



HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 10th January 2011
At the Highfield House Hotel.

Present Jerry Gillen, Chairman : Sue Hartley, Vice Chairman : Headley Rossell, Treasurer : Nicolla Martin, acting secretary : Roret Blue : Steve Connolly : Bryan Wakely : Peggy Augier : Alison Shelly.

Apologies Caroline Knight, Secretary : Julia Brooking :

Attending Cllr. Adrian Vinson : Nick Bacon : Peter Knight : Billy Fitzjohn : Sarah Watts : Jenny Arnold : Martin Moore : Declan Hayes.

Minutes of the December 2010 meeting were taken as read and accepted as accurate.

Matters arising from December minutes:

Finance: It was confirmed that the cheque made payable to SSC for work on the Little Common, had now been submitted for payment. The Cheque was issued in July.

Planning: Mrs. Arnold of Portswood Residents' Gardens, formerly objected to Sainsbury's petrol station.

A meeting on the 18th January, 11 a. m. concerning the application for the Bus depot. However, the meeting for Sainsbury's Petrol station will not be the same day, possibly in February.

Ridgemount Avenue, Bassett. The 60 beds Rest Home has been refused planning, under delegated powers. Ridgemount Avenue Residents and Holly Hill Residents' Association thanked Community Forum and HRA for their support.

A date for the next meeting still to be announced, concerning Article 4 Direction. AV forecast delays in this process. **JG** to follow up with Cllr. Dean, Cllr. Capazolli and Cllr. Moulten.

Parking problems still continue in Chamberlain Road and Hartley Avenue. Cllr. Vinson confirmed the matter had been reported to Council. At present there is a 2 hour parking restriction and it is time for it to be reviewed. The University were granted planning permission for the site in Hartley Avenue to be used as a Building works / yard, but it is used by UBS and Liquid Oxygen. Brookvale Road is very parked up again and also needs to be considered for review.

Correspondence

The application for a grant from the Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities, to carry out a survey / research on HMOs, has been refused.

EBRA letter from Jean Warman enclosing two pages of HMOs re A A J's accommodation, houses and flats to let to students from 1st July comprising of 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 bedroom properties, with the addresses. It was confirmed that there were cases, where new students were bullied and intimidated by Landlords, who stated that their deposits should be paid within the hour, or sign a lease for two years. Of course students panic. It was felt that more should be done on checking these houses for rent.

SU Liaison, Billy Fitzjohn

It was reported that Southampton Students' Union had 500 students go to London to take part in the first demonstration regarding the increased tuition fees. Much fewer attended the second demonstration and were able to speak to several members of Parliament. The University will set its own fees from 2012. The Students' Union will not be joining the NUS and will remain independent. Exams are taking place throughout January. Emily is working on the "Hush campaign" and has approached two schools to draw posters. John Denham supported that students should be better educated against drinking excessively. The Welfare Society is providing two sabbaticals to work with the community full time. Billy asked for the Chairman's help in applying for a grant from the Big Lottery fund, Reaching Communities and if successful, this money would go a long way in paying for the marshalling scheme, extra policing help etc.,

Sarah Watts said that Simon Higman had left. Steve Wearing will leave at the end of January. Students services have a link to put in touch, can go through Sarah. The Vice-Chancellor may not be able to attend the AGM. The University does take anti-social behaviour, noise, disturbances, excessive drinking seriously and that there needs to be behaviour change.

Martin Moore (EBRA) mentioned that when Sergeant Chandler, was on Batcomes not all incidents are recorded and that a far firmer reporting method should be adopted.

Membership

The database stands at 610. Paid up membership for 2010 stands at 500. With the New Year, we start a new rolling figure for 2011, which are 24 paid up members for January. These 24 subscriptions would have been collected in 2010.

Finances

Headley reported that finances were healthy. He produced a first draft of the annual accounts to 31.12.2010, which showed a steady figure for annual subscriptions, but a reduction of approximately 20% in donations. Overall there is a surplus for the year of £1,000. This is only due to the fact that we obtained grants of £1,050 towards the newsletter costs and also received £1,300 from Sainsbury's to cover the cost of the autumn newsletter.

