

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting  
Held on 8th December 2014  
At Highfield House Hotel

All attending were welcomed with mulled wine and mince pies.

Nadine Johnson would be taking photographs during the meeting to go on the new website.

Present Roger Brown (Chair), Stephen Connolly, Jerry Gillen, Nadine Johnson, Hedley Rossell, Adrian Vinson.

Attending Cllr. Matthew Claisse, Cllr. Linda Norris, Jacky Barnes, Roret Blue, Alexander Afful (PhD student from Southampton Univ.), Ron Meldrum and Katherine Barbour ( Shaftesbury Avenue), Ross Gordon (Webmaster)

Apologies Jill Baston, Simon Hill, Chris Klewe, Nicolla Martin, Alison Shelley, John Bradshaw. There were no representatives from SUSU or the police.

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.  
There were no declarations of specific interests.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. Matters Arising
4. Building Bridges. No-one from SUSU present to clarify issues. There had been a poor response to what were supposed to be exercises in mutual co- operation. Roger Brown said that almost nothing had been spent from the grant which was only available until 31.12.14 and which needed to be accounted for. Roger Brown will write a “sharp note” to SUSU and he and Jerry Gillen will try to meet them.

The repairs to Brookvale Road have been done.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Children’s Christmas Party on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

5. Website. The new website should be ready to launch in January. There will be some training available for users on 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 at 10am. It is hoped to have a presentation on it at the next meeting in January. There will be many new pages – business, social, blogs, notice of meeting. Nadine Johnson and Ross Gordon were thanked for their hard work in getting

the website to this point.

6. Katherine Barbour gave a presentation about her work in raising awareness of dementia, and making Portswood a more dementia-friendly place. Other places have programmes which could be adapted for local use. Members were encouraged to sign up for awareness sessions. (contact [kjb37@fsmail.net](mailto:kjb37@fsmail.net)). It was suggested that the website could be used to publicise this. Adrian Vinson said that Portswood already operates a “safe haven” policy for people with learning difficulties.

7. Alexander Afful, a PhD student from Southampton University gave a presentation about his research on the take-up of the Green Deal, a government initiative on improvements in energy efficiency. He would like to interview members about this (contact [aa6e11@soton.ac.uk](mailto:aa6e11@soton.ac.uk)) He distributed a handout “Understanding the Green Deal.”

## 8. Reports

Membership No report was available

Finances Hedley Rossell reported that the Association’s finances were healthy.

He reinforced Roger Brown’s comments on the Building Bridges grant. Roger Brown agreed to write to the grant-givers to explain the situation with the students.

As soon as the new website is launched, we can stop paying for the old one.

Adrian Vinson made two suggestions for fund-raising – an auction, and a quiz night.

Planning Nothing to report yet on 13 Grosvenor Road. Adrian Vinson has asked for an untidy site notice to be served. Local feeling about this site is very strong, and neighbours would probably make financial contributions to keep the action live. The probable cost would be about £3,000. The owner is likely to re-submit his planning application – when he does, we should press for a judicial enquiry.

It was agreed that we should contact Galliard Homes to reiterate our opposition to their plan to redevelop the hotel as student accommodation, and to emphasise the amounts of such accommodation already in the pipeline or being planned. The site of the present B & Q store in Swaythling may be used in this way. Cllr. Claisse would try and get some more accurate numbers for Roger Brown to use in his letter.

8 Blenheim Avenue – a substantial development but no application for HMO status.

158 -162 Portswood Road (former Post Office) – agreed to support Portswood Central RA in their objections to this. 21 Holyrood Ave: After 2 years, the enforcement has still not been implemented. Jerry Gillen has raised the matter with Simon Rowberry.

Roger Brown is seeking a further meeting with Simon Rowberry about the Scrutiny Panel. He would like also to discuss a policy for minimum standards of accommodation in HMOs.

9. AOB

Cllr. Norrris reported that there had been 7 attempted burglaries in the area, Watch” scheme will be installed in Portswood. Cllr Claisse reported 3 successful burglaries in the PRG conservation area.

10. Reserved Business

11. The next meeting would be on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

: