

Minutes HRA Committee Meeting
Held on 12 October 2021
Highfield Church Lounge 19:00h



Present: Cttee - Martin Benning, Prof. Roger Brown (Acting Chair), Ken Burtenshaw, Barbara Claridge. Stephen Connolly, Jerry Gillen, Nadine Johnson, , Steven Ossont, Dave White, Adrian Vinson,
Others - Karen Edwards (PRG), Peter Errington (Uplands Est), Pete Thomas (OTRA),

HRA Members: Nick Bacon.

Part I

- 1. Welcome:** Roger opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first real meeting since March 2020 and stated that he would appreciate feedback on the new venue. Special thanks were again extended to those committee members with additional roles. He reminded everyone that the next meeting on 2 November was to thoroughly agree everything for the AGM (16 November) but in Part II of this meeting (Committee Members only), AGM items would be discussed but no decisions would be taken.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 3. Apologies:** Cllr Cooper, Nicolla Martin, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Savage, Jon Walsh (University)
- 4. Minutes:** The Minutes from the 14 June 2021 meeting had been previously distributed to all Committee Members. No comments had been received.
- 5. Matters Arising** (not covered elsewhere):
 - a. The Local Plan. Roger was still waiting for a draft from SCC but no timescales were available hence the working party had not yet been set up. There had been a request to submit any potential development sites to the council, but it was thought there were none suitable in our area.
 - b. Pete T reported that the OTRA Green Trail had been successful with a good social atmosphere. Lessons for future events had been noted and £500 had been raised.
 - c. There was no update of the Highfield House Hotel which was permanently closed.
- 6. Information from Councillors:** No Councillors were available to attend but Cllr Cooper offered to take up anything Council-related highlighted from the meeting.
- 7. University Liaison:** No report but relevant questions at the meeting could be sent to Jon.
- 8. Planning update** – A Planning Summary Grid had been circulated

<https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/september-october-2021-planning-report/>

and these applications shown had been discussed by the HRA Planning Team (RB, JG, BC).

HRA was to raise an objection to 7, Leigh Road on the grounds of its contravention to the CA Management Plan as well as wider issues relating to overdevelopment. Consultation had taken place with OTRA. JG had posted an objection on behalf of North Southampton Community Forum. It was considered that it would be difficult to object to an Amendment to Planning for 17B, Brookvale Road as no initial objection had been posted. Several applications on the new grid appeared to be owner-occupiers wishing to extend their home. The Application to extend into the roof of a semi-detached dwelling at 61, Highfield Crescent would increase the HMO population from 4-bed to a 7-bed, but this property was already HMO registered, to 2026, as a 5-bed HMO. HRA would however, make an objection in line with long-standing HMO density policy. The Planning Application at 1, Oakmount Avenue was referred to OTRA (*Action: Pete T*).

(BC Post-meeting information. Since the meeting, it has become necessary to pursue Planning Applications for 17B Brookvale Road, and 11 Brookvale Road (new). The Planning Case Officer, Stuart Brooks, is to be consulted before HRA objection statements are posted on the SCC Planning Portal).

9. Reports

- a. **Finance** (MB) – in the last month, Income £505: Outgoings nil. In this financial year from January 2021, Income £3020: Outgoings £760. It is expected that outgoings will increase in the next period as real meetings return
- b. **Membership** (NM) – Nicolla was unable to attend the meeting at late notice. Current paid-up membership stands at 358.
- c. **Newsletter** (SO) – Steven reported that the Newsletter was prepared in draft form but that we had to wait for the final details and links to the website when Ross Gordon (IT) was next available. The target date for getting to the printer was 21 October. The copies should be ready for Nicolla's Street Reps about a week later. The Newsletter would advertise the AGM.

10. Crime information sharing WhatsApp group for Highfield (NJ):

Nadine reported that this had been a quieter month for crime reporting which was good news (6 incidents since the last meeting). Most had concerned car break-ins / the trying of car doors or parcels stolen from doorsteps.

Roger reported that Inspector Ranjan had accepted the invitation to be the guest speaker at the AGM.

Social Media: Nadine reported 14 more followers on Facebook since the last meeting making 714. She also reported that there had been a need for additional work on the HRA Website (Ross, NJ and BC) in preparation for all the links through in readiness for Internet Banking and the payment of fees by Direct Bank Transfer.

Ross (HRA IT support) had been brilliant and innovative and had offered good knowledge in support of the Website updating. Roger thanked Nadine for the report and asked cttee to record its appreciation of the work of Ross Gordon. A further £250 of sponsorship had been secured for

another year for the Website (Pearsons). A new business in Bitterne (Bookkeeping service) had offered 10% discount to HRA members and would take an advert in the Newsletter.

11. A.O.B.

Various people in the meeting reported that Southampton had very recently been selected as one of the last eight 'cities' in the 2025 City of Culture bid. Each of these long-listed cities would receive a further grant of £40,000 towards the final selection. It was thought that this would be the end of January 2022.

Part I of the meeting ended at 20:00h when Committee Members stayed to discuss the AGM.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 2 November at Highfield Church (lounge) 19:00h**.
The main business will be the final preparations and making decisions for the AGM