



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 11th March 2013 at Highfield House Hotel

Present: Committee members: Jerry Gillen (in the Chair), Roret Blue, Julia Brooking, Steve Connolly, Simon Hill, Keith Reed, Hedley Rossell, Alison Shelley, Bryan Wakeley, Peggy Augier

Attending: Farooq Ahmed, Nick Bacon, Jacky Barnes, Cllr Matthew Claisse, Cllr Linda Norris, Tom O'Connor, Cllr Adrian Vinson

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Roger Brown, Jill Baston, Nicolla Martin, Nadine Johnson, Sue Hartley.

Jerry Gillen took the chair in Roger Brown's absence.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 11th February 2013 previously circulated, were taken as read and as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising: None at this point – most items would occur under the appropriate agenda heading

4. Communications update. Caroline Knight has agreed to stay on for a further 6 months, in particular to help with setting up the data base, which is progressing well to date. Keith Reed offered to assist if required.

5. Summer Social. Bryan Wakeley prepared some costings for consideration. £12.50 per head would cover the cost of hiring the Pavilion in the Residents' Gardens, the Hog Roast, one glass of wine and some music. Hire of the Residents' Gardens marquee would be £100, which was not included in the costing. It was agreed to proceed on this basis, as it was necessary to confirm the booking without delay. It is hoped to advertise the event on the database. Further details would be finalised later.

6. Finance. Hedley Rossell reported the finances to be quite healthy. Subscriptions are coming in slowly, and are a bit down on figures for this time last year. The annual accounts were approved at the last meeting.

A grant application for £10,000 has been prepared and submitted by Jerry Gillen and Hedley Rossell.

Legal Fees: A sum of £1,500 + VAT has been paid to Sarah Clover for legal advice, and for her attendance at the AGM. Some fees remain to be paid. She has provided a 37 page document of advice about local HMO's, a confidential document which is available to committee members only. Adrian Vinson asked if we could apply this advice to other cases. A recent inspector's report highlighted the important point that an HMO means the loss of a family home as well as being contrary to the NPPF. (see Appeal Decision re 6 Denbigh Gardens)

To help offset this cost, contributions have been received from residents re 53 Shaftesbury Avenue, and the Upper Shaftesbury Avenue area re their advice for 75 Upper Shaftesbury Avenue. Hedley Rossell is also hoping to get some contributions from Grosvenor Road residents.

7. Membership. Nicolla Martin will keep her membership database separate from the main one.

8. Planning.

- Reference was made to the North Southampton Community Forum having raised a complaint with the Council over the conduct of a member of the planning panel.
- Two important appeals have been lodged against decisions made on 49 Heatherdeane Road and 13 Grosvenor Road.
- HRA will again support the neighbours of 13 Grosvenor Road who have asked for Sarah Clover's representation. They have indicated they are prepared to meet the full cost themselves if necessary. Adrian Vinson pointed out that this will be the second appeal on 13 Grosvenor landlord can continue to submit applications with only slight variations. It is hoped to try and enter into a dialogue with the landlord, which needs to be done as soon as the current appeal has been heard.
- 49 Heatherdeane Rd, at present two family occupied flats, has an application in to further divide the house into 2 smaller flats and 2 studio flats. Simon Hill will draft an argument for over-extension of use, and inappropriate development.
- Jerry Gillen has e-mailed Chris Lyons with a long list of outstanding matters.
- Roger Brown and Jerry Gillen have met with Cllr Thorpe who has agreed to try and get some movement on enforcement.

- Roger Brown and Jerry Gillen are to meet Chris Lyons on 15th March. Adrian Vinson noted that the issue of landlords using The Householder Application Process is important, as is the issue of extensions, which are on the increase. This is supposed to be, a fast track procedure for small, private development, rather than to expedite landlord's applications.

AOB HRA is in discussion with Solent University re the building of our new website.

Commonsense Simon Hill reported on a day's work with tree surgeons, and reminded us of the working party on 13th March. Proposals are still being drafted re the cycle route from the University to the city centre. The consultation will be at the Avenue campus on 9th and 10th April at 4 pm. Simon commented on the bad state of the tarmac on local roads and cycle paths. The tarmac laid in Brookvale Road only a year ago is already crumbling.

AGM Julia Brooking asked if the arrangements for the AGM were in place, and if any extra help was needed. The meeting will start at 7.30pm, the Mayor will preside, and half an hour will be allowed for business. Sarah Clover will be the main speaker. The social/informal part of the evening should start no later than 9pm.

Cllr Norris asked if there would be flyers for the Hog Roast.

Adrian Vinson spoke on the additional licensing scheme for HMO's – the council will roll it out initially in 4 wards – Portswood, Swaythling and 2 inner city wards. It will start this autumn until 2016.

Nick Bacon commented on the large number of heavy vehicles using residential roads and causing damage to the surfaces. There is a weight restriction at the top of Highfield Avenue which is not always observed – Cllr Claisse will raise this issue at Council.

It was agreed to have the next committee meeting on Monday 8th April unless we hear otherwise.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm