



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2012

Present: Peggy Augier, Nicolla Martin, Sue Hartley, Headley Rossell, Bryan Wakely, Jerry Gillen, Keith Reed, Simon Hill, Roret Blue, Adrian Vinson, Nadine Johnson, Julia Brooking, Steve Connolly, Jill Baston.

Apologies: Frankie Fry, Caroline Knight, Alison Shelly.

Minutes of last meeting: Taken as read.

Matters arising (unless listed elsewhere):

Committee issues:

- Election of committee members not on today's agenda.
- Caroline and Headley will take responsibility for elections at the AGM.

Membership:

Nicolla reported that there are 633 members in the database, of whom about 500 are paid up.

Establishing an email database:

- It was agreed that this would facilitate communication with members.
- Most people have access to a computer.
- Newsletters will continue as the major source of items of interest, but it may be possible to reduce their numbers and expense.
- Keith and Nadine will liaise with Nicolla to discuss any potential problems arising from the introduction of an email database.

Curry Night:

- Forty nine tickets were sold. All agreed that it was a successful social event with good food. Ghandi deserved credit for being flexible about slightly below par numbers. Nicolla was thanked for organising the event.
- We will try to negotiate with church members next time.
- It was agreed that a Community Curry Night would be an annual event.

SU and University Liaison: Frankie Fry sent apologies.

Sub-committee reports:

Finance:

Headley reported that finances continue to be healthy.

Planning and Licensing:

- Keith reported that an application for an enlarged extension at 15 Merton Road has been received. A similar application at 17 Merton Road was refused.
- Two applications for downstairs bedrooms in Blenheim Gardens have been notified to Planning; they are already in use as HMOs.
- The change of use at Portswood Post Office has been approved. The continuing poor condition of the Post Office section was noted, but the premises are leased.
- An application is in for 136 Highfield Lane for conversion to a hairdressers'. HRA will oppose the change of use.
- Sainsbury's have dropped their application for a pharmacy.
- The list of tree works is of continuing interest to HRA.
- The decision on 3 Abbots Way has gone to appeal.
- Jerry has met with residents concerned about the plans to extend the HMO at 53 Shaftesbury Avenue, converting it to two houses in the process. HRA has objected to the application.
- *13 Grosvenor Road*
- The Planning and Rights of Way Panel was due to consider the application on the following day, 13 March. Keith has written on behalf of HRA to object. Simon had produced a presentation for panel members. Simon and Jerry had discussed extensively the best way to present the case. Adrian will also address the panel.
- Pearson's had written a letter to Planning confirming that in their opinion the property could still be sold as a family house despite its size.
- It was noted that the Planning Inspector's decision on 1 Blenheim Gardens is relevant to the application at 13 Grosvenor Road i.e. that an increase of 5 students to 8 was unacceptable.
- The Council Cabinet on 12 March approved the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the control of HMOs. This should be taken into account in the following day's Panel decision, despite the delay in implementation of Article 4.

Website:

Steve reported that the webmaster wished to include more information on the website. Any items should be sent to Steve or Caroline.

Newsletter:

- The Spring 2012 edition was now available. Sainsbury's had contributed £500 towards the cost.
- Adrian requested that members monitor traffic congestion once the store opens.

Common Sense:

- Simon reported on the project's success in clearing overgrown areas on the Little Common.
- Some work remains to be done, particularly on turfing the boundary bank.
- Students felt safer now that sightlines as far back as Oakmount Avenue had been opened up.
- The Tree Gang's excellent work was much appreciated.
- Simon is seeking further sources of funding to enable completion.
- There are plans for a get together in the Mayor's Parlour in April to celebrate the combined success of Simon and his group, together with HRA and SCC.

Magistrates' Fines:

At the recent NORA AGM in London Jerry raised with Bob Neil, Localism Minister, the inadequacy of Enforcement and current fines for enforcement breaches. The maximum fine is £25,000, which could be cut if a guilty plea were entered or if financial circumstances could be presented as difficult. It is far too easy for wealthy developers to carry on regardless of fines.

AGM:

The AGM will be held on Thursday 19 April at 7.30pm, at the Highfield House Hotel, with a brief business session, followed by questions to a panel, followed by complimentary drinks.

AOB:

- NORA - Jerry reported a successful AGM. The Localism Minister Bob Neil had attended for two hours; he said that residents' groups like HRA should now think about their neighbourhood plans, and that Govt considered residents groups to be part of the Localism process
- Steve is monitoring the outbreak of graffiti on the White House. He has contacted the letting agent.
- The number of wheelie bins left out on local pavements was noted. *Actionline*.
- The garden of the HMO at 3 Brookvale Road is very littered; *Actionline*.
- Adrian will research the possibility of an area designation as a 'no cold calling' zone for Highfield.
- Jerry thanked Sue, our departing Vice Chair. She will continue as a member of the Committee.
- The next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 19 April.

The meeting closed at 9pm.