



HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 9th January 2012
At Highfield House Hotel.

Present Jerry Gillen - Chair, Caroline Knight – Secretary, Headley Rossell – Treasurer, Alison Shelly, Roret Blue, Steve Connolly, Nicolla Martin, Keith Reed and Nadine Johnson

Apologies Sue Hartley, Bryan Wakely, Jill Baston, Peter Knight, Peggy Augier, Cllr. Adrian Vinson and Simon Hill (Common Sense)

Attending Frankie Fry – SU VP, Ali Campbell, Cllr Vincenzo Capozolli, Nick Bacon, Cllr Matthew Claisse, Jenny Arnold and Lynda Rogers

Minutes of the December meeting

Agreed – Acceptance proposed by Nadine and seconded by Keith

Matters arising

- None

Research Project

Ali Campbell explained that his dissertation for his Criminology and Psychology degree was looking at Crime Mapping. He needs volunteers to interview to ascertain their views re the effect of Crime Mapping, particularly in relation to the effect that the data provided might have on property prices and saleability of houses. The interviews will take approx. 30-60 minutes and will be anonymous. We can see the report on the results. Some members offered to participate and CK said that she would put Ali in touch with the NHW co-ordinator for OTRA.

SU and University Liaison – Frankie Fry

Frankie reported on the Community Strategy Meeting. The SU is developing a 3 year plan to run alongside the University's 5 year plan. They will be looking at ways to communicate a feeling for community to students and encouraging them to become part of the community in which they live. At the C S meeting local residents were asked for the reasons they had chosen to live in Southampton: some of the reasons included, history, heritage, travel links, green spaces. The possibility of a representative of a RA being present at Hall's Induction meetings was discussed, welcome packs for students moving into an area, joint events, and also the possibility of student reps attending RA meetings. Jerry said that HRA could consider doing something with Highfield Hall. Jerry also suggested that the SU consider applying for Lottery funding for safety issues e.g. extending the marshalling scheme. Frankie said that the SU is committed to keep the Sshh Campaign going and also said they would not be applying for any variation in licensing this academic year – it was suggested that this could form part of the 3 year strategy and

Frankie said that she would look into this. Jerry said he thought the meeting he attended was very positive. Concerns were raised about the hours of licensing in Glen Eyre Halls as extended hours increases traffic and noise in the area. Frankie that she will look into this too. It was suggested there could be student representatives for roads where there is a high concentration of student tenants. Also it was suggested to Frankie that students might like to volunteer for the Little Common project – Simon will be letting us have the dates for the next working parties and Frankie could let the students know.

Membership - Nicolla

- The rolling total is 485 – the database stands at 633 households.
- Nicolla expressed some concern that the figures are down on 2009 (518) and 2010 (496).
- Nadine suggested that perhaps we should have a stall in Waitrose to encourage people to join.
- Nicolla is sending out details of the curry night with the renewal letters and will send the Feb ones out early.
- Jerry said there are two vacancies on the committee as Josie has stood down and Sue will be leaving. Simon Hill has agreed to join the committee and his appointment was formally passed – proposed by Nicolla and seconded by Headley. Jill Baston has agreed to join and has said that she might act as Minutes Secretary but not more than that. We need to discuss with her exactly how she would see her contribution. At this point Nick Bacon expressed his unhappiness at Liberal Democrats taking over the committee and left the meeting. Although we have had, and still have, people who are active in the Lib Dems we have also had Matthew Claisse who is one of our Conservative councillors on the committee. Although HRA is non-political it would appear to us there is no conflict of interest if we choose to include people with knowledge of the political system in our committee.

Finances – Headley

- Headley reported that the finances are healthy.
- We are still waiting for the bill for the last newsletter.
- Headley has received a letter from the Big Lottery Fund saying that our file is now closed.
- Headley and Keith will liaise about the possibility of applying again.

Planning and Licensing – Keith and Jerry

- Report as circulated.
- We have objected to the variation of conditions applied for by Sainsbury's.
- We have objected to the Estate Agents occupying the post office in Portswood with planning consent. Matthew will enquire why no stop order has been issued.
- HMO situation- we broadly accept the Council's recommendations. There is to be a 10% threshold for areas such as ours. There will be a 40 metre radius where there cannot be more than 10% and this would be expanded where the properties are large and sit on larger parcels of land. It would appear we will be getting the protection we have sought.
- Jerry gave credit to the council and said that strict criteria are required to stop the rot.

Website – Stephen

- The new joining form is up as requested at the last meeting
- James is adding a contact us page and is making sure the site is up to date.

Newsletter

- We aim to start delivery of the next issue on Monday March 12th which is in good time to advertise the AGM.
- Caroline is going to ask Anchor for an article.
- Keith will do an article about planning issues.
- Alison will send pictures and some text re the Children's party.
- Osmowash would like to place and advert as they are also cleaning carpets now.
- We will get dates from Common Sense.

Winter Event

- Ghandi's has been booked for March 7th.
- Bryan has asked for a sub-committee meeting.
- Nicolla will handle ticket sales.
- Caroline will get the tickets printed.
- Caroline will arrange for an advert to go on the website.
- We will consider putting posters up.

Any other business

- NORA AGM is on 8th March
- Alison reported that a family near her are considering moving because of student anti-social behaviour in the house next door. She has given them numbers at the University to contact.
- Welbeck Avenue needs cleaning as it has not been done since last May and there is a lot of litter.

- Nadine asked why the fines imposed on people who contravene planning enforcement are so low. Matthew says that the maximum fine is £5000 and it is up to the magistrates to set the level, and who have to reduce it if it is not a repeat offence and it is not contested, they also have to consider the financial situation of the person involved. The council can ask for exemplary fines. Matthew will explore.
- The Abbots Way and Brookvale Road RPZ will begin on 10th Jan.
- The SU is starting work on the May Festival- Frankie will send some text for the newsletter.

The meeting ended at 9.07

The next meeting will be Monday 13th February