



## **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON 8 JULY 2013**

**HIGHFIELD HOUSE HOTEL**

**Present:** Jerry Gillen (Acting Chair), Simon Hill, Nadine Johnson, Stephen Connolly, Bryan Wakely, Peggy Augier, Keith Reed, Julia Brooking, Jill Baston.

**Attending:** Jacky Brown, Roret Blue, Cllr Vinson.

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Apologies received from: Alison Shelly, Nicolla Martin, Cllr Norris, Roger Brown, Headley Rossell, Tom O'Connor, Caroline Knight.

Jerry reminded committee members and attendees that any potential conflict of interest between members' personal concerns e.g. work or place of residence, and matters under discussion by the committee should be declared at the beginning of meetings. Confidential items may be discussed in closed meetings

### **2. Minutes of last meeting (taken as read)**

Suggested amendments will be incorporated in the final version.

### **3. Matters arising**

Adrian reported that Morrisons had withdrawn their licensing application before the committee hearing. It is possible that they intend to put forward another one.

### **4. Hog Roast**

The Hog roast was cancelled because of inadequate support. Bryan thanked Nicolla for her work with the tickets, Jamie Derby at Ceno's, Alan at Taxi/cab Cab'in printers, Wessex Caterers, and Portswood Residents' Gardens. The total loss amounted to £100, the deposit to Greenfields butchers.

The committee wished to record their thanks to Bryan for the work he has done in planning and coordinating the event.

## 5. Website

Roger submitted a paper, which was circulated to the committee and regular attendees via email.

Nadine reported that two Solent students were interviewed by a group of HRA officers about their proposals for the redesign of the website and the email database. One proposal created a favourable impression and was actually cheaper than the other. Any contract will be made with Solent, so continuity can be maintained as and when a student leaves.

Our current webmaster has been invited to submit a proposal but as yet there has been no feedback.

The committee agreed to delegate the final decision to Roger, Jerry, Nadine and Headley.

## 6. Lottery Bid

Keith has expertise in submitting a successful lottery bid to the fund we applied to in March (Awards for All).

He suggests that any future bid should emphasise strengthening of community ties, and volunteering. A project for HRA could be bridge-building with University students, maybe in the areas of crime and housing. This would open up contacts with SCC and the police. HRA social events could include students.

Keith will write up ideas for a possible future project.

## 7. Reports

**Finance:** Headley confirmed in an email that accounts continue healthy.

**Membership:** Nicolla emailed that the rolling total is now 289.

**Planning:** Jerry pointed out that we need someone to keep an eye on incoming applications. Bryan volunteered and will talk to Jerry about it upon his return in three weeks' time.

a) *Landlords:* Julian Jenkinson has indicated to Jerry that he and other landlords would like to liaise more closely with HRA, in the hope of avoiding clashes on planning applications.

After discussion, the committee took on board Dr Jenkinson's comments on the new need to extend HMOs in order to provide better communal accommodation, rather than extra bedrooms, but reserved the right to object to planning applications as and when we wish. It was not felt there was any

merit in allowing a Landlord presentation to the committee at this time due to diametrically opposing policies, particularly regarding HMOs.

b) *Planning Panel 25<sup>th</sup> June*: Jerry attended and reported back on outcomes. The extension to 37 Church Lane, an existing HMO, was granted. A similar proposal at 51 Highfield Crescent was refused.

c) *Meeting with Chris Lyons 2 July*: Jerry and Simon attended. Chris Lyons accepts our points about policy disagreements between SCC officers and Inspectors on HMOs. He agreed that an officer had recently given incorrect guidance to the panel.

## **8. AOB**

Jackie reported that it was now usual to find traffic in Highfield Lane backed up as far as the church from the traffic lights at the junction with Portswood Road. It may be that the priorities have been changed. She will write to SCC, copying her letter to Adrian.

Julia commented that the Anchor house in Westwood Road is now very derelict. No further information about the proposed development has been received so far.

Nadine commented on overgrown shrubs in Brookvale Road. Adrian will investigate.

**NB** Date of next meeting: A closed meeting will be held on 8 August.

The meeting finished at 9pm.