

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 8th September 2014
At Highfield House Hotel

Present Roger Brown, Jill Baston, Simon Hill, Stephen Connelly, Chris Klewe, Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin, Alison Shelly, Adrian Vinson

Attending Councillor Paul O'Neill, Councillor Matthew Claisse, Councillor Linda Norris, Farooque Ahmed, Ellie Cawthera, VP Engagement, PC Virginie Freval.

Apologies Jerry Gillen, Nick Bacon, Headley Rossell, Tom O'Connor. John Hayward

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.
The committee welcomed Ellie and Virginie from the University and Police respectively. There were no declarations of specific interests.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Website Nadine reported that the new webmaster had signed a contract and had started work on the website. He said that it was better to import the existing draft website into the new site manually in order to minimize transfer problems. He also suggested that other committee members might be given limited access to put certain data such as approved minutes onto the site.

HMO Survey Simon Hill reported that there had been no progress since his previous report. He felt that there was some evidence that the council were now checking up on HMOs.

Building Bridges Project

Ellie Cawthera introduced herself as the new VP Engagement. Unfortunately during the handover from the previous incumbent, booking of the venue for the curry evening had been overlooked and was no longer available for the 26th September. After some discussion it was agreed that Ellie would book the venue for a new date in mid October and would liaise with Simon Hill until Jerry had recovered from his present treatment. A date in October would also prevent the event from clashing with Freshers Week.

4. Co-option to the Committee.

Roger Brown proposed and the Committee agreed to co-opt Adrian Vinson to the Committee to deal with planning matters.

5. Welcome to PC Virginie Freval.

Virginie was welcomed as the new Police representative on the Committee. She said she had been with the Police for six years, five of them at Portswood Station, and that she lived locally in Bassett. She confirmed that Portswood Police Station was at present empty but being refurbished with a view to reopening late November or early December. She expects that the station will retain a front office for public queries, and that in the longer term, Bitterne Station would be closed.

6. Highfield House Hotel Development Proposals.

The Hotel staff have apparently been informed that the Hotel would remain as a Hotel and that the proposals for student accommodation units had been shelved. Confirmation of this was to be published in the Echo next week. The Committee welcomed the news and agreed that Roger would seek to verify this with Galliard Homes.

7. The Common

Simon Hill reported that he would give a detailed presentation about the common at the November meeting and that he would need a projector or other form of visual aid, perhaps a large computer screen. Simon continued saying that the Council management had changed considerably recently but needed to produce a plan for the area. He said he would be willing to assist the Council in this work. He would arrange dates for working parties to work on the common. Referring specifically to the path and cycleway between the University and Westwood Road, he felt that there was a need for traffic calming measures in Highfield Road.

Alison Shelley said that she thought the WI had a projector and would make enquiries.

8. Reports

Membership

Nicolla Martin reported on the membership:-

Data base records	560
Paid up total	437
Rolling paid up	338

She also reported that contributions received with the latest subscriptions exceeded the base subscription rate.

Finances

In the absence of the treasurer, no report was available. Some confusion still existed as to which bank was now in use..

Planning

Adrian Vinson detailed the applications that had been received. There was still concern about 13 Grosvenor Road, but HRA had lodged an objection and were now awaited the decision of the Council.

Pizza Hut had requested an increase in hours to as far as 2am on Fridays and Saturdays and the Committee agreed to object incase this became the default norm for such establishments.

9. AOB

There would be a Community Safety Event at the Civic Centre on 11th September.

Jill Baston asked for suggestions for the next news letter in November. These included:-

Childrens Christmas Party

Publication of our Facebook address

Nuffield Theatre Art Display

An interview with the new Police Representative

A survey of our Planning Successes

The HMO survey

Music in the City Events

A free concert in the Civic Centre Art Gallery

Coffee morning on 26th September at the Portswood Library.

Alison Shelley raised the issue of heavy lorries using Welbeck Avenue.

Councillor Claisse agreed to investigate.

10. Reserved Business

11. The next meeting would be 13th October 2014

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.