



Highfield Residents' Association
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 8th March 2010
at Highfield House Hotel

Present Jerry Gillen- Chair, Sue Hartley-Vice Chair, Caroline Knight - Sec, Headley Rossell - Treasurer, Nicolla Martin, Steve Connolly, Bryan Wakely, Peggy Augier, Roret Blue, Allison Shelly, Julia Brooking and Josie Brown

Apologies Rafeal Persaud, Matt Martin and Adrian Vinson

Attending Peter Knight, Jenny Arnold, Vincenzo Capozolli and Bert Baker

Minutes of the last meeting agreed - proposed by Bryan and seconded by Julia.

Matters Arising None

Correspondence

- We have received an email from Adrian advising us that due to other commitments he will be unable to continue as a committee member and planning advisor.
- Jerry has received a letter from Sandra Gidley advising him about the new HMO regulations which will come into force on 6th April.
- Jerry has written to Paul Nichols and Matthew Dean asking about the implementation of the change in the Use class Order. Matt replied offering a meeting.

School Arts Project

Alison told us about a proposed arts project for Portswood School. The project is an art work using bio-degradable material which will be constructed in the Rec. It is to be a Rangoli piece which is a Hindu traditional art form usually created for festive occasions. The project will be lead by a local artist called Alison Downey who has experience of this type of art work. The project will involve the children from planning to creating the piece and it is hoped that the wider community will also be involved. The committee agreed to donate £100 towards the project.

Membership

Membership is very slightly down on last year at the same time and the current paid up membership stands at 500.

Finance Finances are healthy.

- We still have to pay for the newsletter but advertising and the sponsorship from the Council will offset much of this.

Planning

Report as circulated.

- 1 Crofton Close- the appeal was upheld with conditions. The utility room may only be used for that purpose and reinforced the necessity of Condition 16 for the rest of the development.
- 28 Brookvale. Mr Rai has telephoned asking for a meeting. Jerry and Jenny Arnold from PRG will arrange to meet.
- 2 Blenheim Gardens- a new application has been submitted for a two story side extension. JG will email AV.
- JG will ask AV to look at the submission for an illuminated sign at 104 Portswood Road.

Summer Event

- This has now been booked for Saturday 17th July in PRG. Manhattan Marquees and Upton's have also been booked. A sub-committee consisting of Jerry, Bryan, Sue and Nicolla will meet, Tuesday 16th March, to discuss arrangements. Julia also offered her help if necessary.

Newsletter

The newsletter has gone to the printers and deliveries will begin the week beginning March 15th. Jerry thanked Caroline for her work on this.

Website

The website was updated following the last meeting.

Highfield Map

The new map is now ready for distribution. Thanks are due to the Council and the NCF for supporting this. There are 1000 copies printed and these will be available at the AGM.

AGM

This is on 15th April. The speakers are to be Prof Adam Wheeler, Sarah Clover and Stewart Chandler for the local Police force. Caroline will email Andy to ask for his input as well. Each speaker will be asked to limit their talk to 10 minutes. Julia, Peggy and Nicolla will supervise the entrance. There will be no committee meeting in April. This will be shown on the website and Caroline will email Rafeal.

AOB

- The NORA AGM meeting in London on Saturday was a good meeting and was well attended. There was a speaker from the Independent Planning Commission. It would seem that inadequate enforcement is a nationwide problem. Sue said that the meeting was a good forum to share best practice and to disseminate examples of best practice which can then be passed to the local Council as examples. Some universities are taking responsibility for the behaviour of their students. There is also a good level of expertise which is an asset to all. Membership is being raised to £25 per annum which, it is felt, is extremely good value.
- The drainage at the Highfield Pub has been causing problems again. Environmental Health visited but by then the rain had washed away most of the mess. There was also a lot of broken glass on the ground at the front of the pub.
- 58 Roseland Gardens. There is a problem with the student occupants of this property. They have loud parties into the small hours and the front of the property is littered with rubbish bags which are attracting rats. Peggy has contacted Matt and will do so again.
- The concerns re the behaviour of one of the Council's legal Officers have not been addressed therefore it is possible that a formal complaint process will be initiated.
- There is to be a centenary celebration for the Pavilion in PRG on 12th June. This has been advertised in the newsletter.
- On Sunday 28th March at 3pm there will be a lecture by Harvey Rutt in the Pavilion. The cost is £5 to include tea.
- Bryan suggested that we send a letter of appreciation to the students who organised the recent Tea Dance.
- The Committee dinner at Mangos was a great success. JG will write a letter of thanks.

- The Common Sense Group organised a clear up on the Little Common at the top of Oakmount Ave. A large area was found to be covered with ski slope matting and this required a truck to remove.

The meeting closed at 8.45.

The next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 15th April

The next committee meeting will be on Monday May 10th