



*The minutes include reports received in advance.  
Many thanks to Ken B for taking additional notes at the meeting*

**Present: Cttee** - Prof. Roger Brown (Chair), Martin Benning, Ken Burtenshaw, Stephen Connolly, Jerry Gillen, Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin

**Others** - Councillor Cooper, Pete Errington, Karen Edwards, Peter Etheridge (Holly Hill)

**Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially those from neighbouring associations. He announced that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Satvir Kaur had accepted an invitation to meet HRA and would attend the July Committee Meeting. Committee members will be contacted in advance of the meeting for any questions for the Council Leader

**2. Apologies:** Councillor Mitchell, Councillor Savage, Kate Fay, Jon Walsh, Susan Swallow, Dave White, Barbara Claridge, Steven Ossont

**3. Declarations of Interest:** None

**4. Approval of the Minutes:** Approval of the Minutes from the Committee Meeting 10 May 2022 - the minutes were accepted. No comments had been received

**5. Matters Arising:**

- a. Wheelie bins on Highfield Lane (HRA member request). The Secretary reported that she had asked Steven Ossont to take another look at the situation and send her some photographs. *(Post Meeting Update: The following day, SO had found the bins in a disorganised and contaminated state with pungent smells. It was virtually impossible to use the post box on Highfield Lane. The Secretary passed this information on to Councilor Savage who immediately contacted City Services about fly-tipping and waste management. The area was cleared and cleaned by 17 June. Many thanks to Councilor Savage and the City Services. The Secretary will now contact the HRA member who first reported the problem.)*
- b. State of Brookvale Road (JG) - Jerry commented that he had written to the Councillors regarding the state of Brookvale Road and questioned why, with the lack of progress, the council still persevered with Balfour Beatty. Councillor Cooper responded that he had no further news on the work's progress or the Council contract with Balfour Beatty but that the matter was being pursued as a priority.
- c. City of Culture - Ken remarked that although he was disappointed that Southampton had been a runner-up to Bradford in the City of Culture 2025 race, he thought that Bradford were worthy winners. Bradford had a lot to offer including the Salts Mill, where numerous paintings by local artist David Hockney were on display. Also attractions such as the Bradford Industrial Museum and the National Science and Media Museum added to the culture currently in place. Councillor Cooper commented that the £125,000 runners-up prize could help local projects. Ken will contact the council to see if any further CoC 2025 feedback is available.

## **6. Information from Councillors – Note from Cllr John Savage:**

“I understand from social media that the back lane behind Portswood library, which was in a terrible state for many years, has now been resurfaced with a temporary gravel type surfacing.

Last year at the overview and scrutiny management Committee, the Tory administration submitted plans to resurface a private residential cul-de-sac in Bassett. At the time, the resurfacing of private property was against council policy and would require a change of policy to it bring about.

At this time, just after the meeting, I spoke to the deputy Tory leader and asked why this would be invested in while the back lane of Portswood High St, blighting the lives of users of MENCAP and residents living above the shops, should be overlooked. I invited Cllr Moulton to meet with me, and walked him through the site revealing to him the horrible state of the lane. (20 (Dec.)

As I see it, it was politically difficult to repair a private road in Bassett while ignoring this location in Portswood. This was my intention.

As I understand it, the work was done in Portswood to provide political cover for the intended work in Bassett. Since then the administration has changed, though the work in Portswood was completed. While I welcome the improvement to the back lane (which can be justified in terms of the hazard to public health), it is still private land being improved at a cost to the public purse.

My preference would have been that the lane improvements were carried out and charged to the owners of the land. I am continuing to work with the landowners of around 12 derelict garages in the lane who are seeking planning permission to develop the garages to artisan workshop properties; the landowners being content to improve (by condition) the surface of the lane way as part of the plans. These discussions are ongoing between the developer, their planning agent and council planning officers. As a member of the planning panel, I have emphasised my need to keep out of discussions around what may or may not be acceptable.

I guess the temporary improvement to the Portswood backlane should be seen as a windfall benefit (depending on your political view) resulting from some rather extreme policies being planned by the previous administration.

