



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 13th December 2010
at Highfield House Hotel

Present Jerry Gillen - Chair, Caroline Knight – Secretary, Headley Rossell – Treasurer, Nicolla Martin, Julia Brooking, Alison Shelly, Steve Connolly, Roret Blue, and Matthew Claisse

Apologies Sue Hartley, Bryan Wakely, Billy Fitzjohn, Sarah Watts and PC Andy Alderson

Attending Cllr. Adrian Vincent, Cllr. Vincenzo Capozzoli, Peter Knight and Jenny Arnold.

Minutes of the November meeting accepted as accurate except for the matter raised by Peter Knight about irresponsible drinking. This will be amended

Matters Arising

- Signs are going to be erected re the dog mess problem.
- Signs prohibiting lorries from Highfield Lane will be replaced. Sainsbury's' will not be using Highfield Lane.

Correspondence

- Jerry had a letter relating to the proposed Residents' Parking Scheme for Residents' Gardens area
- Caroline read out an email from Mike Olin from the Highfield Pub which was sent in response to feedback she had given re the Committee's Christmas Lunch.
- Adrian had a reply to his letter to Prof Don Nutbeam which states that the university is adjusting its staff and will be appointing a Public Affairs Officer. Sarah Watts is acting in this position at present and was hoping to attend the meeting but was unable to.

SU Liaison no report as Billy unable to attend the meeting

Membership

Nicolla reported 483 rolling membership and 514 paid up member households. Nicolla has recruited volunteer street representatives to cover all the vacant areas. Nicolla also reported that the response to the last newsletter was the best ever with several new members joining.

Finance

Headley reported that finances are healthy. HRA has been awarded a grant from the Big Lottery Fund for events and activities in support of a membership drive. **A cheque in favour of SCC has still not been presented.**

Planning

Matthew circulated the monthly report before the meeting.

- HRA have submitted 5 objections against HMOs since the last meeting
- 1 and 2 Bowden Lane
- Sainsbury's – a meeting is being rescheduled to discuss traffic issues re the filling station.
- The application re 20 Sherbourne Rd was refused.
- The applications for 15 Ripstone (C3 use only) and 14 Westwood were allowed. 14 Westwood was deemed too large to be a family home as it is a 14 bed HMO.
- HRA have been asked to support objections to a rest home in Ridgemount Ave. Jerry has written on behalf of the Forum.
- There has been a licence review in relation to the Off Licence at the corner of Portswood and Brookvale.
- Jerry went to Dept. Of Local Government and Communities. Unfortunately Grant Shapps was unable to attend. The Civil Servants were implacable. SCC will make an application for Article 4 Direction. This will take some time and a lot of work to obtain and a year's notice of implementation will have to be given. Half of the major authorities have a problem with HMOs and wanted this legislation. The admin of the current Council are totally committed and Cllr Dean is proactive. Vincenzo will follow up.
- The issue with Chamberlain Rd is that at present there is a 2 hour parking restriction and that means that there is constant traffic as people look for spaces. There is a similar problem in Hartley Ave. This

should be reviewed and options explored such as reducing the time to one hour. Adrian and Vincenzo will take the matter to the Council.

Newsletter

The last edition was well received and has generated a lot of interest in possible advertising and copy for the next issue.

Website-

Following a discussion with Steve, Tony has spent a lot of time on rebuilding the website. It is semi-functional with all of the minutes available and the last newsletter. Also there was an advert and downloadable application form for the Christmas party. There has been a grant awarded to HRA for the rebuilding of the site: Tony will submit a bill when the site is fully functional. We still need someone to administer the site and so far no-one suitable has been identified. Caroline suggested that her daughter may be able to do this but would expect to be paid a commercial rate for doing it. Steve will explore quotes for this to determine a reasonable rate. The issue of "nepotism" was raised and it was agreed that as we have tried unsuccessfully to find someone to take the job on this should not be a problem. The advantage to Kate doing this is that we can expect continuity and ease of communication.

Winter Event

Bryan is still working with Graham Archer, Vicar of Highfield Church to explore a possible joint social event to co-incide with the refurbishment of the Church Centre's large hall and to this end we have tentatively reserved two dates. A curry evening is one possibility that is being considered. Grant funding may be able to be used to support this event and part of a membership drive. Jerry recommends that Penfolds should be invited to run a bar, as they were successful at our previous social event.

AGM

Jerry proposed that our next AGM should be a more social occasion in line with how EBRA conduct theirs. Julia suggested that it take the format of a "Question Time". This was agreed to be a really good idea. We will invite our MP, local councillors and representatives from the Police and the University. We will have a bar and canapés. **Post meeting note- we have booked Friday 13th May with Highfield House Hotel.**

The Christmas Party

This was again a great success with the best attendance so far – 53 children. This was despite a slow start to ticket sales and in no small part due to Alison handing out flyers.

Phil, Alison and Sarah did an amazing job and we extend our thanks to them for all their hard work.

AOB

- We have a grant of £4000 that must be used on a membership drive.
- Dates were suggested for a summer social and the 16th July seemed a good date. Jenny will enquire if The Pavilion is free. **Post meeting note – this date is unavailable so we have been offered Sat 2nd July instead. Will this be OK? Confirm please...**
- The question of when are we likely to see something from the Council re the Article 4 Direction and will it be applied to the city as a whole or neighbourhoods?
- Nicolla will organise new identity badges for those members of the committee who need them
- There has been a break in in Abbots Way.
- A man on a bike has been approaching young girls on the Common.
- Concerns have been expressed about the Gent's toilet in Portwood car park. This should be reported to the Police.
- Vincenzo wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

The meeting closed at 9.05

The next meeting is on Monday 10th Jan 2011.