



**Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 9 May 2023**  
**Highfield Church Hall 19:00h**

**Present Committee:** Prof Roger Brown, Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin, Martin Benning, Jerry Gillen

1. **Others:** Councillor Savage, Councillor Finn, Jon Walsh (Uni), Laura Sore (Uni), Pete Errington
2. **Apologies:** – Ken Burtenshaw, Barbara Claridge, Stephen Connolly, Karen Edwards, Christine Rawnsley, Sue Swallow, Jayne Tamlyn, Malcolm White (who reported no issues from OTRA)
3. **Welcome and Opening Remarks:** Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was a particularly warm welcome for the new Ward Councillors. HRA very much valued their interest and collaboration, and he would be writing to Councillor Cooper to thank him for his past support for HRA. Roger confirmed that following the election, he was planning to meet the new Councillors for Swaythling to discuss contacts with HRA.

Roger reported that the Government was consulting on proposals to introduce a new Use Class for short-term lets and to enable councils to register them. In line with our position on the regulation of all short-term occupancies, HRA would be supporting these proposals in liaison with the City Council.

In answer to a question, Councillor Savage said that he had been briefed on the position on a Citizens Climate Assembly. This was a cross-party Council initiative with advice from specialist academics at the University and involvement of the charity Involve (Click [here](#) to go to the Involve website) . The aim was to get the widest possible buy-in for the issues involved in climate change, to inform the Council's thinking and to develop local networking on the subject. The cost of running this project is about £100,000 - £40,000 will come from the council, £40,000 from the University and £20,000 from other funding. The process of recruitment would try to ensure that the assembly, of typically 50 people, was broadly representative of the City's population. A public announcement would be made during the summer, and he would be glad to keep HRA informed.

Finally, Roger thanked Martin Benning for agreeing to take the minutes at this meeting.

4. **Declaration of interest:** none
5. **Approval of minutes from the Committee Meeting 11 April 2023:**
  - a. There had been an adjustment to the minutes which had been previously circulated:
  - b. Item 6 – Barbara's suggestion of the Police Newsletter being circulated as part of the e-news cannot be actioned due to police digital security.
6. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere:**

- a. Disabled Parking Bay (formal complaint to SCC on hold as Laurie Carrigan (Balfour Beatty) agreed to an onsite meeting with the residents – HRA members)
- b. The graffiti is still on the university fence
- c. Kirsty Bobbett the SCC Waste Disposal and Development Officer had recently contacted the HRA Secretary via HRA Comms. She advised that she was heading up a project working with both universities in the city to help address waste issues arising from student move out and intake. In addition, she said that moving forwards her aim was also to work closely with the student unions and universities throughout the year to reduce bin contamination, litter and fly tipping. She was aware that, HRA was one of the residents' associations with a large student population on the doorstep. She felt it would be beneficial if SCC / HRA could work together to discuss issues around waste and recycling that affect the area. She also added that she would also ensure that HRA was updated on the work her team would be doing to address these issues. The Secretary is to invite Kirsty to write an article for the HRA e-news or Newsletter or to make a presentation at a committee meeting, if that could be mutually arranged.

## 7. Information from Councillors

Councillor Savage said that the potholes on Westwood Road had become worse and he had reported this. Brookvale Road is scheduled to have the remaining surface re-surfaced. No date yet agreed. Roger Brown asked the councillors to keep HRA up to date with developments on Portswood Broadway.

## 8. University Liaison Jon Walsh

- a. Summary of 25/4/23 End of Year Waste Meeting co-ordination group (submitted by Christine Rawnsley)

On Saturday 1st July a SCC waste collection vehicle will do a collection run of the areas with the greatest density of student housing, for non-recyclable waste. The run is expected to be streets adjacent to UoS, and the Outer Avenue areas. Prior to this date students will be exhorted by SUSU and UoS channels to minimise the amount going to landfill by donating to clothing and household goods charity shops, IT related charities, food banks and Freecycle etc. Alongside this effort, year round projects to educate students on Southampton's waste bin system, the issues around waste contamination, and how students can be greener through better recycling are progressing. SCC's Waste Disposal & Development Officer Kirsty Bobbett is keen to promote this work (aimed at residents, and other HMOs as well as students) through residents' associations and other community settings and groups. I will liaise with her re SCC messaging for HRA publicity resources also for feedback/future liaison etc.

