



HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 11th April 2011
At the Highfield House Hotel.**

Present Jerry Gillen- Chair, Sue Hartley- Vice Chair, Caroline Knight- Secretary, Headley Rossell- Treasurer, Nicolla Martin, Roret Blue, Steve Connolly, Bryan Wakely, Peggy Augier and Alison Shelly.

Apologies Matthew Claisse and Julia Brooking

Attending Cllr Vincenzo Capozzoli, Cllr Adrian Vinson, Jackie Barnes and Peter Knight:

Minutes of the March meeting

- Were taken as read and accepted as accurate.

Matters arising

- None.

Correspondence

- Letter from Balfour Beatty re Residents' Parking scheme.
- Letter from Matthew Dean about protecting family housing.
- Thank you card from Don and Carmen re the curry evening.
- Emails re the success of the curry evening

Adrian Vinson

Jerry expressed his concerns re the publicity in the Echo re the possible application by Lidl to put a supermarket in Portswood. He felt that the report was mostly negative and was concerned that there had been no consultation with HRA. Adrian responded that he would have raised the matter with HRA if there had been time. Adrian said that he has not spoken to anyone who is in favour of another supermarket in Portswood and there is concern of the selling of the lease of Westridge Road car park. He said that the response to the notification about Lidl had been bigger than anything he had seen previously.

Jerry suggested that if Lidl are interested in progressing they might like to attend a committee meeting and put their point of view and to explain the facts.

Jerry was also concerned that the report in the Echo to do with the HMO issue implied that Jerry is a Conservative. 'Adrian replied.....as the composition of the sub-committee included a substantial number of known Conservatives, but that he did not include Jerry in this and was sorry if this had caused him any embarrassment.'

Membership

- At present we have 622 households and 148 renewals to date. 13 new households have joined as a result of the curry evening.

Finances

- The finances are healthy

Planning and Licensing

- Monthly list was circulated prior the meeting.
- Jerry is attending the PRW panel on 12th April in connection with 9-11 Merton Rd and two other properties.
- 32 Highfield Road- no-one has contacted HRA re this application. Matthew says that it is a family home.
- Highfield Pub- there is to be a 48 hour drumming marathon to raise money for charity. There has been no application for a late licence and the drumming during the night is to be alternative type drumming which will produce little noise and take place *inside* the building.
- JG attended a University Liaison meeting. The Student Union permanent staff appeared to accept responsibility for late night noise and have undertaken not to apply for any further late night licences. Next year's president also gave this undertaking.
- Parking is an on-going problem.
- AV attended the University Court Meeting where the Vice Chancellor conveyed that he understood the concerns re HMOs and student accommodation.
- There has been a useful meeting with the Council's Number 2 for planning.
- HMO lobby has informed Jerry that councils are at liberty to introduce a secondary article 4 directive in relation to HMOs in areas at risk. This could be implemented immediately and could mean the council should not be vulnerable to claims for compensation.
- PRG got their Article 4.2 for their Conservation Status today. Congratulations to them.
- A question was posed re the lack of enforcement for breaches of conditions. There is lack of resources but breaches should still be enforced rigorously. This is to be posed as a question at the AGM.
- During the meeting Peter Knight informed Jerry that he had just heard that the oral hearing of a judicial review brought by Milton Keynes and other councils had been lost.
- HRA is assisting Ridgemount Ave in their fight against an appeal.
- There is an application for a change of use of the Mecca Bingo Hall into a church. It is being handled by an agent so we do not know which church. Concerns were raised about the impact of such a change of use and the associated additional parking burden on the area.

Newsletter

The spring edition has now been delivered and the feedback has been good. Someone said that they thought that it was the most interesting edition to date. The next edition will be delivered the week beginning 31st May.

Website

Tony has done a lot of work on the website and there is a lot more content up.

Social events

- Curry night – Bryan reported that the curry evening was a great success. All the tickets had been sold by the Monday prior to the evening and some people had to be disappointed. So far there have been no complaints. We ended the evening £130 down: this was due to the charge for the hall and the printing of the flyers.

- Graham Archer also attended to report on the curry night. He also felt that it had been very successful. One guest had said that the evening had a “real village hall atmosphere”. Lessons to be learnt would be to allocate a contact person very early on in the arrangements. To identify who would set up and clear away.

The food and the disco were good and that the event was for families was also an attraction. The low cost of the tickets was also a draw. Graham is going to contact Penny Hastings as she has experience of other successful events and so might have some good ideas for future events.

Jerry suggested that it could be an annual event but if this was to be successful then we would have to have an organisational committee from the church and HRA. Jerry expressed his thanks to Bryan, Graham, and Nicolla for all their hard work and also to the other people who helped on the night.

Nicolla reported a problem with ticket sales by the church as they had not collected the money at the time and some people then turned up on the night with cash. In future it would be better to have just one point of sale.

Graham said that the church might be holding an event for the Royal Wedding.

AGM – Friday 13th May at the Highfield House Hotel, to be held as a form of “Question Time” with a panel of four people. HHH are going to provide the refreshments. So far we have a panel consisting of Alan Whitehead MP, a Police Chief Inspector, Deputy Leader of the Council and Adam Wheeler from the University. Question Time will be chaired by Prof. Roger Brown.

The committee have been asked to be prompt when asked for proposers and seconders for committee, financial report and minutes. Several questions have already been raised. What is happening with Portswood Police Station and why did it take the last government 10 years to implement HMO Legislation. Jerry and Caroline will get together to sort out details.

Summer event – Saturday 25th June, at Portswood Residents Gardens. Another function to entice new members. Hog Roast, Disco. Ticket pricing needs discussion. An advert will be put in next newsletter. A “date for your diaries” was put on the front page of the newsletter and is also on the website to let people know that the event will take place.

Any other business

- Caroline reported that she wasn't sure that the copy of the Constitution was up to date. Jerry will email the latest version he has.
- Parking Review and PRG application for scheme. HRA has advised residents to make their own representations about this matter.
- At the NORA AGM Jerry was elected Vice Chair.
- Nicolla reported that she is shredding HRA renewals letter for 2003. Headley thinks we should keep for 10 years. We need to look into this as it is a bit of a waste of time to keep unnecessary documentation.

The meeting closed at 9.05

There is no meeting in May due to the AGM therefore the next meeting is on 13th June