



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

Committee Members only

1. Reserved Business for Committee members – Prof Roger Brown proposed that Christine Rawnsley be co-opted on to the committee. This was approved unanimously.

Committee attendees then joined the meeting.

Present Committee: Prof Roger Brown, Nadine Johnson, Ken Burtenshaw, Nicolla Martin, Karen Edwards, Christine Rawnsley, Barbara Claridge

Others: Councillor Cooper, Sue Swallow (OARA), Jon Walsh (Uni),

2. **Welcome and Opening Remarks:** Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then introduced Christine to the committee. Committee members introduced themselves to Christine. Nicolla was also welcomed back to the Committee.
3. **Apologies:** Stephen Connolly, Pete Errington, Jayne Tamlyn, Jerry Gillen, Cllr Savage
4. **Declaration of interest:** none
5. **Approval of minutes from the Committee Meeting 14 February 2023:** The Minutes, which had been previously circulated, were approved.
6. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere:** none
7. **Information from Councillors:** Councillor Cooper informed the meeting that the Council had decided there would be a reduction in street lighting for cost saving reasons between the hours of 01:00h and 04:00h (see details in Annex i). It was suggested that Nadine should post the details on the HRA website. The Police and Fire brigade had been consulted about these proposals.
Nadine raised a question from a HRA member who had noticed traffic monitoring boxes on some lampposts in Highfield. The HRA member had been concerned residents had not been informed about this. Cllr Cooper said he thought they were traffic data collecting boxes with number plate recognition cameras on top of the poles. This action had been a result of recommendations to be carried out before a second round of consultations for the Portswood Corridor Phase 1 Scheme. Many roads had been monitored for traffic within, and passing through, the Portswood area. Rubber road strips to count traffic had also been used.
8. **University Liaison** Jon Walsh reported that the Civic University Agreement had been signed at a ceremony in the previous week.
There was a possibility of a new initiative to replace Southampton Accreditation Scheme for Student Housing (SASSH) along the lines of a Landlords' Charter. Roger advised that North Southampton Community Forum (NSCF) would be the most appropriate group to move this concept forward. It was suggested that a University presentation to NSCF would reach most active Residents' Associations. John felt that a date during the summer months might be possible.
Jon also reported that the University had taken a lead in encouraging students to register to vote as their Student photo ID would not be accepted at polling stations now that photo ID was required.
Stephen Connolly had raised a question regarding the future of the Nuffield Theatre and in particular whether there were plans to demolish it. Jon reported that there was no current plan as refurbishment plans were on hold but said it would not be demolished.

9. Planning:

- a. 22 Grosvenor Road (resubmission) – HRA had objected again. Councillor Cooper had requested that the application should be considered by the Planning Panel
- b. Disabled Parking Bay – Following the HonSec letter to SCC departments asking for the decision to be reconsidered, Laurie Carrigan had instructed Balfour Beatty (Jordan Crane) to review his decision and communicate with the residents involved. It had taken over two weeks for Jordan Crane to reply stating no change. The HonSec had one more letter to write, but it was likely to result in the residents making a formal complaint. The situation was complex involving HMOs with parking on front gardens; dropped kerbs possibly extending beyond recommended widths; HMOs possibly extending under permitted development rights and increasing capacity but without Planning Approval for Sui-Generis. All of these factors had reduced availability of on-street parking.
- c. 9 Westbourne Crescent – replacement windows. The Heritage Officer had been consulted as the house was in the Oakmount Triangle Conservation Area and had approved the design. HRA have no objections.
- d. Widening of Lovers Walk – The HonSec had received an update of the scheme design from SCC Greg Churcher, Senior Planning Officer. This could be shared with Committee members but would not be available in the public domain until finally completed later in the year. See Annex ii. Please send any comments to the HonSec by 4 April at the latest.

Barbara Claridge Planning

10. Reports:

a. Finance

Income this month had been £330 which included a payment of £180 from Pearsons for advertising in the Spring Newsletter. Outgoings have been £42.93.

