



## **HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011**  
**At Highfield House Hotel.**

**Present** Jerry Gillen - Chair, Sue Hartley - Vice Chair, Caroline Knight – Secretary, Headley Rossell – Treasurer, Allison Shelly, Roret Blue, Steve Connolly, Julia Brooking, Nicolla Martin, Keith Reed and Julia Brooking

**Apologies** Bryan Wakely, Peggy Augier, Nadine Johnson, Josie Brown, Matthew Claisse, Jenny Arnold, Jo Sage, Peter Knight, Martin Moore EBRA, Derek Willis (Grosvenor Rd),

**Attending** Frankie Fry – SU Officer, Simon Hill (Common Sense), Cllr Vincenzo Capozolli, Cllr. Adrian Vinson, Nick Bacon, Michael Mace, Pauline Prenke and Hilary Foster.

### **Minutes of the August meeting**

- Acceptance of minutes - proposed by Keith and seconded by Stephen.

### **Matters arising**

- 160-180 Broadlands - refused

### **Correspondence**

- Jerry has received a letter from Balfour Beatty informing him that Brookvale Rd is to be closed for resurfacing. The sign says for 6 days.

### **SU and University Liaison – Frankie Fry**

- Frankie told the committee the following week was International Welcome Week and would be followed by Freshers Week. All the information about the events is available on the website.
- 13 Grosvenor Road – the application has been refused. An Enforcement Notice will be served on the landlord and the occupants in due course. A sign for 13a has been erected despite the Council not recognising it as a separate dwelling. The front door has been kicked in recently. It would appear that the landlord was given 24 hours' notice of the intention to serve an injunction despite the Council asking HRA to keep it quiet. This allowed the landlord to give the students the keys prior to the injunction becoming effective. Hilary Foster has an email which confirms this and Jerry has an email urging HRA to say nothing. Sue told Frankie the students should be made aware there are now implications for them as the issue is now between the Council, the landlord and the individual occupants. Frankie says students are given advice re appropriate accommodation but it is only advice.

- Students who find themselves in sub-standard accommodation must keep a log book of all issues and actions. Some landlords use intimidation and can be quite threatening. Students should report all concerns to the Advice Centre.
- Jerry has taken up issue of Licensing with the Council.
- Adrian Vinson has a motion on the Council /Agenda re threshold of number of students in the community like the one that is in place in Oxford. It is felt that the University should have to provide accommodation for all first year students.

### **Common Sense – Simon Hill**

- The Council have asked for a briefing note which has been provided. Simon will email round a longer piece of work which contains pictures.
- There would appear to be a difference of opinion over the hedge which Common Sense would like removed and the Common Staff think should be retained. It was agreed it could be removed if there was no evidence of the presence of badgers. A survey was undertaken and no badgers were found.
- It would seem there is a conflict between the need for biodiversity and the needs of the users of the Common.
- There has been discussion with the contractor who will do additional work within the £400 quote if he has time: is there a need for a separate quote?
- On-going maintenance is an issue and must be considered alongside the clearance issues.
- Vincenzo agreed to apply pressure to resolve issue.
- There was discussion about whether the woodland behind the hedge is ancient woodland and whether it should be protected.
- Simon expressed the gratitude of Common Sense for the support received from HRA.

### **Membership - Nicolla**

- The rolling total is 371 – actual number is 509 and the database stands at 633 households.

### **Finances – Headley**

- Headley reported that the finances are healthy. Unfortunately there is no sponsorship for the next newsletter.

### **Planning and Licensing – Keith and Jerry**

- Report as circulated.
- 1 Blenheim Gardens – HRA has written to the Planning Inspectorate. The applicant has asked for written representation. The question was asked re the benefit of HRA asking for an Informal Hearing or a Public Enquiry. CS 16 does not carry significant weight according to an Inspector hearing an appeal on a property in Shirley. The Planning Inspector decides how an appeal will be heard.
- 13 Grosvenor- no formal notice issued yet. Sarah Clover has agreed to represent HRA and Jerry has written to Cllr Fitzhenry asking if he would consider joint representation. With the appeal re Ridgemount Ave the Council presented a couple of pages of argument and Sarah Clover presented a 37 page dossier.

- Policies must have gone through a consultation process or an Inspector will not take into account.
- 14 Richmond Gardens – HRA has objected.
- 4 Sherbourne – letter opposing.
- 124-126 Upper Shaftesbury – this is not classified as garden grabbing as the proposed development is on the footprint of a garage and workshop which was erected some years ago so there are no grounds to object
- The Secretary of State has said gardens are no longer in the category of previously developed land. No statement has been made to suggest garden grabbing is a bad thing. There is no presumption that development of gardens is as of brownfield sites.
- Application for development in Abbotts Way has been refused. It would appear that some development in a Conservation Area would not be approved where it might be approved elsewhere.
- Developing policies do not apply and carry no weight.
- Late licences have been applied for for the World Cup.
- Heatherdene Road- planning application for an 8 bed HMO.
- 17 Merton Road- this falls within permitted development.
- There is a Licensing Seminar in Birmingham in November- Jerry might be attending, subject to cost, and asked for declarations of interest from other members.

### **Website - Stephen**

- The site has now been taken over by Firmsites and Caroline is to arrange a meeting to fine tune the site.

### **Newsletter**

- The next issue will be delivered during the week starting 7<sup>th</sup> November which is a month before the Children's Christmas Party. There is quite a lot of copy. Someone suggested it might be nice to carry an obituary for Ken Barnes. We will ask Jacky how she feels about that.

### **Winter Event**

- Bryan has spoken to Ghandi's who have offered us the use of the whole restaurant on a weeknight. He received no response from the Church. We need to choose a date. Bryan has suggested some dates. CK to check emails.

### **Any other business**

- There has been a report of drug dealing in Roselands Gardens. PC Andy Alderson and PCSO Helen Kendal joined the meeting and discussed the issue of drug dealing. There have been problems in this area previously. Evidence was collected by local residents which the police need. Andy will visit the gentleman who made the complaint.
- Andy also gave the meeting some leaflets about a meeting the following day at St George's School where the proposed changes to policing arrangements will be discussed. Portswood Station will be staying open for the present but the front desk will be closing. There will be consideration of a multi-agency building.
- Andy agreed that either he or Mark Lewis will provide a piece for the newsletter.

- HRA will write a letter to the Council in support of a solution for the parking problems the teachers experience at Highfield School. Keith will draft the letter.
- Sue thanked the committee for the flowers she received on the death of her brother.

**The meeting closed at 9.05**

- **The next meeting will be on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011**