

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 11th January 2016
At Highfield House Hotel

Present Roger Brown, Jerry Gillen, Jill Baston, Chris Klewe, Stephen Connolly, Nadine Johnson, Bryan Wakely. Nicolla Martin, Steven Johnston, Simon Hill.

Attending Tom O'Connor, Nick Bacon.

Apologies Councillor Paul O'Neill, Councillor Linda Norris, Councillor Matthew Claisse, Adrian Vinson, Roret Blue, Headley Rossell, Mark Batchelor, Jacky Barnes, John Bradshaw.

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.
Roger Brown welcomed everybody. There were no special interests declared.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the addition of a passage enlarging on the discussion of the proposals for Highfield Road.

3. Matters Arising.

A number of matters were raised:-

It was agreed to follow-up communications with the police to elucidate the position of police attendance at the committee.

There was some discussion of a possible social event at the end of June. It was agreed to explore the alternatives of a joint event with Highfield Church or an HRA only event at the Highfield Hotel. Without subsidy, the cost per member might be in the order of £15-20. Whilst there are great benefits in terms of community cohesion from a get-together, there is also a risk that insufficient take-up could deplete our funds. A firm decision would be taken at the next meeting.

The Chair updated the committee on various matters concerning the Common. The application to widen parts of Lovers Walk would be considered by the Planning Panel, the date of which would be notified to HRA. A meeting of residents' associations and other interested parties to consider the establishment of a Common Forum would be held on 16th February.

Objections were being raised to the Council's plan to allow cycling in all parts of the Common. It had not so far been possible to arrange a meeting with the University to discuss the plans to improve the steps onto the Common from the Highfield Campus, nor had the Chair's request for a meeting with the new Vice Chancellor yet been acceded to.

4. AGM

The committee discussed the arrangements for the AGM on 14th April. It was agreed that the format adopted in 2015 had worked well. The Chair and Vice-Chair agreed to contact possible speakers, one from the Council's planning team and one from the National Organisation of Residents Associations. A decision on whether to have an outside speaker would be taken at the next

meeting.

5. Clean for the Queen

The committee received a report on plans for a national initiative called Clean for the Queen, being run under the auspices of Tidy Britain. It was noted that one might be organised for the Common in the spring.

6. Reports.

Membership

Nicolla Martin reported membership details as follows

Data base records	560
Paid up total	420
Rolling paid up	420

Nicolla suggested and the Committee agreed, that the main data base of 560 members could do with updating.

Finance

There was no report on finances since the treasurer was not present. It was noted that the possibility of membership being renewed through direct debits was being investigated, but the implications for the management of membership information would need very careful consideration before any changes were made.

Planning

A number of issues were raised under Planning. The committee were gratified by the rejection of the application to convert 38 Grosvenor Road into an HMO.

It was agreed to oppose the erection of a new teaching and learning centre in Salisbury Road referring to Policy H13. Simon Hill agreed to write the letter of objection. Roger Brown said that he would also be writing to the Leader of the Council and the Vice Chancellor.

A further liaison meeting was being sought with Sam Fox, the new head of planning and development control.

Website

The committee received a report on the hacking of the website and commended the swift and effective response and remedial action by Nadine Johnson and Ross Gordon, the Webmaster. The committee welcomed the fact that a number of sister organisations were being invited to contribute to the next Newsletter and the website

7. AOB.

Bryan Wakely raised the problem of fly tipping in Winn Road and asked what the Council's view on the matter was. Steven Johnston suggest a web site called "Fix my Street" which he said seem to be able to sort out direct responsibilities in Public Bureaucracies.

Simon Hill said that Brookvale Road was a mess and that the contractors were not doing the work they had been paid for. The Chair will take this and fly tipping up with Councillor Claisse.

It was reported that a number of bicycles had been stolen from the shed at the back of Marlborough House in Oakmount Avenue.

8. Reserved business

Noted.

9. Date of next meeting.

This would be on 8th February 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.