



HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 14th March 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, Alison Shelly and Matthew Claisse.

Apologies Julia Brooking, Adrian Vinson, Billy Fitzjohn.

Attending Cllr Vincenzo Capozzoli, Jennifer Arnold and Peter Knight:

Minutes of the February meeting

Were taken as read and accepted as accurate.

Matters arising

- Number 14 bus – Mathew assured the meeting that the bus service will not be lost although it might take a different route.

Correspondence

- EBRA Newsletter
- Letter re the NSCF support of the Ridgemount Ave appeal.

Membership

- At present we have 611 households and 64 renewals to date. 3 new members.

Finances

- The accounts were approved at the last meeting and have been circulated although some people have been unable to open the file successfully.

Planning and Licensing

- Monthly list was circulated prior the meeting.
- **Lidl** –a planning application for a Lidl supermarket on the site of the Cycle Shop in Portswood is being considered. The Westridge Road car park will be part of the

plan and the Council will consider selling a lease of the car park. It would still be available for public parking. The toilet block would be demolished and sited within the store but would still be available to the public. There would be some demolition of adjacent buildings. The proposed store would be much smaller than the Sainsbury's store. The application is likely to be submitted in May/June and at that time the opinions of members of HRA will be considered.

- The conversion of some flats in Ripstone Gardens was given planning permission with the condition that they were for family use. Students have been seen going in and out of the building.
- The Council is formally approving the issue of the Article 4 direction tonight.
- There is to be an oral hearing for the judicial review instigated by Milton Keynes Council. Jerry will alert Alan Whitehead and ask him to alert the All Party Parliamentary Group.

If successful then the present process would halt and the situation would revert to how it was last April. There is to be a formal consultation on April 19th at 4.00pm. Cllr Dean is sending a letter to all residents explaining the process.

- Ridgemount Ave- the people opposing the appeal might be using Sarah Clover but will have to raise approximately £4000 to cover costs.
- Hearing re 9-11 Merton Road – Matthew Claisse will be attending.
- Jerry asked the meeting to consider what they would like to see incorporated in Local Policy. We should be asking for areas of restraint in areas already affected such as Highfield and the Polygon. Should there be a threshold for the city of 10%? It was felt that the main problem was lack of resources to enforce any policies.

Newsletter

The next edition will be delivered the week beginning 28th March. Pearsons and Cenos have agreed to advertise in the next three issues and Pearsons have agreed to sponsor the summer edition which will have to go out week beginning 25th May to advertise the summer event.

Website

The advert for the curry night has gone up and Tony has a lot of other documents to put up as soon as he is free to do so.

Social events

- Curry night – it transpires that the Church refurbishment will not be finished in time for the event. Bryan has had considerable difficulty liaising with representatives from the church. They are suggesting that we pay £375 for the hire of the hall but Bryan has negotiated £175 but that now does not include help with setting up and clearing away. They can provide cutlery but not plates and the kitchen cannot be used. Bryan requested help in setting up etc. Peggy, Steve and Nicolla agreed to help. Alison said that she will talk to someone re the canopies. The flyers cost £300 and there are lots left over. In future we should organise events for after the newsletter so they can be advertised in that. Approx 50 tickets have been sold so far. Jerry will try to talk to Graham Archer.

AGM – Friday 13th May at the Highfield House Hotel, to be held as a form of “Question Time” with an interesting panel of about five 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.

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 to let people know that the event will take place.

NORA AGM – will take place on 26th March in London. Jerry is going and would like volunteers to go with him.

- Jerry and Sue went to meet with Alan Shrank. They discussed the Big Society and the changes to licensing in respect of music. Jerry has been invited to stand as Vice Chair of NORA- he is considering his position.

Any other business

- Headley, Peggy and Stephen are standing for re- election at the AGM. Jerry will stand for another year to facilitate a handover to someone else.
- Caroline will speak to Karen at Tudor distribution re the number of newsletters that are distributed and find out if there is any wastage.
- Vincenzo talked about the replacement of street lights in the area. There was discussion about the type of lights used in Brookvale Rd. As the southern aspect is in a conservation area. Caroline will see if she can find out any more. There has been discussion with OTRA who have been assured that heritage style lights will be used in their conservation area.
- Friday 1st April- Professor Norman Maclean will give a talk based on his book *Silent Summer* in the pavilion in the Residents’ Gardens. It starts at 7.30 and entry is free although a collection will be taken. Caroline asked for a report and pictures for the next newsletter.
- Nicolla informed the meeting that Abbey Raikes is retiring as a street rep. He covered a large area and a replacement will need to be found. Jerry expressed his thanks to Abbey for all his hard work over the years. Caroline suggested that he should be given a scroll to formally thank him. Nicolla wanted to formally express thanks to Nicky Bradshaw for her hard work in organising the delivery of the curry night leaflets and also for delivering a large number of them herself. Also thanks to Caroline Silk for her help.

The meeting closed at 9.20

The next meeting is on Monday 11th April 2011.