

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 8th June 2015
At Highfield House Hotel

Present Roger Brown, Jerry Gillen, Jill Baston, Simon Hill, Stephen Connelly, Chris Klewe, Nadine Johnson, Adrian Vinson, Steven Johnston.

Attending Councillor Linda Norris, Councillor Matthew Claisse, Jacky Barnes, Roret Blue, Li-Mei, Steven Hayes-Arter, Mr & Mrs David Otley

Apologies Councillor Paul O'Neill, Nicolla Martin, John Bradshaw, Headley Rossell, Tom O'Connor.

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.
Roger Brown welcomed everybody. There were no special interests declared.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to a small clarification on the Planning section.
3. Matters Arising.
It was noted that there was insufficient support from residents of Roseland Gardens for a change from 2 hours to 1 hour parking Limit.
4. Co-option to the Committee.
The committee agreed to co-opt Adrian Vinson to look after planning issues and Steven Johnston to handle environmental liaison.
5. Rat Man.
The committee received a report from Steven Hayes –Arter from the City Council about the infestation of rats on and near the northern end of the Common. The Committee was encouraged by the Council's determination to take effective action both against the rats and against the individual who has been feeding them. The Committee expressed its strong support for these actions and asked for an update when one was available. The Committee also noted that clearance of more areas of the Common would help against the rats as well as being desirable in its own right for many reasons.

Jerry Gillen asked if the use of a Private Investigator to observe RatMan would help. Steven replied that it would probably be a waste of money. Asked if other means of killing the rats had been considered, Steven replied that many methods had been considered but that public safety had to be paramount.

6. Website, News Letter and Data Base.
The committee noted the success of the new website linked to the email database. There had so far been nearly 2000 'hits' with the great majority coming from new viewers. Nadine Johnson emphasised that the website needed a continuous input of new features to keep it interesting and up to date. She hoped to do a feature article on each member of the committee in due course. There had been many interesting photographs submitted for the picture competition. Jerry Gillen said it was important to have data on planning applications and appeals put on the website.
Roger Brown proposed that the printed Newsletter would continue as long as funds permit.

7. Closure of Portswood Branch of Lloyds Bank.
The committee agreed that we should write to protest at the proposed closure of the Portswood branch of Lloyds Bank, following the loss of HSBC and Barclays.

8. Reports.
There were no reports on membership or finances.

Planning.

The committee considered various planning matters. HRA's comments on the appeal at 13 Grosvenor Road had been sent to the Inspector. Both HRA and Portswood Residents Gardens would be objecting to the proposed conversion of the garage at 7 Russell Place into a two-bedroom dwelling, and we would also be investigating the status of 9 Russell Place. It was agreed to raise with the Council the (very) apparent overdevelopment of a house in Chamberlain Road to which a Lawful Development Certificate had been issued. A petition signed by 172 local residents had been gathered by Li-Mei and Cllr Linda Norris agreed to look into how to proceed.

The committee agreed to consider changes to the current HRA planning guidelines at the next meeting.

9. NORA
Jerry Gillen informed the committee of the valuable work of the National Organisation of Residents Associations, of which HRA and many local associations were members.
10. AOB
Councillor Linda Norris, in her capacity as Mayor of Southampton, drew the committee's attention to the Mayor's charities and the programme of fundraising events, details of which will also be posted on the website.
11. Reserved Business
12. Date of next meeting.

This would be on 12th July 2015 at Highfield House Hotel.
The meeting closed at 8.45 pm