accommodation or building without formal planning permission. Adrian and the Chair had both contacted the Case Officer in that regard and Ward Councillors suggested a follow up meeting with Planning or Enforcement.

Website Nadine gave a report and referred to being unable to obtain any response from No. 1 Coffee for their advertisement. She also asked that all planning applications and objections should be copied to her for inclusion on the Website Planning page.

7. Committee Structure.

The Chair emphasised that we were two key Officers short (Chair and Treasurer) as well as at least one committee member and that he was finding all the additional workload increasingly burdensome and stressful.

8. AOB

Jill Baston gave details of queries raised by PCRA regarding a Residents Parking scheme and 20 MPH speed limits for residential areas. It was felt with Council resources as they are, neither were likely to gain any traction at the present time.

Paul O'Neill asked if there was any news on so called RAT Man. Steven Johnston replied that he was still carrying on as before despite an imminent court hearing.

9. Next meeting on Monday 11th September.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Outstanding questions for Planning Dept –

8 Westridge Rd –

- why was Enforcement not carried out as agreed at the time in both January 2013 and again later in January 2016?
- why was false information provided by the applicant in seeking an LDC accepted at face value and not verified, following contrary evidence provided by local residents?
- In spite of the foregoing, why was a further retrospective planning application then facilitated in November 16? (notwithstanding it's withdrawal on the night)
- Why was this whole process not dealt with under Sec 70 of the 2011 Localism Act, which could have ended the matter?
- What action is now going to be taken following our meeting today?

Outstanding LDC applications –

- 8 Westridge (as above), 44 Bassett Ave & 14 Pansey Rd

Outstanding Enforcements –

- 28 Brookvale Rd, 5 Crofton Close, 8 Westridge Rd, 44 Bassett Ave

Localism Act 2011 –

- SF agreed to see if SCC is using Section 70 of the Localism Act correctly or even effectively and if not why not, based on the letter provided from the Housing Minister to JG.

Planning applications –

- 5 Crofton Close – why was a recent Planning application facilitated rather than being disposed of under Sec 70 of the Loc' Act 2011? Why was the outstanding Enforcement not dealt with expeditiously and further, why was the Enforcement Officer apparently assisting the Applicant with a revised application, rather than carrying out the long outstanding Enforcement?
- 14 Crofton Close – why was this application not brought to Panel as required following some 5 objections and a request from the Ward Cllr? This was given permission under Delegated powers, to the extreme detriment of the adjoining property. **Can this permission now be rescinded and referred to Panel?**
- 8 Westridge – already referred to.
- 12 Russell Place – in spite of losing this recent Judicial Review and following the Judge's comments that he felt... *there was something uncomfortable in the approach of the Council* and that... *many other decision makers might have*

taken a contrary approach and assessment... one is bound to ask therefore, why the Officer was so adamant in her recommendation to Panel when the material harm now caused to the neighbouring property's living room/dining room is so obvious?

- 'Builders Yard', Hilldown Rd – whilst this application has been refused, clarification is sought over the technicality concerning change of Use, B8/C3/4? Concern was also expressed about the role of Cllr Burke from another Ward in supporting this application.