



Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 14 February 2023
Highfield Church Hall 19:00h

1. **Present Committee:** Prof Roger Brown, Martin Benning, Nadine Johnson, Jerry Gillen, Ken Burtenshaw, Barbara Claridge

Others: Councillor Cooper, Councillor Savage, Sue Swallow (OARA), Katherine Barbour (HRA member)
2. **Welcome and Opening Remarks:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that sadly Nicolla Martin's husband has recently died.
3. **Apologies:** Karen Edwards, Stephen Connolly, Pete Errington, Nicolla Martin, Jayne Tamlyn, Jon Walsh
4. **Declaration of interest:** none
5. **Approval of minutes from the Committee Meeting 17 January 2023:** The Minutes, which had been previously circulated, were approved.
6. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere:** Roger reported that the 'red drum' had been swiftly removed from the corner of Oakmount Avenue thanks to the intervention of David Tyrie.
7. **Information from Councillors:**

Councillor Savage reported that recently SCC Planning Enforcement had been very responsive to act regarding dwellings in Westridge Road due to reported anti-social behaviour. One of which had been found to be operating as 4 flats without planning permission. Police had been involved.

Councillor Cooper reported that at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee which had taken place on Thursday, 2nd February, 2023, both he and Councillor Savage had pressed hard for further questions to be raised before any decision to proceed had been taken. These included further traffic counts, trend data on bus journey times and traffic modelling on particular roads which were at risk of becoming 'rat runs'. There was concern that no emergency plans had been drawn up if Thomas Lewis Way had to be closed due to an incident. The impact on a wider geographical area, for example to include Lodge Road increased traffic flows had been recommended. The original study and consultation had been inadequate. A number of surveys had also been recommended including the economic impact to be carried out by independent specialists which would result in greater confidence in the results. The Scrutiny Committee would produce a report following the meeting and it was likely that Cabinet would accept this although that was not required. The decision was so important it was not a political issue. These next steps would take time but the decision was huge. The Councillors were critical of how the project had been conducted and much language used had been confusing. More staff had joined the project team.

Roger replied by saying that this information was most welcome and very much reflected the HRA response. It was apparent that improved clarity of information would be necessary before any further consultation.

Sue Swallow (OARA) was pleased that the Scrutiny Committee Chair had stressed the bias on the on-line consultation form and that this would be addressed in the next consultation.

Jerry Gillen added that it had to be acknowledged that there had been massive public anger at the proposal to close Portswood Broadway.

Martin Benning asked if the scheme would cost more due to the delay but stated that it was important to get the process right.

Councillor Savage closed the discussion by commenting that he had spoken to the manager of Waitrose who had said he was neutral to the scheme.

8. University Liaison

The University highlighted its upcoming [Science and engineering festival](#), which would be open to everyone but of particular interest to those with school age children. Jon provided a link to the mailing list for further information [Join our visitor Festival mailing list](#)

As reported in recent news, the university had reconstructed the brains and inner ears of the two 'Spinosaurus', which were unusual dinosaurs found on the Isle of Wight [Read more here.](#)

Professor Gill Reid received one of only 12 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering Awards, [Find out more on our website.](#)

The university would appreciate a HRA committee member to join the planning group with the university and SCC for the annual end of year waste campaign. If anyone was interested, please contact Jon Walsh or Barbara Claridge.

Southampton University Challenge team had triumphed last night over Christ's College Cambridge to secure a place in the quarter finals. A video of former contestants reflecting on their time on the show was [available here](#)

(JW)

9. Planning:

6 Crofton Close – Planning Permission had been approved with conditions

22 Grosvenor Road (resubmission) – HRA would object again as there were no significant changes

5G Mast The Avenue – The Appeal by Hutchinson was dismissed. HRA had supported the SCC objection.

Brewhouse and Kitchen – Planning Approval approved

28 Blenheim Avenue – HRA and OTRA had no objections

Disabled Parking Bay – The secretary now had enough background detail and would write to SCC (Parking, Planning and HMO Licensing) asking for a site visit and a review. Councillor Savage said he would be willing to attend any site visit on behalf of the residents.

10. Reports:

a. Finance

Our income this month has been £330 which includes a payment of £180 from Pearsons for advertising in the Spring Newsletter. Our outgoings have been £42.93.

Martin Benning Treasurer

b. Membership

No report

c. Digital Communications

Facebook: There were now 969 followers on Facebook, an increase of 13 since the last HRA Committee Meeting on 17 January 2023.

Website: On the *About Us* page of the website, under 'Other Current Information' 'The Southampton National Park City Project' had been replaced with, 'Wilder Southampton'. Additional drop-down menu sub-pages had been added to the Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group page, including 'Reporting a crime or intelligence', 'Police Liaison Meetings' and 'Terms of Use'. Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents would no longer be posted on the News/Events page due to the volume of data. Instead, these would continue to be logged, as they always had been, on the 'Crime Incidents & Info' Sub-Page of the main WhatsApp Group page: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/crime-incidents/>

Two additional discounts for HRA Members had been acquired:

Brewhouse & Kitchen, 10% off food and drink (when taken with food).

Riya's Fish & Chips, 10% discount.

There were now a total of 22 HRA Member discounts which could be found on the Members' Benefits page: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/benefits/>

There was a continued need for more local news and photos; local history would be useful too - thank you!

Nadine Johnson Digital Comms

11. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield See attachment:

<https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/report-to-inspector-brian-goodall-on-the-hra-crime-information-sharing-whatsapp-group-updated-for-hra-committee-meeting-14-02-23/>

- a. **Police Liaison Meeting held 06-02-2023** Roger reported that there had been a constructive meeting with Inspector Goodall, SCC Community Engagement Officers and other local resident groups. This had mainly involved a discussion into understanding police processes and establishing links. The report of the meeting is attached:

<https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/hra-report-of-police-liaison-meeting-on-6th-february-2023/>

12. AOB:

- a. Spring Newsletter (KB / BC)

Ken outlined the progress that had been made to date. The target date for publication was before Easter. However, it was acknowledged that Nicolla's street reps would need to be available for delivery. Nadine had secured three or four adverts and updated the full list of local discounts. Roger thanked Nadine for this achievement as the adverts would pay for the publication of the newsletter.

- b. Fly-tipping (BC)

Barbara reported that a member had been in touch asking for support over a fly-tipping issue of 5X5 litre plastic food oil containers and a black sack of rubbish. Although the HRA member had reported the incident using the correct SCC channels, his request for council involvement had been turned down due to the location (Russell Place) being on private property. Barbara contacted the Council and the remaining items were removed that day. The HRA member expressed his thanks.

The meeting ended at 20:10

Next Meeting is to be held 14 March 2023, 7pm Highfield Church Hall.