

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 10th November 2014
At Highfield House Hotel

Present Jerry Gillen, Jill Baston, Stephen Connelly, Chris Klewe, Simon Hill, Adrian Vinson, Bryan Wakeley, John Bradshaw, Headley Russell Allison Shelley.

Attending Councillor Matthew Claisse, Jacky Barnes, Tom O'Connor, Nicholas Bacon, Roret Blue, Emma Howes (Southampton University).

Apologies Councillor Paul O'Neill, Councillor Linda Norris, Roger Brown, Farooque Ahmed, Ellie Cawthera, VP Engagement, PC Virginie Freval, Nicolla Martin, Nadine Johnson.

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.
There were no declarations of specific interests.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Jerry Gillen gave a report on the **Building Bridges Curry Night** held the previous Friday. This was attended by around 60 people of which only 20 or so were residents. The event was successful with good intermingling and engagement between Students and Residents, especially following Ellie Cawthera, the SU VC, initiating a move round after the dinner. Unfortunately there were no fireworks or music as planned and the food ran out before the last arrivals. There is more work to be done before the next event on 29th January!

A presentation was given by Emma Howes, a post graduate student who is carrying out a project on age discrimination in the area and would welcome volunteers to assist.

4. The Common.

Simon Hill reported that much of the main Common was increasingly being covered by woodland and scrub, contrary to the position 50-60 years ago, when about 70-80% was open - now it is down to 20-30%. That is due to a combination of cessation of grazing at WWII and in the last 25 years withdrawal of mowing regimes from areas that were previously maintained as cut grass. He was working with the SCC open spaces manager to prepare a draft management plan for the Common as a whole so that the wider community can be involved in

deciding how it should be managed.

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5. Reports

Membership

Data from Nicolla Martin was as follows:-

Data base records	560
Paid up total	439
Rolling paidup	376

Jerry Gillen and & Nicolla Martin had identified that some ten residents of Grosvenor Rd were not currently members and needed to join and ideally make a contribution to related legal costs. JG has liaised with Trevor Foster who will hand deliver letters and membership application forms.

Finances

Headley Rossell reported that the finances are healthy, but that we were incurring substantial expenditure at the moment on legal fees. Jerry Gillen suggested that we need some practical ideas on fund raising for this purpose.

Planning

Jerry Gillen reported on his meeting with Harjap Singh Lakhpuri over 13 **Grosvenor Rd** which was entirely unproductive and HSL confirmed his intention to proceed with the existing proposed scheme and to Appeal the recent refusal at the Planning Panel. It was suggested that we ask the University for assistance in opposing the appeal since they must have a duty of care to their students.

Jerry also reported that contrary to reassurance from Galliard, the freeholders of the **Highfield House Hotel**, it was now their intention to make a Planning application to convert to a student hostel after all!

51 Heatherdene was reported to now have occupants in an outbuilding contrary to planning permission. Adrian Vinson agreed to inform Enforcement department.

Adrian reported on the **HMO Scrutiny Report** which was generally favourable to residents and it was believed there was now acceptance by the Leader of the Council for a maximum 10% city wide limit. Simon Hill suggested the need for a **Minimum Standards Policy** - to regulate accommodation space and provision of acceptable ablutions. Who in the Council will have time to do this however, although they could “lift” an existing policy from another Local Authority.

Jerry Gillen and Simon Hill congratulated Adrian on his work with the Scrutiny Report.

6. Highways Issues

The matter of heavy lorries using Welbeck Avenue was discussed and Councillor Matthew Claisse reported on his conversation with the manager of the new Sainsbury's. The need to provide strong evidence such as photographs was emphasized.

Simon Hill reported that he had made a [Court Leet presentment \(that's the official term!\)](#) requesting traffic calming measures in Highfield Road, because of the very high density of pedestrian and cycle traffic. It will be considered by Cabinet this month.

Repair work on Brookvale Road would commence on 15th November, and would involve a novel new method of sealing the road surface

7. Childrens Christms Party.

Keith Reed has the arrangements for this in hand but would welcome more volunteers. Apparently the university has also offered assistance.

8. Portswood Police Station.

It is understood this is to reopen after extensive refurbishment and an email from Sgt S Chandler had been circulated giving details.

9. AOB

Committee members were reminded of the NSCF AGM on Thursday 20th Nov. when a more detailed presentation on The Common would be given by Simon Hill.

10. Reserved Business

11. The next meeting would be on 8th December 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.