



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12th January 2009
at Highfield House Hotel

Present: Jerry Gillen- Chair, Sue Hartley – Vice Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Headley Rossell - Treasurer, Nicolla Martin, Josie Brown, Catherine Powell, Steve Connolly, Julia Brooking and Allison Shelley

Apologies: Adrian Vinson, Gillian Gain, Andy Alderson, Bryan Wakely, Peggy Augier and Jill Baston

In Attendance: - Cllr. Vincenzo Capozolli, Cllr Matthew Dean, Nick Bacon, Matt Martin - University Liaison, Peter Knight, Roret Blue, Jackie Barnes, Andy Pickles, Matthew Claisse, Paula Willis and Simon Hill

Minutes of last meeting: Agreed.

Matters Arising & not on the Agenda:

- Allison Shelley was formally elected as a member of the committee
- It has been confirmed that Desmond Tutu will be attending the University on 11th February.
- It was confirmed that a cumulative impact study on licensing will be undertaken before May. HRA has been approached by NORA for a contribution to the Government consultation re licensing.
- Matthew Dean said that he will ask Andy Trayer to respond re talking to us re the ongoing work with the students and handling of refuse. **MD**
- There is one ticket available for the City of Southampton lecture on Wednesday.
- 25th Feb has been suggested as a date for our committee social. The venue to be Cenos. **JG to speak to Jamie.**

Correspondence

As list – plus

- A response to JG's letter to Margaret Beckett from the DCLG.

- A letter from Council re 5 Crofton Close - concerns are being treated as a complaint
- Letter re refusal of retrospective planning application for 1 Crofton Close
- Notice of an appeal re 7/8 Furzedown Road. Jerry to write to object and will include reference to standards in the Residential Design guide. **JG**

University Matters:

Matt Martin

Matt reported that things are quiet in regard to complaints at the moment. He will give forms re community Projects to Julia. He told us that there are free lunchtime concerts at the Turner Sims during January. Monday and Friday - 1-1.50 pm.

Common Sense

Simon reported that the heavy work on clearing has started. The plan is to return the area to an open heath land. The lighter work will be undertaken by working parties. Next year there are plans to strengthen the bank and to put in sleepers if funds are available. The area opposite the Department of Humanities is subject to a survey as there are thought to be badgers in residence.

Simon thanked the Council for their achievements in this area and it is appreciated that when the Council works with local groups much can be achieved. Matthew Dean has said that he will endeavour to get the old rusty signs removed. He reported that the Council has a new contract for street signage and that the system should now be more efficient.

MD

Dates for working parties.

Wednesday 14th January 13.30 - 16.00

Saturday 17th January 10.00 - 12.30

Wednesday 21st January 13.30 - 16.00

All rendezvous opposite the end of Khartoum Road.

The case of the rough sleeper was raised again and after more discussion it would appear that very little can be done.

Fire Regulations

Peter reported he has made some enquiries and found out that the fire brigade cannot demand to inspect properties: they have to be invited in. There are leaflets concerning the Home Fire Safety visits that the brigade offers. They have the power to close HMO premises with immediate effect however their definition of an HMO

differs from the Housing and Planning definitions. It was suggested that the students should receive these leaflets in their fresher's packs. Further information is available at www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Membership

With the recording of the subscriptions that has accumulated in Nicolla's absence there has been a change in paid up for 2008. This now stands at 488 - this is because all the December renewals have not been paid.

As the way of recording paid up membership has been changed there will always be a discrepancy as everyone who paid in Jan 2008 will be paid up until 29th Jan 2009 but might not renew when they receive their January renewals. Therefore the straight 2009 figure stands at 631 which should increase month on month and will correspond with the Treasurer's records.

The number paid up for 2009 is 14.

Finance:

Headley reported the finances are healthy.

Headley requested that the moneys paid out in respect of planning legal advice should be put back into the reserve and that the reserve should be increased with a further £2000 in line with the original plan to make it £10,000. This was voted on and passed unanimously.

Planning:

- AV's report as circulated - plus:
- 28a Brookvale- JG has been in touch with Ann Grieves with reference to the legal advice that HRA have sought in this case. Our barrister is adamant that her advice is sound. It appears that some correspondence is missing from the Council's Planning file. Matthew Dean has agreed to look into the matter and ask Ann Grieves to speak to Sarah Clover. This is running in parallel to the enforcement process on number 28.
- The meeting with Paul Nichols was very helpful and another is scheduled. It was agreed that Jerry, Jackie, Adrian and Roger Brown will form the community panel and attend this meeting.
- The article 4.2 attachment to Residents' Gardens conservation status is making progress.
- Jerry has had a meeting with Alan Whitehead and John Denham in connection with HMOs. A consultation is expected early in 2009. Alan has

been very active in bringing planning matters before the House of Commons. It would appear that HMOs are not high in the priorities of Margaret Beckett however.

- HMOs are a real problem in Welbeck Ave and in the past 12 months have increased to approx 20% of houses. Should this situation be allowed to continue it could have serious implications for local schools. We need the right policies in place in the Local Plan.
- Westridge Road. Peter expressed concern about the proposed no unloading restrictions in this area. How will this impact on the disabled? The disabled spaces in the car park have been moved to the far side of the car park which seems impractical. Matthew has offered to follow up.

MD

Newsletter

We aim to start distribution in the week beginning 9th March. Unfortunately all three members of the newsletter team are having major ops during the run up to this date. Gillian has submitted a few pieces and we have collected quite a few more so we should have a full and interesting issue. It was suggested that the summer issue should focus on children's facilities in the area. Any help with this will be gratefully received. It was suggested that a guest editor might be a good idea but there were no offers forthcoming.

Website: Tony is planning to re-model the website and rewrite in a new computer language which will mean that it is more easily accessible for others to upload material etc.

Any Other Business

- Jerry indicated that Alan Whitehead has confirmed that he will speak at our AGM. Alan Shrank will also speak as will Sarah Clover if she is available.
- Matthew confirmed that the Community Liaison Panel will resume at the beginning of April. Peter Brunskill, the transport manager, will outline the new transport policy.
- The new Core Strategy has to be written by 16th April. The Local Development plan cannot contradict. The South East Plan is limited in scope. It is available on the web or in the library for Residents' Associations to view.
- Safety in Highfield - the island lights in Highfield Lane have been out for months and the replacements lamp posts outside the Church have been put in the wrong position.

- The Cabinet Meeting re the parking proposals in Highfield is on Feb 16th. Nick Bacon still has issues regarding the road outside his property. He will take this up with Matthew.
- There are problems with residents contaminating their recycling bins which are then not emptied by the recycling lorry. Should this be the case then the refuse lorries should empty. Matthew agreed to follow this up. **MD**
- Parking charges are to be introduced in Cemetery Road. The free parking here was instigated for visitors to the Common. People are using it to park and then travel in to work in the City which blocks the parking for visitors for long periods. Parking will be free for the first four hours and then there will be a charge.
- Jerry and Caroline will not be attending the next committee meeting. Sue will chair and Nicolla has agreed to do the minutes. Many thanks for this.

The meeting closed at 9.15

Next meeting Monday 9^h February