



Highfield Residents' Association

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11th January 2010

Present Jerry Gillen – chair, Sue Hartley – vice-chair, Headley Rossell – Treasurer, Jenny Arnold (PRG) and Josie Brown – minutes, Roret Blue, Rafeal Persaud, Allison Shelly

Attending Matt Martin (Univ), Stephen O'Reilly (SU Pres), Cllr Vincenzo Capozzoli,

The Chairman welcomed back Roret with condolences over her bereavement.

He also extended sympathy to Peter Knight, hopefully recovering from his illness.

Apologies from: Caroline Knight, Nicolla Martin, Peggy Augier, Adrian Vinson, Stephen Connolly, PC Andy Anderson.

Minutes of the last meeting agreed

Matters Arising:

- (i) AGM: J.G had written to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Nutbeam, inviting him to speak and awaited a reply. M.M. will offer a reminder.
- (ii) J.G. also trying to get a Senior Police Officer to speak.

Correspondence:

Planning Matters

- 16, Blenheim Gardens extension - application had been withdrawn.
- 30 Shaftesbury Avenue - a wall.
- 134 Bassett Ave/ 1Beechmount Rd – flats
- 28A Brookvale Road – Appeal had been refused.

- HMOs
- J.G. had had a meeting with Alan Whitehead MP to ask why a response to the consultation was so long overdue; A.W. still working on the matter.
- Letter from Sandra Gidley MP – not optimistic.
- Communication with John Denham MP who is doing what he can to facilitate progress.
- Communication with Councillor Matthew Deane who has also written to the Secretary of State.

Community Liaison / SU

- The application for the University Community Grant for Common Sense is in and the results should be known shortly. HRA members were very involved in drawing up the proposal. If successful this will be launched with some publicity.
- The University's Travel Plan: Matt reported that The University of Southampton is happy to share this with the community, but not to consult.



However the Travel Plan is looked at by the University on an ongoing basis and therefore could be altered if the University thought appropriate.

- The Cube: Stephen reported that the event which was advertised to the public by an outside promoter was **cancelled** by The Cube when the SU discovered that the event was advertised to non SU members. HRA members were pleased to hear this. He reminded the meeting that non-students who wish to attend events at the Cube have to be signed in by a member. He reported that HRA would not be routinely informed of temporary event notices at The Cube. JG stated the importance of the police knowing about these.
- Safer and Stronger Communities Grant: nothing more to report
- The University Neighbourhood News will be out shortly (deadline c. 2 weeks)

Membership

There are currently 514 paid up households with so far 11 new / renewals in January

Finances

- Finances are reasonably healthy. Headley gave an outline of the past year's accounts. Approval from the committee for these accounts is to be sought at the February meeting (prior to being put to the AGM). He reminded the meeting that HRA has had a £5K grant this year and without it we would not be in such a healthy financial position. Overall there is a surplus of about £3K (after payment of professional fees) and it was proposed, and approved by the committee, that £2K should be transferred to HRA's professional fees fund, to take this to £9K.
- HRA was successful in obtaining £500 from the City Council Community Chest Grant which is to go towards the newsletter. This is to be acknowledged in the next newsletter
 - **Action JG / CK**
- The committee extended grateful thanks to Headley for looking after the finances and preparing the accounts.

Planning and Licensing

- 38 Granby Grove: Allison reported that previously HRA had objected to a planning application here, but she thought there had recently been another application and HRA has possibly missed the deadline to comment. Allison to check this.
 - **Action AS**
- 1 Crofton Close. The public inquiry hearing is on Tues 19 Jan (am). Committee members were encouraged to attend. Sue reported that in October 2009 the instructing solicitor from the Council had asked if Sue would be prepared to give evidence and had said that the solicitor would be in touch about asking Susan for a written statement. Sue had heard nothing, but by chance had found out just before Christmas that any statements had to be submitted in two days' time. This gave her and others who wished to prepare statements very little time.



There was general disquiet about the mismanagement of this by the Council. JG asked VC to take back to the Council HRA's experience.

Action VC

Newsletter

JG wished to acknowledge Caroline Knight's invaluable input into the last newsletter and the committee were extremely appreciative of Caroline's work and wished to thank her.

The next newsletter must be delivered in mid March in order to advertise the AGM. The University was asked to make a contribution to the next newsletter and Matt and Steve will look into this.

Action MM / S

Website

There is now a link to the police website (as suggested by Matt)

HRA Highfield map

We have permission to have our own map and the Council has produced a draft for which we are very grateful. This was distributed. There were various comments e.g. on the layout and colouring and some roads were unnamed. Jerry will take these comments back and see if these small amendments can be made. **Action JG**

Any Other Business

- Sue said she had found another of the Council's officers to be very helpful to her before Christmas and would be emailing him to thank him.
- Steve reported that there is a new General Manager of SSU – Jackie Booth – who is keen to foster relationships with HRA and had asked if she could come to meetings. The committee extended a warm invitation to her to attend the meetings.
- Allison reported that the children's Christmas Party had been a great success and the 2010 one has been booked for Dec 2010 in Portswood School. There had been very good feedback generally, and for Portswood School as a venue.
- Roret thanked the committee for the flowers and letters sent to her recently
- Jenny: there is to be a coffee morning on Friday 22 January 10.30 – 12.00 in the PRG Pavilion in aid of the Mayor's charities
- JG: suggested some possible social activities in 2010. Various ideas were discussed including an event with Philip Hoare (the author) in Highfield House Hotel, possibly a combined event with Residents' Gardens. JG to contact Philip Hoare.

Action JG



Other suggestions included musical events, possibly involving students.
Social activities to be an agenda item next month and to be discussed more fully.

Action JG / CK

Date of next meeting 8 February 2010 7.30pm