Planning and Licensing

Monthly list was circulated prior the meeting.

14 Westwood Road and 90-92 Cambridge Road, has re-submitted the application for redevelopment of the site. Erection of a part four-storey and part five-storey building to provide 18 flats (10 x 2 bedroom and 8 x 3 bedroom) with associated parking and vehicular access from Cambridge Road following demolition. Application number 10/01741/FUL. Response by 27th January 2011 – Jenna Turner.
MC to write objecting.

Post meeting note: Mr. Ken Pullen, 4 Glenmore Court, 12 Westwood Road said that all 15 apartments in Glenmore Court have written to object. And according to Mr. Pullen, Ms. Annie Chamberlain, 22 Hanover Gables, 9 Westwood Road and three other residents have also written to object. The plans are the same as submitted in 2009.

Application number 10/01663/FUL*. 24 University Road SO17 1TJ . Part 2-storey, part single storey rear extension. Bryony Giles 20/12/2010. HRA Objected. It has been noted that work has already commenced.
AV to check on this.

Application number 10/01648/FUL*. 82, Welbeck Avenue. SO17 1SR. Withdrawn application.

HOMs / Article 4 Direction – when questioned by the Chairman, AV again stated that he believed it may be months before the A4D was implemented and questioned the Administration's commitment to it. There was considerable anger expressed by members and **JG** again undertook to clarify the situation with the Council.

SU Liaison, Billy Fitzjohn's successor due to take over towards the end of February, the committee asked that there be no further late night applications made. Sarah Watts also agreed to pass on the history, that has taken place in previous years.

Newsletter

The Chairman thanked SSC for their donation of £500 towards the cost of the next newsletter.

Website

The web has been completely rebuilt by Tony using Wordpress language. An estimate from Atelier who is doing the web site for the Outer Avenue Residents' Association charge a £1,000 to write the web site, plus £400 per annum to host and manage the site. Three men in a suit charge £2,000. It was again suggested that through the Internet, in the USA, one is able to get a site set up free of charge. The committee would prefer the site, handled locally.

Social events

The finance received, is specifically to encourage "new membership".

The winter / spring function, a joint event with Highfield Church and HRA, to be held in the church hall, on the last Saturday in March. - 26th March. The idea is to have a curry evening. The Church will help to format. It was thought that there could be a reduced ticket cost for members £5.00 and the cost of a non-members ticket £8.00, which would give them HRA membership for a year. To be discussed at the events meeting. This event will need a lot of publicity to attract people who are not HRA members already. It was thought that "flyers" could be distributed via the street representatives – however they will need to be asked if they would be prepared to do this, as it is completely out of the ordinary and will take a lot more of their time.

The social events sub committee needs willing volunteers to help share the workload, any one wanting to help, please contact Bryan Wakely. **NM** to ask the two new street reps, if they would like to join the sub committee. The social sub committee is made up of Bryan Wakely, Jerry Gillen and Headley Rossell. Ticket sales through Nicolla Martin.

AGM – Friday 13th May at the Highfield House Hotel, to be held as a form of "Question Time" with an interesting panel of about five people. **JG** to find an interesting panel. It was thought that Penfolds Bar Service could be hired and canapés bought in, for a bit of a social after the meeting.

Summer event – Saturday 25th June, at Portswood Residents Gardens. Another function to entice new members. (£3,000). To be discussed at the Events' sub-committee meeting.

Portswood Residents Gardens will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 21st January and inviting the Mayoress – every one welcome. Contact Jenny Arnold.

Any other business

- A resident from Brookvale Road enquired if there was any date set, to review the parking along Brookvale, which is particularly bad again.
- A complaint was made about the number of “To let” signs screwed on to walls, which lowers the tone of any area. The Council should be enforcing the rule on signs. In some places the signs are appearing two months prior to the end of existing contracts.
- Tony Edgeley was thanked for making the HRA badges for new committee members.
- Another complaint concerning the amount of litter, dog mess, vomiting etc., is left for weeks along pavements.
- The Crown Inn was highly commended for the excellent New Year’s event.

The meeting closed at 9.15p m.

The next meeting is on Monday 14th February 2011.