

Minutes 45th HRA Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting

Tuesday 16 November 2021

At 7.00pm – Highfield Church Hall



- Welcome:** Prof. Roger Brown opened the Annual General meeting by welcoming members and guests. He reminded the meeting that he had been Acting Chair of HRA since March 2020, when Jerry Gillen had retired from that role. He expressed thanks, in particular to Martin Benning (Treasurer), Nadine Johnson (Digital Comms), Nicolla Martin (Membership Secretary) and Barbara Claridge (Secretary) for their on-going work in the last 18 months during the pandemic.
- Apologies for absence:** Barbara Claridge read out the Apologies: Dr Alan Whitehead MP, Tom O’Conner, Annie Hecks, Anne Francis, Nick and Cathy Guyer, Gillian Gain, Robert and Louise Kathro, Patrick Stevenson and Jo Bailey, Hilary May, Jennifer Turner, Eugene and Anne Broderick, Anton Fitzgerald, Councillor John Savage, Jill Baston, Chris and Bev Pearce, Sue Ingham, Steven Ossont, Attendees were requested to register for the AGM. In total 60 members attended including some who joined on the night; 6 who had registered did not attend; and 19 who had not registered did attend.
- Minutes of the previous AGM:** held on 11 April 2019 were circulated after that meeting and published on the HRA Website. The Chair took these as read and agreed with no Matters Arising.
- Annual Report:** Prof. Roger Brown (Acting Chair from May 2020)
Prof Brown stated how pleased he was that the association was able to hold a real, in-person meeting for the AGM. He stressed how HRA had been active during lockdown with regular committee meetings taking place each month albeit remotely. A careful watch had been kept on relevant Planning Applications and on two occasions HRA had successfully submitted supportive statements to Planning Inspectorate Appeals which were subsequently dismissed. The HRA submissions had been mentioned in the Inspector’s Decision Report. Case work on behalf of members had continued throughout lockdown.
Looking forward, issues to be considered would include, the City’s New Local Plan and the University of Southampton’s Civic-University Agreement, both of which could have important implications for our area. On these and other matters, HRA would seek to work closely with its neighbouring organisations including Portswood Residents’ Gardens, Orchard Triangle Residents’ Association and Uplands Estate. Finally he expressed his thanks to the three Ward Councillors whose interest and support was greatly appreciated.

5. **Presentation of the Financial Report** and approval of Accounts 2019 and 2020, Martin Benning (Treasurer).

- a. The End of Year Examined Accounts for 2019 and 2020 were available to all members to read in advance of the meeting. Malcolm White had stepped into the role of Accounts Examiner on the approval of the Committee as the previous Examiner, Olliver Dicker, had died.

The Accounts for 2019 showed a Net Income for the year of £2501 and total assets of £12,761 of which £10,000 was held in the Designated Fund against future legal and professional costs.

The Accounts for 2020 Showed a Net Income for the year of £2809 and total assets of £15,570 of which £10,000 was held in the Designated Fund against future legal and professional costs.

These accounts were approved by the meeting with no objections or abstentions.

- b. Committee recommendation regarding Membership Fees. Martin then presented the Committee recommendation that HRA Household Membership fees should rise to £10 from 1 January 2022. Household Membership still represented excellent value for money especially when the members' discount scheme was taken into account. £10 was proposed because there had been no increase in membership fees since 2016. Expenditure was anticipated to increase throughout 2022 due to payment for room hire for meetings, the resumption of a printed Newsletter with 3 copies planned for 2022, an increase in IT scope and related support costs and the need to increase the Designated Fund by a further £5,000 towards the target of £20,000. There were no questions and the Committee recommendation was approved by the meeting.
- c. Ratification of the Accounts Examiner from 2021. The Committee recommendation was that Malcolm White should be asked to continue in this role. This was approved by the meeting. In answer to a question from the floor about diversity in the membership, including more student members, Professor Brown acknowledged that this issue was important. He expressed confidence that the committee would bear diversity in mind and work with all members of the association across Highfield.

6. **Election and Ratification of Committee members**

- a. Mrs Barbara Claridge, the Hon. Secretary took over the meeting for the Election of Chair. The recommendation by the Committee that Prof. Roger Brown should be elected as Chair of HRA was approved unanimously by the meeting.

Prof. Roger Brown thanked the meeting and continued as Chair.

- b. Ratification of other committee members at three-year break point wishing to stand again:

Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin, Stephen Connolly. This was approved.

Election of committee member: Jerry Gillen. This was approved.

- c. Recommendation by the Committee: Award of Honorary Life Membership to Jerry Gillen for exceptionally long and meritorious service. This was approved. Prof Roger Brown presented Jerry with a framed Certificate of Honorary Life Membership. Jerry thanked the Committee and the members for their kind gesture.

Close of the Annual General Meeting at 19:25

Prof. Roger Brown opened a **Special General Meeting**

Agenda Item – to approve the Revised Constitution as proposed by the Committee.

Documentation had been circulated to members and these had also been available on the HRA Website in advance of the SGM. These outlined the proposed changes to the 2003 Constitution, the rationale behind the changes and the proposed New Constitution.

Karen Edwards asked for clarification regarding HRA membership from outside the Highfield boundary. Prof Brown explained that that had always been the case and asked the meeting if there was anyone present from outside of Highfield. This question drew a negative response, everyone present lived in Highfield. He reassured KE that it was unlikely that outside membership would cause a problem. The Secretary also gave the example of people moving house away from Highfield but who wanted to continue their membership to maintain contact with HRA.

The 2021 Constitution was approved by the meeting and the official copy was signed and dated. Prof Brown indicated that the Constitution would be reviewed annually.

Close of the Special General Meeting at 19:35

To conclude the meeting Professor Roger Brown introduced the Guest Speaker

Inspector Sharath Ranjan *Prevention-Neighbourhoods-Southampton-North*

This is a short summary of his address

Dear members

Thank you for the opportunity to present during your recent AGM.

I manage Southampton North – Prevention and Neighbourhoods team of just over 20 people including Sergeants, Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers. Our work is mainly focussed on addressing long term neighbourhood problems and collaboratively preventing crime and offending in Southampton North. We have additional resources across a number of other departments including Response and Patrol and Criminal Investigations Department who work tirelessly to keep you, your families and the communities safe. Over the last year, we have seen an increase in crime across Southampton as we have come out of COVID lockdown.

The government has promised to increase police numbers to support our capability and we continue to recruit more Police Officers in Hampshire Constabulary. As we train these new officers, we will continue to ensure we can meet the demands on policing by prioritising our commitment towards reducing serious violence in the city, addressing offences that cause the highest harm and those that have the highest impact on community confidence.

Highfield is a safe place to live in Southampton and this is reflected in the crime reviews we complete on a daily basis and the long-term data that we hold on crime in the area. However, as the evenings get darker and we head into Christmas, we know that the burglaries across the whole of Southampton historically see an increase.

We will continue to do all we can to apprehend those responsible for these crimes and I seek your support in helping us to prevent them. You will find useful information and tips on crime prevention by visiting this link - <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

In closing, my team and I care deeply about serving you and we will strive to do this efficiently and effectively.

Thank you once again for your questions, your understanding and more importantly your support for the work we do. It matters to me, my team and Hampshire Constabulary.