

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting  
Held on 11th December 2017  
At Highfield House Hotel

- Present. Roger Brown, Chris Klewe, Jill Baston, Steven Johnston, Stephen Connolly, Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin, Adrian Ford.
- Attending. Councilor Matthew Claisse, Jon Walsh, (SU), Alison Titheridge, (Mayflower Care Home), Tom O'Connor. Nick Bacon, Sue Ingham.
- Apologies. Councilor John Savage, Ian Dunn, Councilor Paul O'Neill, Simon Hill, Jerry Gillen, Mark Batchelor, Adrian Vinson.

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.

The Committee agreed that in Jerry Gillen's absence the meeting could be chaired by its former Chair Roger Brown. No special interests were declared.

The Committee welcomed the prospective new Treasurer, Adrian Ford.

2. The minutes of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November were approved with the addition that Jon Walsh confirmed that the closure of the service road was permanent.

3. Matters Arising.

It was reported that a date had been found in February for the meeting with the University's Chief Operating Officer. There had been no reply so far from the Leader of the Council to the Chair's recent letter about various planning

issues

4 University Liaison.

Jon Walsh reported that the new bus pull-in for National Express would remain until 2019 but could well become permanent. Tendering was under way for the work on the Steps which was currently scheduled for mid- February to early March (when the Steps would be temporarily closed). The former public house, the Stile, has been listed as being of community value. The University was considering various options but it was most unlikely to revert to being a pub.

5. Common Forum..

Roger Brown gave an update on the progress of the Common Forum, which now had over 700 'friends'.. The Forum's online survey of Common users had attracted over 2,100 responses from across the city. The main concerns were various 'hygiene' issues: safety, toilets, litter and waste management, maintenance of the footpaths. Other issues included improving the management of the Common, creating more open spaces, minimising the impact of major events, reducing user conflicts (e.g. between cyclists and pedestrians), and better maintenance of key facilities such as the Hawthorns. The next stage would be to prepare a new plan that would deal with some of these matters. The crucial issue was how to get additional resources into the Common without losing local control. In this context it was interesting that Newcastle City Council had recently decided to pass the operation of all its parks and commons to a new charitable trust. The

Forum's next meeting was on 13<sup>th</sup> December at Solent University and he urged all interested to attend.

6. Reports.

Finance. It was noted that Mark Batchelor would be meeting Adrian Ford for a handover but that Mark would prepare the end-of-year accounts.

Membership.

Data from Nicolla Martin was as follows:-

Data base records	508
Paid up total	349
Rolling total	342

Planning.

It was reported that the application to build a new residence for students at the Blockbusters site had been refused. It was agreed to write to the Council to ask them to enforce against the present unlawful use of the site for second hand car sales. Another proposal for a student block behind the Victory Gospel Church was unlikely to succeed because of access.

Applications in Furzedown Road had not succeeded because of lack of amenity space.

Finally, it was agreed that the Association should seek clarification of the Council's position where landlords were converting student and other short-term lets into Airbnb without the necessary permissions.

Website.

Nadine reported that it was going well with no issues to raise.

It was agreed to produce a pre-AGM flyer and Steven Johnston agreed to take responsibility for producing it.

7. AOB

Alison Titheridge informed the Committee of the plan to hold a Dementia Awareness Festival in 2018, further details to be provided nearer the time.

8. Next meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.