

Minutes HRA Committee Meeting

Held on 8 July 2019

At Highfield House Hotel 7.30pm



Committee members present: Jerry Gillen, Martin Benning, Stephen Connolly, Adrian Vinson, Ken Burtenshaw, Stephen Johnston, Nicolla Martin, Angela Seymour (8)

HRA members attending: Cllr. John Savage, Cllr. Gordon Cooper, Jon Walsh (SU), Leigh Seymour. (4)

1. Welcome, declaration of interests: Jerry welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Apologies: Nadine Johnson, Tom O'Connor, Sue Ingham, Roger Brown, Lisa Mitchell, David White, Jeremy Astley, Bryan Wakely, Barbara Claridge

3. Minutes and Amendments of the previous meeting held on 10 December 2018

The minutes had been circulated previously. One small amendment - 8b) Membership Report: the figure for Rolling was 259

4. Matters Arising: No matters arising

5. HMO / Students' behaviour (JG) Supporting paper E-mail string HRA member Mr Jeremy Astley etc

- A three-page summary of all of the e-mail exchanges on this matter had been circulated in advance. The item had been raised by an initial e-mail to the Hon Sec from Mr Jeremy Astley (HRA member) who, unfortunately, was not able to attend this meeting as he was away on holiday. Reported to Police, who don't have any recourse to anti-social behaviour. Environmental & Health don't work at 1 a.m. This had been an end of term party.

Additional information (searched for by HonSec after the meeting) can be found:

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/af/antisocial-behaviour/>

Hampshire Police Anti-social Behaviour and Anti-social Behaviour Trigger definitions are very helpful and can be found at the bottom of the page.

- Cllr Savage mentioned that the Police hope to increase their force by 19
- 53, Heatherdeane HMO license in order. Landlords have some responsibility

- Jon Walsh mentioned that there were data protection issues concerning letters to students
- Urinating in the street was a Police issue

6. Summer Social / BBQ (SJ)

Sunday 28th July from 12.00 to 17.00 at the Pavilion, Ports wood Residents' gardens. Angela & Leigh Seymour, Martin Benning, Stephen Connolly offered help. Stephen Johnston to print tickets for Martin. Ken Burtenshaw offer to do the bar, Cllr Jon Savage offered to provide music. Jerry to collect items for the Bottle Tombola. Stephen Johnston said there would be a coconut shy, a tug-of-war (if he could find a rope), he was looking for a croquet set. There was to be a bar with donation box, red and white wine, beer and soft drinks. A Face painter has offered to do this for free. Maximum 100 and Minimum 50 people. Under 18 free. Tickets available from Martin Benning or Eventbrite.

***Note:** Insurance had been discussed at a meeting attended by Bryan Wakely, Stephen and Cynthia Swann (PR). The question of insurance came up and whether PRGs insurance would be used (for the nominal fee of £1). That only covers a maximum of 80 people so if 100 attended this would invalidate PRG insurance. HRA has its own insurance but not sure how many people that would cover attending a social event. Who might know?*

7. Items carried forward (JG)

- a) Fund raising ideas: The BBQ 28th July – see item 6.

For a future event, Cllr John Savage told the meeting that he played in a 5-piece band, producing excellent dancing music. If a suitable venue could be found, he (the band) would be willing to play for free. Jerry thanked John.

- b) speed of traffic in Highfield: This isn't something HRA can control.

- c) potholes in roads: Cllr. Gordon Cooper mentioned that he was in contact with Balfour Beatty (SP) about the problem. Repainting of road lines was also discussed. Recently residential areas such as Oakmount Triangle had been done, instead of priority sites such as Portswood High Street. The Sainsbury Mini roundabout had nearly disappeared. Work could take anything up to 3 months for repairs. The Avenue Subway was discussed with water leaks reported and how dangerous it was with cyclists speeding through it and trying to avoid the ponded water, swerving into walkers. Engineering issues are completed by done by Balfour Beatty for SCC.

8. University Liaison with special reference to item 5. *(JW)* Jon Walsh of the University of Southampton questioned how the end of year waste problem had been this year. The University had paid for 3 additional collections and street cleansing over the period around moving weekend. Residents from Heatherdene Road reported they had problems with large numbers of bags being split open by gulls. The University had been meeting with OARA and the City Council about this issue specifically. A conversation was also held about students recycling rates and bins not being taken in off the highway, both of which were issues of concern in student areas.

The University had been trying to encourage better recycling rates through a communications campaign and provision of re-useable recycling bags with pictures on demonstrating what should and should not go in Southampton's recycling.

It was felt that the Council should issue fines.

Cllr. John Savage and Jon Walsh met with the Ward Councillor of Portswood and Swaythling to discuss new ideas, possible of Skips being used.

Works on Salisbury Road have taken longer than anticipated but it was hoped the road would be open again by September, and pedestrian access should be possible slightly sooner.

9. Reports

- a. **Finance (MB)** - healthy
- b. **Membership (NM)** - Database 485 Paid up members 416 Rolling 273
- c. **Planning Issues (AS)** (Planning Report July circulated in advance)

Highfield House Hotel application had been supported by HRA 224 Portswood High Street (Sainsbury Gym) rejected due to extended hours and the car park closed. 267 Portswood Road near Baffi Pizza - Cllr Gordon Cooper saying it should be rejected as many residents in Victoria Lodge were concerned. The Burger Van to be placed Corner of Winn Road and The Avenue to be objected.

10. Website / Facebook Nadine reports that there were no changes to the Website; Facebook has 237 'likes' and is up to 257 followers. It was suggested that Nadine put the Summer BBQ on the Website and Facebook. *Nadine had already posted the BBQ event details on the HRA website and Facebook.*

- 11. Newsletter (SJ)** - Jerry thanked Stephen, Nadine and Nicolla for all their hard work and Ken Burtenshaw for his first newsletter contribution. He also thanked the 18 volunteer Street Reps and helpers for delivering the 4000 newsletter which saves the Association a lot of money.

- 12. HRA financial support for Common Ground mower (MB / SJ)** - Stephen said that he had found a good second-hand walk behind, industrial mower, costing £2,200. HRA has the insurance and permission to use it on the Little Common, but just can't afford that much at present and it will have to wait until next year. It was suggested that a Contractor be found at an affordable rate in the meanwhile (*who is going to action this?*)

- 13. HRA Camera (SJ)** - Stephen said that it was not working and thought the battery had run down, he'll check it. Jerry thought he may know someone that would be interested in it.

- 14. A.O.B.** Little Common entrance. There has been a lot of time spent on this matter and Cllrs Savage and Cooper said that they would try a new tactic by talking to senior offices. Jerry thinks a meeting with Richard Crouch could be useful. The other suggestion was to commission an "independent" survey and aerobiological report. Nothing will happen before next year. There was also mention of remedial work to existing earthworks and railway sleepers. It was expressed that this must be the time to reinstate the original footpath, even if only in a temporary form?

Special thanks to Nicolla Martin, Hon Membership Secretary, for stepping in at late notice and taking the minutes.

No meeting Monday 12th August, a break for summer holidays. Meeting closed on time, 9.15p.m.