

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 14th December 2015
At Highfield House Hotel

Present Jerry Gillen, Jill Baston, Chris Klewe, Stephen Connolly, Simon Hill,
Adrian Vinson, Nadine Johnson, Bryan Wakely.

Attending Mark Batchelor, Jacky Barnes, Tom O'Connor, Nick Bacon, Mary
Sissons (Victoria Lodge).

Apologies Councillor Paul O'Neill, Councillor Linda Norris, Councillor Matthew
Claisse, Roger Brown, Nicolla Martin, Roret Blue, Steven Johnston,
Headley Rossell

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.
Jerry Gillen welcomed everybody. There were no special interests declared.
The Chairman and committee congratulated Adrian Vinson on being
appointed an Honorary Alderman of the City.

Mark Batchelor was co-opted onto the Committee as our new
Treasurer
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. Matters Arising.
There were no matters arising
4. Police Update
No members of the police were present, so that no update was available.
5. Social Events
The Chair felt that HRA should try and put on another social event this year,
possibly Spring and/or Summer. With consideration of the weather and cost
factors it was agreed to approach the Church Hall about a community event
either similar to the very successful Curry Night held there previously with the
possibility of a BBQ type of event as another option. Bryan Wakely agreed to
investigate further. The possibility of holding an informal lunch on the Little
Common on National Lunch Day, (early May) was also suggested, but was of
course very weather dependant.
6. The Common
There was considerable discussion about the proposed widening of Lovers
Walk and a comprehensive note on the subject was circulated by Simon Hill.
The immediate concern was the current Planning application before The
Council which was significantly at variance with the recommendations
submitted by HRA as part of the consultation process. In particular, the
statutory proposals for Highfield Road also published for comment by 29 Dec

involve a 20mph limit and no longer have the change to the Highfield Road/ Lane junction or the build-out for the bus stop improvement (which will be done by taking part of the bank from The Common itself) – the new proposal has been modified to reflect many of the comments made on the draft proposals following the meeting of Roger Brown and Simon Hill with Balfour Beattie. Parts of our suggestions are not yet included notably pedestrian tables to give priority to pedestrians at main crossing points and to act as speed slowing ramps and sharpening of the HR/HL and HR/Omdurman junctions to prevent unlawful right turns that put pedestrians and cyclists at risk. These hopefully will be included in later engineering drawings. As the Council can only consider the application that was actually before it, the Committee agreed that it should be opposed. Reference was made to a public meeting to be chaired by Roger Brown at Tauntons School on Tuesday 16th Feb to discuss the way forward for the Common and the creation of a Management Plan.

7. Reports.

Membership

Nicolla Martin reported by email as follows:-

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

Finances are healthy and Mark has met with Headley Rossell about the handing over of responsibilities from the end of the year.

Planning.

Planning was covered by Adrian Vinson with the main concerns being The Common and the University development on its campus at Salisbury road. It was recommended this should be checked against policy H13 to see if the University was matching its expansion with additional student residential accommodation. Simon mentioned that the number of students had increased by an average of 3% per year over the last 30 years.

Website

Nadine gave an update saying we had now exceeded some 19,000 ‘hits’. As a result of increased members requests, she recommended a Direct Debit system be set up with a facility for joining and paying being available via the website. Nadine agreed to liaise with Headley, Mark and Nicolla on the matter.

8. AOB.

Nick Bacon raised the matter of enforcement notices at 27 Brookvale Road leading to the front fence being reduced in height, whereas other nearby were still much higher.

Another property in Brookvale road was now empty and there was concern over squatters and fly tipping.

9. Reserved business

Noted.

10. Date of next meeting.
This would be on 11th January 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm