



Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 11 April 2023
Highfield Church Hall 19:00h

Present Committee: Prof Roger Brown, Nadine Johnson, Ken Burtenshaw, Stephen Connolly, Jerry Gillen, Christine Rawnsley, Barbara Claridge

Others: Councillor Cooper, Pete Errington

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks:

Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly colleagues from partner associations.

Roger congratulated Ken, Barbara and Nadine for the quality and success of the Newsletter, which was interesting, lively and fresh.

He reported that he and Jerry had appreciated and enjoyed the recent OARA AGM where many familiar issues had been canvassed.

A planning application in Granby Grove had raised the issue of handling cases that were or would be in Swaythling Ward as a result of the boundary changes. He would be discussing this with Ward Councillors after the May Council elections.

He had received a report on the first stage of consultation on the new Local Plan. Most comments were on environmental issues. Homes, places and the economy received the least support. These outcomes were so broad as to be virtually meaningless. He would report further but it appeared that really important, detailed consultation on the new plan would not take place until 2024.

He had heard reference to a new Citizens Climate Assembly being created by the City Council and the University of Southampton but had so far been unable to find out more. It would be important to ensure that residents were adequately represented in any new apparatus. He would report more at a future meeting.

He had read press reports of a new Government push on housing builds and a Government-led crackdown on 'rogue landlords'. No doubt HRA would hear more about these and cognate initiatives through NORA.

He reported that Karen Edwards had stepped back from her HRA Committee role for the time being as she had been nominated as a Conservative candidate for Portswood Ward in the May Council elections.

2. Apologies: Councillor Savage, Martin Benning, Nicolla Martin, Jayne Tamlyn, Karen Edwards, Sue Swallow,

3. Declaration of interest: none

4. Approval of minutes from the Committee Meeting 14 March 2023: The Minutes, had been previously circulated. Nadine had contacted the HonSec to re-word elements of her reports in the Minutes as the two did not match. An amended version of the Minutes had subsequently been posted on the HRA website.

5. Matters arising not covered elsewhere:

- a. Lovers Walk feedback from committee members – positive comments on the plans had been received from David White and Bill Newman (HRA member). Greg Churcher, SCC Senior Transport Planner, had confirmed that the Planning Permission stood for three years and had been granted in February 2022. Work was required to have started by this time but did not need to have been completed. He also confirmed that a nesting season would impact large areas of the work however some sections such as between Winn Road and Westwood Road might be deemed more flexible. He was still awaiting the confirmation on that from SCC Ecology reports.
- b. Disabled Parking Bay - the HonSec reported that as no satisfactory resolution had been reached with SCC,

the residents were likely to submit a formal complaint to the council.

- c. Graffiti on University fence – HRA member, Pravin Sood had sent a follow up email to Jon Walsh (copied to HRA) as he had not had a response from the University. Cllr Savage had picked this up and requested a photograph if possible. Stephen Connolly added that Jon Walsh was usually active in any graffiti cases he had reported at HRA Committee Meetings.

6. **Information from Councillors:** Councillor Cooper informed the meeting that Councillor Savage was chairing the Planning Panel Meeting and therefore could not attend HRA on this occasion. He informed the meeting that Chief Superintendent Raj Kohli had been appointed from the Met Police Force to Hampshire and IOW with responsibility for Community and Neighbourhood Policy. A Police Newsletter, sent recently by Cllr Cooper to the HonSec, had been circulated to Committee Members. Nadine commented that she used to receive this but it was security protected and could not be posted on the HRA website. Barbara suggested that it could be sent to members as part of an e-news.

7. **University Liaison:** No report

- a. Feedback re end of year waste meeting - Christine had attended the meeting on behalf of HRA. She reported that the meeting with OARA, representatives from the council waste team and organised by the University had been well attended. University 3rd Year exams had been set for 26 May to 9 June, which might be slightly earlier than usual and this would impact on students clearing out. It had been reported that various charities had been advised and would be ready for recycling. The University hoped that the clear-up could be widely publicised. Nadine confirmed that once dates were confirmed then she would post on HRA social media as last year. The next meeting would be held on 25 April. Christine confirmed that she would attend.

Roger thanked Christine for the helpful report.

8. **Planning:**

- a. 22 Grosvenor Road (resubmission) – the application was before the Planning Panel which coincided with the HRA Committee Meeting. Officers had recommended conditional approval. (Post mtg note – Planning Approval had been granted)
- b. 10 Holyrood Avenue and 63 Granby Grove – HRA objections had been submitted
- c. 8 Grosvenor Gardens – seeking permission to be either C3 or C4
- d. 31 Church Lane – extension to replace existing: comments by 19 April: not on HMO register. HRA would not comment
- e. 29 Arnold Road – first floor rear extension on a property that had already been extended: comments were required by 17 April: work started on 17/03/23 without approval: current HMO licensed for 4-bed (to 30/09/23) but the plan submitted showed the dwelling was currently 6 beds as there had been a roof conversion under permitted development: the plan drawing for the new extension showed 7 beds: there was no application for Sui Generis to a 7-bed HMO. HRA would object.

Barbara Claridge Planning

Nadine asked Councillor Cooper if there had been any update from Planning Enforcement regarding 28 Brookvale Road. Councillor Cooper said he would consult with Councillor Savage who had taken up this concern. (Background - In March Nadine had received a private message from an HRA Facebook follower reporting a significant number of people arriving at that address with suitcases. This information had been reported on to HRA officers and the Ward Councillors at the time).

9. **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

A detailed Website Report from Nadine is appended. During the meeting Nadine stressed the appeal of local photographs, especially local history. She thanked Ken and Barbara for their contributions.

Roger commented that it would be better to discuss the gaps in website posts on planning responses outside of the meeting.

Jerry commented that he had recently visited The Crown and the management team appeared to be the same as previously. Stephen Connolly added that when he visited recently, the pub had been busy but he thought a new landlord was being sought.

10. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield

A detailed HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group for Highfield Report from Nadine is appended. During the meeting Christine commented that she had been aware of a greater police presence in Portswood.

On the question of Terms of Use, Barbara asked if the HRA WhatsApp account still had any photographs or if they had been deleted. Nadine replied that they had not been deleted and were likely to have been widely shared by now even beyond the group itself.

Roger commented that HRA digital communication thorough and thanked Nadine.

12. AOB:

a. Roger mentioned that at the OARA AGM a university archaeologist had mentioned a project to dig test pits on the Common which had previously been a good source of Stone Age tools. Roger had put him in touch with Dave Tyrie.

b. Roger raised the topic of HRA's voluntary work in looking after the Little Common. Common Sense had been set up by HRA and run initially by Simon Hill and then Stephen Ossont. Opportunities had since ceased for two reasons, Stephen had moved to New Zealand and due to Covid measures. He wondered if this might be the right time to revive the group and asked if a committee member would be willing to coordinate this. He added that the appointment of Rangers by SCC had been a forward step. He hoped to be able to set up a meeting between HRA, Dave Tyrie and the new Head Ranger in due course.

The meeting ended at 19:57h

Next Meeting is to be held Tuesday 9 May 2023, 7pm Highfield Church Hall.

HRA Committee Meeting 11 April 2023. Digital Comms Reports Nadine Johnson (items 9c. and 10.)

Website

Thank you to Barbara and Ken for their photos. As always, we continue to need more local news, local photos and local history.

We currently have some gaps from September 2022 onwards on posts for the Planning page under 'HRA Responses to Planning Applications and Appeals Inspectorate'.

Facebook

We now have 990 followers on Facebook, an increase of 18 since the last HRA Committee Meeting on 14 March 2023.

Discounts

We have obtained a discount of 10% on food from The Crown Inn, Highfield which is under new management. We have also managed to get the discount of 10% on food with Kohinoor of Kerala in Portswood reinstated after an interval of several years.

HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group for Highfield

1. Reported Incidents between 14 March and 11 April 2023

Since the last meeting report on 14 March 2023, there has been a reduction in reported incidents from 13 to 3. These included: parcel stealing in Upper Shaftesbury Ave, fly tipping in Khartoum Rd and a homeless man in Portswood Broadway inhaling a substance from an aerosol can.

All incident reports are logged on the HRA website here: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/crime-incidents/>

The crime report from HRA Committee 14 March 2023 was passed to the PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) who was designated as our contact by Inspector Brian Goodall. The PCSO responded saying that the issues had not gone unnoticed, and he had reported back to the team and spoken to the PCs regarding them and over the coming shifts, when they have capacity, they will be undertaking some plain clothed tactical cycling around the Highfield area.

All reports will to be passed to him in future.

2. New representative for Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group

We will shortly welcome into the Group a representative from Westwood Court in Westwood Road, who will also cover the pathway and road immediately outside of it. As Westwood Road is very long and includes numerous blocks of flats, it was not feasible to find just one representative for the whole road. It has therefore been decided to recruit representatives from different parts of road. This brings the total number of road/area representatives to 22.

3. WhatsApp Group Terms of Use

We have been working with LN to update the Terms of Use which will shortly be posted in the Group. Photos, images and CCTV footage of people will no longer be accepted in the Group, except when published by the police. Issues of data protection and questions of consent, plus possible legal challenges if criminal accusations are made and then shared in other WhatsApp Groups or on other platforms, could compromise HRA's reputation. Additionally, problems with ID evidence and prosecution later on could also involve HRA in the process. For example, when a witness makes an ID in a line up, the defence will have to be told how many other times they may have had access to

an image of the 'offender' and, if the witness makes a positive ID, it will be argued that this was down to them seeing images that swayed them against the 'offender' rather than their own personal recall.

Nadine Johnson Digital Comms