Martin Benning Treasurer

b. Membership

345 paid members: 24 rolling

Nicolla Martin Membership Secretary

c. Digital Communications

Facebook

There were now 974 followers on Facebook, an increase of 5 since the last HRA Committee Meeting on 14 February 2023.

Website

Both Innervision Hair & Beauty and Roger Smallman & Co Ltd had agreed to extend their advertisements on the website for another year, from 1 March and 2 March 2023 to 2 March and 3 March 2024 respectively. These two advertisements had given HRA a total income of £500.

Two additional items had been added to the sub-page entitled 'Other' of the 'Self-help useful links' page of the website. These had been suggested by Stephen Connolly: Southampton Common and Parks Protection Society (SCAPPS) and the City of Southampton Society.

This 'Self-help' page already had links to Southampton City Council, the University of Southampton, the Police, other local Residents' Associations, Southampton MPs & Local Councillors for Portswood Ward. Committee members were encouraged to look at these links:

<https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/self-help-links/>

A total of £435 had been received from selling advertising space in the Spring 2023 Newsletter.

Local news, photos and history would always be needed for HRA Social Media postings. Committee members were encouraged to help with this.

Nadine Johnson Digital Comms

11. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield

a. Reported Incidents between 14 February and 14 March 2023

Since the last meeting report on 14 February 2023, there had been a reduction in reported incidents from 33 to 13. However, it was significant that five of these 13 reports related to possible drug dealing activity in the Cut/around Highfield Crescent & Holyrood Avenue. It was understood that other people may have also witnessed this activity but, unfortunately, had not reported it.

Reports of similar activities in those locations activities had been passed to a PCSO at the Police Liaison Meeting of 6 February who said that he would do some patrols in the area and talk to some residents.

Nadine raised the issue of how to contact the PCSO to pass on the new information for the month.

Roger said he would contact Inspector Goodall to ask for PCSO contact details for Nadine. (Post meeting note: contact details for both PCSOs had been obtained and passed to Nadine)

b. All reported incidents are listed below:

Attempted car break-ins (total 2) / Van break-in (total 1)

£3,000 worth of stock taken from a van in Shaftesbury Ave.

Damage to car (total 1)

Upper Shaftesbury Ave: Driver's wing mirror glass removed and wires cut. Police asked for copy of CCTV.

Sheds break-ins (total 2)

Two bikes stolen in one shed break-in in Welbeck Avenue.

Other reported crimes: (total 7)

The Cut and Highfield Crescent/Holyrood Avenue close to the Cut: five reports of possible drug dealing activity and/or of people loitering in the Cut, and around Highfield Crescent/Holyrood Avenue close to it, and of a suspicious white car potentially being used; registration No. taken (5)

Lordswood Woods: A male was reported to have hidden in the bushes while leaving his dog on a flexible lead and had laughed and filmed a dog walker's dogs being attacked by his dog. He then filmed and followed the dog walker and her dogs when they managed to get away. It was suggested that the victim should contact the person at SCC who was dealing with the recent dog-on-dog attack at Portswood Rec which had been reported to the Committee last month (1)

Reports had been made to the police about prowlers in the grounds of Westwood Court, Westwood Road. These included a compilation of sightings and also their suspicions that they might be possible drug runners rather than potential thieves (1)

All incident reports had been logged on the HRA website here:

<https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/crime-incidents/>

c. A new Chief Constable for Hampshire

Chief Constable, Scott Chilton, had been appointed to Hampshire at the end of February from neighbouring Dorset. He said: "Our focus must be very simple - we want to catch as many offenders as possible and stop them making other people's lives miserable..... I want us to provide first class investigations to ensure those responsible face the consequences of their actions.... I want victims to trust us and know we have done our best for them."

