



Highfield Residents' Association

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm Monday 9th February 2009 at Highfield House Hotel

Present: Sue Hartley – Vice Chair, Nicolla Martin, Headley Rossell – Treasurer, Steve Connolly, Peggy Augier, Bryan Wakely, Adrian Vinson and Josie Brown.

Apologies: Jerry Gillen – Chair, Caroline Knight – Secretary, Julia Brooking, Gillian Gain, Catherine Powell, Alison Shelly, Andy Pickles, Andy Alderson and Steve Sollitt.

In attendance: Cllr. Vincenzo Capozzoli, Cllr Matthew Dean, Nick Bacon, Matt Martin – University liaison, Peter Knight, Roret Blue, Jenny Arnold, Alex Tanfield and Cllr. Jill Baston

Minutes of January meeting taken as read and agreed.

Matters arising and not on the Agenda:

The rough sleeper, believed to be called Chris, is often seen selling the Big Issue outside Waitrose. It is believed that a Charity provided him with accommodation, which he left. His details were sent to the council. Cllrs. Capozzoli and Dean have asked the legal department to look into the matter, however, it appears that he might have moved elsewhere.

Another meeting with Paul Nichols is scheduled for 23rd March at 3.30pm. The community panel made up of Jerry Gillen, Jackie Barnes, Adrian Vinson and Roger Brown to attend.

5, Crofton Close – Questions still not satisfactorily answered: why had other interested parties not been advised that the prosecution had been withdrawn? Cllr. Dean advised that the issue of the garage was informed by letter to the applicant in December 2008 and that the garage had been reinstated, albeit inadequately and does not comply with building standards. Cllr. Jill Baston enquired if anyone had checked on the work? Cllr. Dean said that he would request Paul Nichols to inspect.

Residents' Gardens conservation status, article 4.2 has gone through cabinet.

Grassroots, approved the grant application and given Highfield Residents' Association £3,300 which should cover some of the expenses for the next few newsletters. An additional application has been submitted. This one asking for £1,700 to help with the expense of covering the cost of the speakers at the AGM; of the holding the children's Christmas party; trying to increase our membership and looking into holding a function for the elderly.

Safety along Highfield Lane was questioned; the replaced lamppost outside the church gives inadequate light. With regards to the two bollards that have been replaced, Cllr. Dean confirmed that the firm that undertook the work has agreed to replace them at their own expense. Nearby lampposts appeared not to be working.

Correspondence on planning:

9 Jan. Refusal of application for 1, Crofton close re garage conversion.

9 Jan. Acknowledgement from DCLG of letter to Margaret Becket.

9 Jan. Notice of appeal by 7 – 8 Furzedown Road.

- 19 Jan. Objection to planning inspectorate re above appeal.
- 23 Jan. Application for single storey side and rear extensions to 20 Grosvenor Road.
- 23 Jan. Receipt of NORA sub fee.
- 30 Jan. Notice of appeal re enforcement notice served against main house 28 Brookvale Road.

Correspondence on other matters:

- 9 Jan. Escalation by council to stage 2 re enforcement action on 5, Crofton Close.
- 9 Jan. Acknowledgement from John Denham MP re HMO further letter.
- 19 Jan. Complaint about rubbish in garden of 5, Highfield Lane. **
- 20 Jan. Notification from Alan Whitehead MP of energy saving workshop to be held at Highfield Church on Wednesday 18th February.
- 23 Jan. Notification from NORA of AGM Saturday 7th March.
- 23 Jan. Thank you letter from Gillian for flowers following her operation.
- 04 Feb. Notification from Police of inaugural meeting of Highfield Neighbourhood Panel to be held at University Building 37. Monday 23rd February at 7pm – opposite swimming pool.

Adrian Vinson confirmed that the Hollyfield panel meeting would be by invitation only.

** The large garden in front of this property looks unsightly and contains a lot of rubbish. The wall has fallen over. As it is thought to be occupied by students, Matt Martin will investigate further.
MM

University community liaison and Student union: (Brought forward on the agenda)

Alex Tanfield said that in addition to exams the University had been preparing for the Community festival and the arrival of Bishop Desmond Tutu, whose talk will be screened and anyone without tickets was welcome to watch/listen. Jerry has requested for a photograph for the newsletter, please email this request to Alex, who has spoken to the media department **SH**
A new Vice-Chancellor and Student union elections are taking place.

Matt Martin advised that he and a colleague had attended one of the Common sense working parties, which had gone very well. He will be contacting the Fire Brigade to give a talk.