It was discovered that much of the problem with the back lane was that Coffee#1 had a broken foul sewer leaking out into the back lane contributing to the state of the flooding and of course was an important public health issue to get resolved. I'm so glad I was able to bring it onto the radar last December.

Sorry to continue the saga but on visiting the site this morning I am reporting the businesses management of waste and the BetFred bookmakers have broken/disconnected drainage pipes pouring water out into the back lane. I spoke to the manager just after 9am this morning and impressed upon him the need to get this sorted before the lane reverts to a swamp.

Apologies for any political content here.” Councillor J Savage  
Read out by the Chair.

Roger then added that the committee received Councillor Savage’s report and commended his actions. HRA would publicise the opportunity to develop artisan workshops in the derelict garages. This would be posted on HRA Social Media in due course.

## **7. Information from the University**

### **End of Year Waste Collection**

As you are aware the University has paid for two extra collections. Thanks to HRA for sharing the dates with members. Our Student communications Team have also shared these dates within direct student communications. They have also advertised this on their various social channels, and have shared the different donation options available in the local area (Charity shops/ food banks etc).

We have requested extra street cleaning from the council, however they have not confirmed this with the University. We will continue to chase for confirmation of this.

### **City of Culture**

Obviously, the University was disappointed that Southampton missed out on the City of Culture 2025, however we welcome the £125, 000 grant awarded to all runners up.

The University has committed to continue investing in the Southampton 2025 Trust to deliver against an agreed programme putting culture at its heart.

### **Professor Saul Faust- OBE**

Professor Saul Faust has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Jubilee Birthday Honours.

During the pandemic, Southampton researchers and medics led and supported multiple studies that helped to determine the safety and effectiveness of vaccines for use in adults and children across the world. You can read more [here](#)

### **QS World University Rankings**

The University of Southampton has ranked 78th in the QS World University Rankings 2023.

This ranking is down just one place from 2022 when the University climbed 13 places from 90th to 77th. It remains 12 places above its 2021 position and reaffirms Southampton's global status in the top 100.

### **Europe's largest land predator unearthed on the Isle of Wight**

Research led by palaeontologists at the University of Southampton has identified the remains of one of Europe's largest ever land-based hunters: a dinosaur that measured over 10m long and lived around 125 million years ago.

Several prehistoric bones, uncovered on the Isle of Wight, on the south coast of England, and housed at Dinosaur Isle Museum in Sandown, belonged to a type of two-legged, crocodile-faced predatory dinosaur known as spinosaurids. Dubbed the 'White Rock spinosaurid' – after the geological layer in which it was found – it was a predator of impressive proportions (exceeding 10 m in length) - PhD student Chris Barker explains more [here](#)

### **Kate Fay**

Public Affairs Manager (estates)

The committee welcomed the effort of the University and SCC to attempt to minimise any end of year disruption as students leave or move accommodation.

## **8. Planning update -**

a. 34 Crofton Close update, Planning and Rights of Way Panel, 24 May 2022

Nadine presented her notes from the Panel Meeting. Cllr John Savage, was a Panel member and Cllr Gordon Cooper addressed the Panel on behalf of the resident objectors. Jerry and Nadine had also addressed the Panel to object.

The objection had been lost and Conditional Planning Approval approved (conditions concerned materials and building according to the plan). The Panel only considered the Planning Application for a kitchen extension. Disappointingly, this disregarded the view of the objectors, who had argued that the whole scheme represented over-intensification of use, especially the potential impact on parking and the alteration to the character and amenity of the estate. Two conditions to protect the privacy of No 33, by maintaining the trees, were also refused.

The loft conversion to two bedrooms was not marked on the plans and some of the Panel had difficulty understanding how many bedrooms there were. The Case Officer did not clarify the number and said this was not relevant as such conversions did not require Planning Approval.

Pertinent photos that were sent to the Case Officer in advance, were not acknowledged and were later found to have been overlooked. The Panel did not appear to have received them.

Condition 16 was however upheld on the plans to convert one of the garages into a bedroom.

With Planning having confirmed that permission is not required for loft conversions, future HMO landlords might choose converting attic space as a way of enlarging their properties, rather than converting their garages where a Condition 16 applies.