[new-chief-constable-for-hampshire-and-isle-of-wight/](https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/new-chief-constable-for-hampshire-and-isle-of-wight/)

d. Recommendation for approval

It had been proposed that Swaythling Councillors should be invited to join the WhatsApp Group. The boundary changes that would come into effect in May would mean that some Highfield roads, currently represented in the WhatsApp Group, would move to Swaythling Ward and the inclusion of Swaythling Ward Councillors seemed logical. Roads affected included, Welbeck Avenue North, Ripstone Gardens, Upper Shaftesbury Avenue, Upper Grosvenor Road, Merton Road, Hartley Avenue, Somerset Road although not all of these roads had representation in the WhatsApp Group.

Nadine Johnson Digital Comms

Roger proposed, and the meeting agreed, that Swaythling Councillors should be invited to join the WhatsApp Group after the elections in May.

Roger commented that HRA communication was always plentiful, up to date and thorough and thanked Nadine.

12. AOB:

a. Spring Newsletter (KB / BC)

Ken reported that the Newsletter was finished and Barbara reported that it was now with the printers, *Indigo digiprint*, who were a local firm. 2000 copies had been ordered and the income from advertisements would cover the cost of printing. Nicolla would therefore begin to organise delivery via her street rep network. (Post-meeting note: Nicolla later advised Barbara that at least 3900 Newsletters would be needed. The print run had therefore been revised)

b. Graffiti (BC)

Barbara reported that a member had been in touch asking for support over on-going graffiti issues on University fencing in the Omdurman Road area. Jon Walsh acknowledged this and said the University would make best efforts to deal with this problem.

CLr Cooper said the Council did not have a role in removing graffiti.

c. Nicolla raised the issue of the amount of rubbish / empty spray paint cans which had been thrown into the undergrowth near the graffiti underpass on The Common, presumably by graffiti artists when the cans were empty. Roger suggested that when the new Rangers were in post, they might have a solution to this problem.

Note: Additional documents are to be found in the Annex to the minutes:

i. Details of the reduction in Street Lighting

ii. Lovers Walk Path Widening (Recap) plus 2 attached documents (not to be shared outside of HRA Committee)

The meeting ended at 19:59

Next Meeting is to be held Tuesday 11 April 2023, 7pm Highfield Church Hall.

HRA Committee Minutes 14 March 2023 Annex

i. Details of the reduction in Street lighting

(Found in SCC Revenue Budget Meeting Minutes)

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/mgAi.aspx?ID=33367#mgDocuments>

Aiming to save £4000,000

Annex 1.7 - Part-Night Street Lighting

- Part-Night Street Lighting Following the Council's budget consultation process, street lighting will automatically be switched off between 01:00 and 04:00 each night in residential areas only.
- Street lighting will **not** be switched off at the locations listed below; these exemptions from the part-night street lighting approach will collectively be known as the 'Part-night Street Lighting Exemptions Scheme' ("the Scheme"):
- The City Centre
- District and local shopping centres including those in Bitterne, Woolston, Portswood and Shirley
- The Classified Road network
- Main roads across the city (typically the roads in and out of residential areas and/or key bus routes)
- Key Closed-Circuit Television ("CCTV") monitoring locations
- Areas of high public patronage such as hospitals and community hubs
- Known anti-social behaviour hotspots
- Certain streets due to traffic calming measures
- Roads on which there are high risks of traffic accidents
- Parks in which street lighting is in operation
- Safe routes home

Lighting which is not on the public highway such as Council Housing and Leisure land. Regular reviews of part-night street lighting will take place during the first 12 months of its operation. These reviews will include consideration of views expressed by residents, businesses and partners and responded to accordingly. The Scheme will be flexible; amendments to the Scheme must be approved by the Head of Supplier Management following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and District Regeneration. Amendments to the Scheme may, for example, follow representations from the police concerning crime or the risk of crime in particular locations. All amendments to the extent of areas covered in the city or changes to the exemptions list will be subject to consultation with the Police and the City Council's Community Safety team.