



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2013
AT HIGHFIELD HOUSE HOTEL

Present: Jerry Gillen, Jill Baston, Nicolla Martin, Peggy Augier, Keith Reed, Alison Farmer, Simon Hill, Bryan Wakely, Steve Connolly, Nadine Johnson, Julia Brooking.

Attending: Dr Richard Buckle, Elly Newman, Cllr Linda Norris, Roret Blue, Cllr Matthew Claisse, Tom O'Connor, Jacky Barnes.

Apologies: Roger Brown, Cllr Adrian Vinson, John Bradshaw, Headley Rossell.

1. Welcome and apologies; declarations of interest.

Jerry Gillen, chairing the meeting, explained that declarations of interest will now be a standard item on the agenda. This may be helpful in matters such as planning.

2. Minutes of last meeting.

Jill has added to item 4 that Nadine will be our liaison with Elly, our webmaster.

3. Matters arising.

None unless included on agenda.

4. Safety on Portswood Broadway.

This item was postponed to October, as both PCSOs were now committed to other activities at the time of this meeting.

5. Website.

- Elly reported that the website is taking shape. Content is needed so she will liaise with Nadine for general information about HRA.
- Possibilities and problems of recruitment via the website in the absence of regular newsletters were discussed. The transfer to online payments, if and when it occurs, will be monitored to check that donations are not diminished. The committee agreed to continue with the existing recruitment form on the website.
- Elly suggested that photos of committee members together with some information could be included on the site; this was agreed subject to each committee member's consent.

- A meeting is scheduled between Elly, Roger and Nadine to further progress matters. There is still a lot of work to be done before the website can be launched.

Alison reported that the HRA Facebook page now has 40 'likes'.

6. Grant application update.

- Keith has heard back from committee members following the circulation of a draft version of the application. This application must emphasise safety and community engagement in order to have any chance of success. We have support from both the police and the students' union. Jerry will meet with SU officers on Tuesday 10th September.
- The possibility of a front garden in bloom competition was suggested; several members volunteered to help as judges. A shortened newsletter could be published online. We could use the database more to communicate.
- Keith will circulate an amended version once more, then send it off.

7. a) The Avenue underpass.

- Simon reported that the meeting of SCC officers and residents was well attended, with more than 20 people present. Officers suggested that the standards of width of cycle and pedestrian lanes was merely 'guidance' but Simon remains unconvinced.
- There is an impression that SCC want to push this through to provide a clean water source for the great crested newt, which despite its Europe-wide protected status, is not a rare species in the UK. An additional factor is that there is conservation grant available for this project.
- There is no evidence that SCC road safety officers, whose views may differ from the maintenance officers, are in the consultation loop. Councillors will find out about this.
- It was agreed that HRA will oppose the project.

b) Residents' Parking Scheme.

- SCC has notified Simon that they will extend the consultation to 13th September.
- His questions about who pays for the residents' parking areas near the University, i.e. the University or the residents, have not been answered.

8. Reports.

Finance: Via email, Headley reported that August is very quiet for transactions, so little has changed since last time. Jerry has sent in a request to Waitrose for funding for our Children's Christmas Party.

Membership: The rolling membership is 338.

Planning: Bryan has organised a new format for sending out notifications from the planning department, which have previously been difficult for some people to read. The SCC website information can be culled to relevant applications, although this is time-consuming. Bryan will send out an attachment to committee members at the end of each month.

- Jerry has discovered that the published statistics for nuisance from HMOs are unreliable. Environmental Health record only verified complaints, which is unrepresentative. The police give out crime statistics – there have been 98 reports overall of antisocial behaviour, relevant to HMOs.
- Jerry will press for statistics to be shared. The police will invite officers from Environmental Health to the next liaison meeting.
- Nadine has written to Chris Lyons re 5 Crofton Close, seeking information about the enforcement appeal. The councillors will also make enquiries.
- Jerry has received a letter from Punch Taverns, declaring that they wish to invest in the Highfield pub.

9. AOB

- Jerry paid tribute to Ulrich Pfeifer, the well respected manager of the Crown Inn, who died in August after a sudden illness.
- Nadine asked about Portswood Computers, who are now in the basement of the new Post Office. It was confirmed that they have been taken over by the owner of the premises.
- Alison reported a burglary in Welbeck Avenue the previous night.
- A house in Oakmount Avenue has been burgled recently; all the house keys were taken. Entry was via an open ground floor window.
- Simon noted the summer growth on the Little Common, including more brambles. The flailer is back in use now, which will improve the situation. He was able to talk to some SCC managers, who happened to be on the common. He is concerned that oaks are now flourishing and becoming more dense, eroding open space.
- A walk around will take place with Simon, Jon Dyer-Slade and the Cabinet Member.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.