Nadine thanked HRA and the Councillors for their support.

- b. 61 Highfield Close – Appeal (BC). HRA had objected to the Planning application to extend into the roof and increase the HMO to Sui-Generis (7). Councillors had been in discussions with family residents over the proposals and other student concerns. HRA will make a further statement to the Planning Inspectorate objecting to the Appeal.
- c. Brookvale Road – the Secretary reported that a couple of weeks ago an HRA member had alerted her, via email, to a potential breach of pre-planning conditions at 9 Brookvale Road, which had just received planning approval to convert a 9-bed HMO into 9 flats. The Secretary then conveyed this to SCC. Karl Collymore (SCC Enforcement) subsequently replied to report a site visit. No building work has started and the property is still operating as a 9-bed HMO so there is no breach. The Secretary thanked SCC Enforcement for their quick response.

## **10. Reports**

### **a. Finance (MB)**

Income from May 6 to June 7 = £700.00 - outgoings = £234.05

Total income this year = £3753. Total outgoings this year = £1240

Current account = £10,530. Savings account = £10,003

29 members paid on line this month - £296 subs and £62 in donations. That is double the donation rate compared to the previous months. Donations are 17%, a bit up from last month.

Subs paid in by Nicolla this month (cheque and cash) came to £260 with £82 in donations. This is 24%.

Martin Benning, Treasurer

**b. Membership (NM)**

Paid up members 352 (May 347 reported). Rolling (Jan – May) 188 (May 152 reported)

In May 37 renewal letters were sent. 23 have renewed, 12 by BACS; 10 by Cheque; 1 by cash. 14 have not yet renewed.

Nicolla Martin, Membership Secretary

The chair noted that the Committee needed a better understanding of the reasons for non-renewal.

**11. Digital Communications (NJ).**

*Facebook:* We now have 811 followers, an increase of 26 since the last HRA Committee Meeting on 10 May 2022.

*Website:* nothing new to report except we need more local photographs please!

*E-news:* this was sent in May to all members and also to all co-opted non-Committee members and Councillors. The Chair congratulated Nadine and Barbara for the quality for e-news and the information.

**HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group for Highfield**

There have been 4 reported incidents and some public safety information:

- a. There was a potential domestic violence incident in one of our representative's streets. It was witnessed twice in the middle of night. Lucy Nagra says it is important to **always** report such potential incidents to the Police on 999 if you hear or see anything. Serious violence and death are unfortunately very common in domestic violence incidents.
- b. Two men in a white flatbed lorry, with a grey Kendrick Fencing Ltd logo on the side and scrap metal in the back, stopped outside a house in Oakmount Triangle. One man walked to the back of the house and got abusive and threatening when the owner knocked on the window and told him to leave. The men drove off but returned minutes later and the violent abuse continued. The Police urged the owners to phone 999 if they returned. The lorry registration no was: HN10 YYD.
- c. Milk bottles and a polystyrene milk holder were stolen from house(s) in Highfield Lane and turned up on other people's doorsteps/gardens who did not have a milk delivery. A perpetrator was caught on camera.
- d. On 14/06/22: Alerted by Lucy N to male in all black clothing (hoodie, coat, trousers) acting suspiciously, going up and down Abbots Way on a push bike looking at all the houses and talking into his phone. She pulled over, watched. He saw her and hopefully decided this was not a good idea.
- e. Southampton City Council has signed up to the Safe Places Network for adults and young people who are out in public and might need a temporary refuge because they feel scared, lost, threatened and at risk and in need of support. Safe Places in Portswood include Waitrose, KFC, the Post Office, and October Books.

Nadine Johnson, Digital Comms

**12. A.O.B.**

- a. Roger indicated that we would have this year's AGM in the autumn (probably in November) and that we could combine it with a social rather than have a separate event.
  
- b. Pete Errington announced that new bakery was to open next to the Brewhouse and Kitchen pub on 12 July 2022 which would be a great asset to the community.

**The meeting ended at 8pm**

**The next Committee Meeting is Tuesday 12 July 2022 at 19:00h**

**The Council Leader, Councillor Satvir Kaur will attend**