- b. JW asked HRA to provide a list of priority roads with respect to refuse collection. The cost to the University for paying for refuse collection had increased significantly and so only one collection would be possible. JW will provide Nadine with a flyer for HRA Social Media once the details are finalised.
- c. The University would be running a health research family day at Portswood Church opposite Waitrose.

## 1. Planning:

- a. 23/00529/PLDC Application for a lawful development certificate for proposed roof alterations

including hip to gable to facilitate loft conversion. 86 Welbeck Avenue Southampton SO17 1SR. This property has a 6-bed HMO Licence until December 2025. The drawings for the new layout show 6 bedrooms. However, the roof space bedroom with a private bathroom could easily accommodate a couple. The dwelling would then become a 7-bed HMO Sui Generis by default as SCC HMO would grant a licence and SCC Enforcement are unlikely to enforce. The supporting statement claims the work falls within permitted development rights. Councillor Savage has lodged intent to make an objection. HRA would have liked to raise an objection but after the Secretary had spoken to the planning officer it seemed that there would not be any planning reasons for this as each application would have to be taken in good faith.

b. Various applications notifications have been received for changes to materials or date extensions to planning approvals for University buildings on their estate (e.g., Gower Buildings, Highfield campus)

c. HRA has been asked by SCC to nominate its preferred area for planning notifications since the boundary changes came into effect on 4 May.

## 2. Reports:

### a. Finance

Income this month had been £606. Outgoings have been £111. MB thought that he could transfer £5000 from the current account into the savings account this year. That would mean that HRA's fighting fund would stand at £15,000.

*Martin Benning Treasurer*

### b. Membership

a. Nicolla presented a report at the meeting. There are 337 total paid up members.

Rolling: Jan 20: Feb 12: Mar 42: Apr 82 Total: 156

*Nicolla Martin Membership Secretary*

### c. Digital Communications

#### i. Facebook

We now have 994 followers on Facebook, an increase of 4 since the last HRA Committee Meeting on 11 April 2023.

#### ii. Website

Thank you to Nicolla for her photos. As always, we continue to need more local news, local photos and local history. Thank you to Barbara for all the updates for the Planning page under: 'HRA Responses to Planning Applications and Appeals Inspectorate'.

#### iii. E-news to members

Nadine and Barbara will coordinate on this, and it should be available by the end of June.

*Nadine Johnson Digital Comms*

## 3. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield

### a. Reported Incidents between 11 April 2023 and 9 May 2023

Since the last meeting report on 11 April 2023, the number of reported incidents had risen very slightly from 3 to 4. These included: a mobile phone stolen in Sainsbury between till to car; nails/screws having been put into the tyres of two cars in Brookvale Road; a bike stolen from outside Waitrose; possible damage to the gate of an empty plot in Abbots Way.

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

The crime report from HRA Committee 11 April 2023 had been passed to the PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) who had been designated as the HRA contact by Inspector Brian Goodall. The email had not been acknowledged at that time. However, all reports will continue to be passed to him in future.

**b. Updated Terms of Use for WhatsApp Group**

These have now been shared in the Group.

**c. Changes to Ward Councillor representations in the Group**

Portswood Ward Councillor representation in the Group and the addition of one or more Councillors from Swaythling Ward following the Local Elections on May 4<sup>th</sup> would be progressed.

*Nadine Johnson Digital Comms*

**4. AOB:**

- a. Fly tipping on private property in Grosvenor Road (report from HRA member). A mattress had been dumped and left outside 10 Grosvenor Road for several months, but not on the highway, therefore it could not be reported to SCC. The property was not an HMO, nor were the residents HRA members. Councillor Savage said that he would look into it – the council does have powers to move rubbish if there could be a health risk, for example due to vermin
- b. NJ encouraged people to attend the Transition Southampton talks on water at the Highfield Church Centre – 17 May – Water in the House, 31 May – Water everywhere.

***The meeting ended at 19:58***

***Next Meeting is to be held Tuesday 13 June 2023, 7pm Highfield Church Hall.***