

Approved Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 13th July 2015
At Highfield House Hotel

Present	Roger Brown, Jerry Gillen, Jill Baston, Simon Hill, Stephen Connolly, Chris Klewe, Nadine Johnson, Adrian Vinson, Nicolla Martin, Steven Johnston.
Attending	Councillor Matthew Claisse, Jacky Barnes, Roret Blue, Hannah Talbot SUSU, Tim Baldwin, Nick Bacon, Dick Buckle, Elena Vorobeva, Beverley Pierce.
Apologies	Councillor Linda Norris, Councillor Paul O'Neill, , John Bradshaw, Headley Rossell, Bryan Wakely.

1. Welcome, declaration of interests.
Roger Brown welcomed everybody. There were no special interests declared.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising.
Rats.

Steven Johnston confirmed that Southampton Council would begin putting down rat bait next week, and that there were lots of places that food was still being deposited. Councillor Matthew Claisse said that he had received more complaints about rats. Jerry Gillen informed the committee that a private investigator to gather evidence would cost about £55 per hour.

Lloyds Bank.

It was confirmed that a letter had been sent to Lloyds Bank on behalf of the HRA expressing our regrets at the planned close of Portswood Branch.

4. Hannah Talbot SUSU
Jerry Gillen introduced Hannah Talbot as the newly elected SUSU vice president for engagement. She explained that she would be the main contact with the University students and would try to ensure that relations and contacts with Students and 'Locals' remained on a good footing.

5. Lovers Walk Cycle Path.

Simon Hill circulated copies of the proposed Council Scheme to widen and improve cycle and pedestrian access along the route known as Lovers Walk. In his view the Council were proposing to create a cycle superhighway between Burgess Road and Westwood Road which would be about 3.5 meters wide. This would take land away from the Common and make pedestrians feel unsafe and that overall it would be expensive and dangerous. Simon also

proposed a variant on the design which he thought would be cheaper and safer. After some discussion, it was proposed to put the entire plan onto our website and invite responses from our members.

6. Reports.

Membership

Nicolla Martin reported these details.

Data base records	560
Paid up total	414
Rolling paidup	266

Nicolla also informed the committee that the last newsletter had brought in more members than ever before.

Finance

Due to the absence of the treasurer, there was no report on the Accounts. The Chair confirmed that we had now replied to the request for information about how the grant moneys from the Community Foundation had been used.

Planning.

Adrian Vinson listed the planning applications received recently.

It was agreed to object to the proposed extension at 13 Shaftesbury Avenue and to the removal of sustainability conditions at 34-35 Blenheim Gardens since doing so might set an unfortunate precedent.

The Committee discussed and agreed some changes to our Planning and Licensing Guidelines. These will appear on the website shortly.

Adrian then raised the matter of the further development of the Sainsbury site. There was then a discussion of the proposal by Orchard Homes to build accommodation for 400-plus students at 224 Portswood Road adjacent to the Sainsburys store. It was agreed that we should oppose this on the basis that there is already sufficient student accommodation in the area and that the real need is for affordable family housing, as formed part of the original plans for the site.

7. AOB.

The committee agreed to write a letter of complaint to the Council about the excessive noise from the rock concert on the Common on 5th July.

8. Date of next meeting.

This would be on 14th September 2015 at Highfield House Hotel.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm