



## MINUTES OF 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Highfield House Hotel

1. **AGM chair Professor Roger Brown** welcomed members and visitors. He introduced the Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Les Harris, who formally opened the meeting.
2. **The Mayor** noted that HRA is the largest residents' association in the city and congratulated us on our successes including the initiative with the Common Forum and maintaining the local environment. He commented on the shortage of staff in the SCC planning department and the resulting extension of deadlines for approval of applications. He also indicated that important decisions about the future of the Port will need to be taken before too long.
3. Minutes of the last AGM, circulated and taken as read.
4. **HRA Acting Chair's Report**

Jerry Gillen thanked Roger Brown for his support. The purpose of HRA is to protect and preserve Highfield. This had sometimes led to conflict with Council. He thanked King's Chambers for legal assistance.

We lost our case for judicial review against the council but were spared the full extent of the cost. Nevertheless we need to restore our contingency fund and have launched a fundraising drive.

He thanked Simon Hill for his work on the Little Common, as well as the committee and street representatives.

There is an increase of houses in our area being let via Air BNB; this needs regulatory control.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (attached)

Adrian Ford presented the report. He explained that Mark Batchelor looks after the overall accounts, while Adrian undertakes the day to day business.
6. **Election and confirmation of committee members**

Nicolla Martin, Brian Wakeley, Adrian Vinson, Nadine Johnson and Jill Baston were re-elected.

Adrian Ford was confirmed as a committee member, having been co-opted during the year.

**7. Speaker – Adam Wheeler, former Provost of the University of Southampton, Chair of the Southampton Common Forum**

Adam noted that the Common Forum is the result of an initiative from HRA and SCAPPS. It was established a year ago as a focal point for stakeholders with the aim of improving the common for the people of Southampton. It is outward looking.

There are three priorities: to encourage deeper engagement with the people of the city, to develop plans, and to think creatively about the operating model.

There is a website, and a social media profile, with 900 'friends' so far.

The Forum wants to reach out to ethnic minorities and consults widely on local matters. A survey of Common users was conducted over 5 months, which received 2,200 responses from people across the city. It shows the Common is an amenity valued by the city, not exclusive, which reflects ethnic diversity. Most people use it for walking, commuting, and the enjoyment of open, natural space; however conflicts were noted between people on foot, dog walker and cyclists. Toilet facilities were needed, and there are concerns about safety at night.

Another concern is how to make the best use of Hawthorns.

Working groups are being set up to look at issues raised. More volunteers and forum members are welcome.

**8. AOB**

A member asked if information on support for dementia could be featured on the website. Referred to Nadine Johnson.