

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 9th June 2014
Highfield House Hotel

Present Roger Brown, Jerry Gillen, Jill Baston, Simon Hill, Stephen Connelly, Chris Klewe, Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin

Attending Councillor Matthew Claisse, Councillor Linda Norris, Councillor Paul O'Neill, Tom O'Connor PRG, Roret Blue USA, Nick Bacon, Farooque Ahmed, 2 police officers

Apologies Headley Rossell, John Bradshaw. Alison Shelley, Jacky Barnes

1. Welcome and apologies

The committee welcomed Councillor Paul O'Neill to his first meeting and congratulated Councillor Linda Norris on her election as Sheriff.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising

AGM Nadine raised some points about comments noted in the HRA committee minutes of May 2014 concerning the HRA AGM in April:

Although some members came in late after the meeting had started, there were no queues at registration at that time. It had also been suggested that three registration tables could be placed further back in the hotel lobby to avoid bottlenecks in the narrow corridor. However the volunteer staffing one of the two registration desks had kindly replaced another at the last minute and the Queue Manager had given him additional training, resulting in less time for queue management and a few minor delays.

Next year's AGM would be Thursday 30th April 2015.

Website Nadine reported that this was now on hold because the webmaster had not been able to continue. She was hoping to recruit a new one and was interviewing next month. Our email data base was able to let us communicate with members.

HMO Survey Simon Hill reported that work on this was continuing but that progress was still slow. He agreed to review the survey details and would update the committee at the next meeting.

Little Common/Lovers Walk

The lunch on the common on 1st June went well. There was still some vegetation to be cleared and more work parties will be needed to help with this. Progress on the creation of the new cycle way to the University was noted and the provision of a cycle ramp into the University Campus was still under discussion.

Brookvale Road repairs

The road surface was cracking badly and would need to be repaired this year. The Councillors will keep us informed about the timescales once they have been determined. It was important to coordinate with work planned in Portswood Road and minimise disruption to local shops.

4. Finances

Roger Brown reported that the finances were healthy but that a subscription increase might have to be considered. Commercial sponsors were being sought to help with the cost of the Newsletter.

5. Membership

Nicolla Martin reported on the membership:-

Data base records	560
Paid up total	414
Rolling paidup	220

Nicolla also reported a problem that the membership card printers had inadvertently printed double the number of cards ordered. It was agreed that she should negotiate the best deal possible to purchase the spare cards.

6. Planning

Scrutiny Panel Report

The recommendations made in this report were welcomed and it was agreed that we should inform the Council of our support and that we hoped adequate resources for its implementation would be available.

Current Planning Cases

A number of current planning cases were discussed. Of note was that the Planning Inspector's report on 47 Osborne Road South made reference to amenity issues for the first time. It was also agreed that we should be

represented at the hearing on 51 Heatherdene Road on 9th July.

Council Liaison

It was reported that Southampton Council were changing the Planning and Rights of Way panels so that cases would be heard by Councillors from elsewhere in the City. There was also a substantial turnover of senior planning officers. During discussion it was noted that the panel structure might improve impartiality but that it was important that Councillors received good, accurate and consistent advice from their officers. It was agreed that HRA should work with other city associations to draw our concerns about the potential impact on the quality and integrity of future planning decisions to the Council's attention.

7. Building Bridges

Jerry Gillen reported that there would be a curry night with the Students Union and the Police on 26th September to which all residents would be invited. The police reported that so far there had been fewer burglaries than usual at the time of year but there had been some complaints about noisy parties.

8. AOB

Simon Hill raised the matter of the cycleway and that the Council were pushing for a substantial widening.

Roret Blue reported that a landlord had taken part of the footpath joining Ripston Gardens with Granby Grove, effectively closing the path. Councillor Matthew Claisse agreed to investigate.

Roret also raised the point that litter seems to be accumulating everywhere. Presumably there was not enough money to employ litter pickers.

Jerry Gillen raised the matter on planning applications that it was critical to get good legal advice before opposing certain applications.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.