Membership:

Database **631** households.
Households paid up for 2008 has increased from **488** to **491**.

2009	JAN	FEB
	14	29

Finance:

The finances are healthy.
The set of accounts up to the 31st December 2008 were shown to all the committee members present, approved and duly signed.
It was also confirmed that any further instructions to Sarah Clover, Barrister, must be approved by at least two of the executive committee – in order to carefully monitor legal costs. It was noted that Sarah had given many hours of her time, free of charge, which was most appreciated. It was agreed that an “Ongoing Letter of Instruction” would be sent to Sarah to ensure that our case could be kept open. **JG**

Planning:

Adrian has changed the format of the planning list to include decisions and appeals. The committee liked the additional information of what was happening outside HRA area.

1 and 2 Boden Lane, which is the extension of Welbeck Avenue is a strange application as one would think the numbers would be opposite each other and not next door. The application is identical for both numbers. This is next to the Polish Club and shop opposite.

Licensing: Bargain Booze, 5 The Broadway – decision approved. This is for a conversion to an off-licence, trading to 11pm every day. An objection was lodged on behalf of HRA and rejected as insufficient details re objectors' names and addresses. This issue is to be carried forward for full discussion to the March agenda. **JG + CK**

Nick Bacon requested that the planning list be placed on the website. This would provide more access to this information. Nick who lives four doors from 28 and 28A Brookvale Road did not receive any notification from the council regarding the changes to this address returning it to two flats. Notification is attached to a lamppost outside this address. **Tony Knight / SC**

28A Brookvale – Cllr Dean is gathering evidence. When does the clock start ticking with the 4 year occupation? Strange / disturbing that two very significant letters are missing from the file, this appears somewhat dubious. The main house 28 Brookvale has been served an enforcement notice and there is already an appeal against this. There had been legal differences between Sarah Clover and the council which now appear to be resolved. Paul Nichol is preparing for the next meeting. It was agreed that appeals regarding 28 and 28A need to be dealt with together at a Public Inquiry. Adrian to speak to Barbara Compton as 28 not licensed as an HMO. What about fire regulations for 28 in view of the 13 tenants and fires in the past? The more people who write and object individually the more effective this is.

Committee and Street representatives' dinner:

This is confirmed for Wednesday 25th February, at Cenos. Acceptance, cheques for dinner and cash for drinks kitty to be sent to Nicolla as soon as possible.

OTRA Quiz: Saturday 28th February, at Highfield House Hotel, 7.30pm the annual quiz for the Admiral Foote trophy. Contact Marilyn Rossell. Bryan Wakely agreed to coordinate a team for HRA. This team would be comprised of HRA members and their households only.

HRA meetings – note change:

March 9th as normal.

April 13th to be cancelled due to the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Thursday 16th April 2009 at the Highfield House Hotel. Guest speakers include Sarah Clover, Barrister; Alan Shrank, Chairman of NORA, and Alan Whitehead MP.

Headley will identify which committee members are coming to the end of their term. **HR**

Required for the AGM are place names for the guest speakers. **CK**

& Invitations cards for our sister RAs. **CK**

Website: Tony Knight / Stephen. Tony is attempting to up-date and up-grade the Website.

Any other business:

Cllr. Dean said that the planning policy to protect family housing is being put into the Core Strategy with a planning guide to specifically protect older urban areas. He also said that the University of Southampton was looking into the fact that third year students' do not want to live in the Halls' of residence, as they are too expensive. The University is now considering increasing student accommodation within its own sites. The Council would welcome this in principle but approval would be required for the resultant intensity of use within the University campus.

Cllr Dean also confirmed that if three individual neighbours together with a Ward Councillor objected to a planning application, this would automatically be listed to be heard by the full Planning and Rights of Way Committee. Without the support of a Ward Councillor there needed to be four individual neighbours who were objecting, then this would automatically be heard by the Planning and Rights of Way Committee. This was not generally known by HRA's committee but had in fact been implemented for over 18 months.

Highfield School has requested free permit parking for their teachers / support teachers. This has been refused and the Headteacher had been offered business permits. This appeared not to be agreeable to him. It was questioned as to why they did not use the field? An application for signage has been made.

The turning from Roselands Gardens into Highfield School is still under construction, it is a mess with no markings and no lighting.

The Portswood recreation ground and Brickfield Road are flooded. The fields are for hire. This is out of area for HRA but is used by many residents of Highfield.

HRA Chairman and Vice-chair will be attending the NORA conference on 7th March.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Next meeting Monday 9th March 2009.