

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 10th October 2016
At Highfield House Hotel

- Present. Roger Brown, Chris Klewe, Adrian Vinson, Nadine Johnson, Steven Connolly, Simon Hill, Jerry Gillen.
- Attending. Councillor Matthew Claisse, Jacky Barnes, Tom O'Connor, Sarah Watts, (SU), Collet Craddock (Police), Leanne Soal (Police), Steven Hayes Arter (SCC).
- Apologies. Mark Batchelor, Councillor John Savage, Bryan Wakely, Hayley Morrison (PCSO), Ian Dunn. Jill Baston, Steven Johnston, John Bradshaw, Nicolla Martin, Councillor Paul O'Neill.

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.

The Committee welcomed Steven Hayes-Arter from Southampton City Council, Collet Craddock and Leanne Soal from the Hampshire Constabulary, and Sarah Watts from the University of Southampton

There were no interests declared.

2. The minutes of the meeting on 12th September were approved, with the exception of the substitution of the words 'about the areas that should be kept open as agreed in the Action Plan' for 'that there should be a balance between wooded and open areas' under the Little Common.

3. Matters Arising.

The Committee was updated on progress in countering the activities of the person who had been feeding rats and other vermin in and around Portswood, to the detriment not only of the local community but also that of other local wildlife. Anyone seeing such activity should report it on 101 with details of the time, place and action witnessed (photos and film would be even better). The Committee was gratified to learn of the success of a rat-baiting exercise in Furzedown Road.

4. University Liaison

Sarah Watts reported on a number of University activities. Preparatory work had now commenced on the new Teaching and Learning building. There was a new initiative 'Arts at the University of Southampton' and it was agreed that it would be good if these and similar programmes could be advertised on the HRA website. A planning application to improve the steps onto the Common would be submitted shortly. Sarah confirmed that a statement of the University's proposals for de-adopting Salisbury Road was in preparation and would be sent to HRA when it was ready.

5. Police Report

The police representatives said that there had been a recent spate of motorcycle and cycle thefts. Action was being taken against beggars in Portswood Broadway, and anyone witnessing such behaviour should report it on 101 with as much detail as possible. Appropriate action was also being taken against pavement drinkers. Concerns about parking not only on double yellow lines but also on the pavement in front of shops were also raised.

6. The Common.

Progress with Forum.

The Chair reported that the proposed consultative forum for the Common had had a successful meeting on 27th September. The main item had been a presentation and discussion of the Council's responsibilities for the Common and how they were discharged. There had been general agreement on the need for a new plan, and this would be the main item at the next Forum meeting at Taunton's College on 22nd November.

Lovers Walk

There had as yet been no response to the Chair's letter to the Leader of the Council urging the abandonment of proposals for a widening of parts of Lover's Walk. In the meantime, the Planning Department had declined to provide a landscape impact assessment even though the proposal would involve a doubling of the width of the path in some places.

Small Projects Bid.

HRA had been informed that the outcome of the Small Projects programme, which included three bids for work on the Common, would be known by

Christmas.

Little Common.

A reply to the Vice Chair's letter to the Council seeking information and assurance over the apparent overturning of the previous agreement that there should be a balance between wooded and other areas had only just been received. It was agreed that a robust response should be made.

Cycle and Pedestrian Conflict.

Simon Hill drew the police representatives' attention to the difficulty of making on-line reports of cyclist-pedestrian conflicts.

7. Reports.

Membership In the absence of Nicolla Martin, there was no report.

Finance There was no report available.

Planning

There were no significant planning applications.

Councillor Claisse drew attention to a couple of new licensing applications that could further extend drinking hours following the precedent set in the case of Champagne Charlie's.

Website.

Nadine Johnson was commended for the regular updates to members on items on the website. There were currently about a thousand hits each month. It was agreed that we should try to generate revenue through adverts on the website and Jerry Gillen and Nadine would discuss this further.

8. AOB

Jerry Gillen drew everyone's attention to the forthcoming meeting of the North Southampton Community Forum at the Highfield House Hotel on 18th October.

The next meeting will be on 14th November.

The Meeting ended at 8.35pm.

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