

Minutes of Committee Meeting
Held on 13th January 2014
Highfield House Hotel

Present Roger Brown, Jill Baston, Headley Rossell,
Nadine Johnson, Steve Connelly, Bryan Wakely
Jerry Gillen, Nicolla Martin, John Bradshaw
Simon Hill, Chris Klewe

Attending Tom O'Connor, Helen Kemble
Apologies Clr. Adrian Vinson, Clr Matthew Claisse, Clr Linda Norris, Roret Blue,
Peggy Augier, Julia Brooking

1. Welcome and apologies

Chris Klewe was welcomed, introduced and co-opted as the new minutes secretary.

The chair read a letter from Peggy Augier who had decided to retire from the committee on ill health grounds. Jill Baston agreed to send flowers on behalf of the committee.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting were presented and approved.

3. Matters Arising

1 The grant award has been approved but the money was not yet available. This needed to be chased up. Until the money was formally available, the committee could not commit to any projects or other actions. Helen agreed to help in the planning of future events funded by the award.

2 The formal launch of the website was being delayed by the lack of grant monies.

3 The proposed cycleway from Burgess Road to Westwood Road was still under discussion with the city council and possible changes to the route were being considered.

4 Roger Brown confirmed that the city council were intent on disbanding the City Patrol. This was likely to increase the impact of local nuisances.

4. Reports

1 Helen Kemble summarised the activities of the police in dealing with minor nuisances both at the University Campus and around Highfield/Portswood wards. Helen agreed to liaise for the police on the use of the grant award.

2 Finance. Headley Rossell reported that the accounts were in a healthy state and that a full report would be prepared for the next meeting.

3 Membership. Nicolla Martin reported that membership data base was 560. Paid up members for 2013 were 441. 8 new members were enrolled at the recent Childrens Christmas Party. With the start of a new year, our rolling paid up membership for January is 2.

4 Planning A list of recent planning applications was tabled and contentious ones were discussed.

At a recent meeting of the Council Planning Scrutiny Committee, HRA had made a good case on the HMO issue, but the Council had seemed to want to increase the number of HMO's allowed because of the projected increase in housing benefit claimants. Overall the landlords represented at the meeting had not been helpful. A full report would be published after May 2014. Jerry reported on the stop order campaign.

5. AGM

Roger Brown said that the AGM would be held on 24th April 2014 and have a similar format to last year. There would be about 30mins formal matters and 1 hour on a panel discussion. Please would people provide questions for the panel to the chair before the meeting. This would be followed by a small reception with representatives of the city council, the University and the police. Nicolla Martin gave advanced apologies for absence at the AGM but will make sure everything is in place for whoever is prepared to check members in. The March and April renewals letters will be typed and delivered early to try to prevent members paying on the night at the AGM.

6. AOB

1 Steven reported on a proposal to have regular clearups of the Little Common Area. The work and costs would be shared equally with the university, but might include some extra insurance premium. Headley would look into this.

2 Caroline Knight was still receiving complaints from residents about litter usually dropped by student groups. It was suggested that the community payback group could also do litter picking in selected areas.

3 Jerry suggested that we should apply for extra money from grant awards to cover clearance and litter picking.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Minutes approved at meeting of 10th February 2014.