

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



Present Committee: Prof Roger Brown (Chair), Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin, Martin Benning, Ken Burtenshaw, Karen Edwards, Stephen Connolly, Christine Rawnsley,

Others: Councillor Mintoff, Brian Wakely, Sue Swallow, Ron Meldrum

- 1. Apologies:** Barbara Claridge, Cllr Savage, Cllr Fielker, Cllr Bunday, John Walsh, Kate Fay, Laura Sore (all University), Malcolm White, Jayne Tamlyn, Pete Errington, Jerry Gillen, Dave White, Pete Errington
- 2. Welcome:** Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting in particular Brian Wakely, a past committee member
- 3. Chair's Report:** Roger reported that in response to a request from Council Officers, HRA would host another public consultation meeting for Phase 2 of the Portswood Broadway Proposals. This would be held on 12 September between 5:45 and 7:15pm at the Highfield Church Centre. He would chair the meeting. After this, HRA would consider whether to take a position on the proposals. OARA would also be hosting a consultation meeting on 13 September at The Avenue Church.

Roger and Barbara had met with Dawn Bannatyne, the recently appointed Lead Ranger for open spaces in Southampton along with Lindsay McCulloch, the council planning ecologist and manager of the Natural Environment Team. Barbara had since sent Dawn some additional information including the Southampton Common Forum 'Plan for the Common' which had been adopted by the full Council in December 2018. This plan had never been acted upon.

Ken suggested interviewing her for the next Newsletter.

Roger had attended the recent OARA meeting about the handling of waste generally in the city. This had included a discussion about the University waste collecting scheme for the end of the student year. It was felt that a similar meeting could be held by HRA. However, on 17 August, Laura Sore (University) would be organising a 'wash up' meeting of the scheme involving the waste management companies, local residents' associations and Councillors. Christine Rawnsley would represent HRA at this meeting. The general view was that the collection of waste had been quite effective this year.

Roger thanked Martin for taking the minutes at this meeting.

4. Declaration of interest: none

5. Approval of minutes from the Committee Meeting 13 June 2023:

- Stephen Connolly raised the issue of the removal of the graffiti by the university which had not been included in the Minutes of the meeting
- Nadine Johnson raised an amendment to Minutes' item 8c (Post meeting note), clarifying that there were two maps of Highfield and that the current blue map had been emailed to Nadine for the website by the Secretary to supersede the long standing black one. This had been to accompany the revised HRA Constitution in October 2021. The blue map had road names that were illegible
(Post meeting note: The difficulty was that the different maps did not illustrate identical Highfield areas, with the black and white map showing a wider area of roads. The discrepancies in delineating the boundaries of Highfield, would need further consideration at some time in the future. Jerry Gillen would need to be consulted for the historical context)
- The minutes were approved

6. Matters arising not covered elsewhere:

- Fly tipping Grosvenor Road
- River Itchen Scrutiny Panel update. The Final Report of the Scrutiny Panel is worth reading and can be found here: [SCC River Itchen Inquiry Final Report.pdf](#)
- Citizens Climate Assembly – the council had now finalised how the assembly would be put together. Roger encouraged people to put their names forward for the assembly which would be held later in the year. (Post Meeting Note: the Hon Sec attended a virtual meeting on 11 July 'Help Shape our Citizens Climate Assembly' and her short report is included in the Annex)
- Nadine asked about the timescale for re-surfacing Brookvale Road between Winn and Westwood. Roger would write to the Council. It appears that some pothole filling is due to take place soon.

7. Information from Councillors:

- No Portswood councillors were present and had sent apologies. Brian Wakely raised a question about the noise levels from the rock concert which had been recently held on the Common. He felt that the level of noise must have exceeded the safe level. Roger said that he would write to the Council asking if the levels were being monitored by Environmental Health.
- Ron Meldrum spoke on behalf of Cllr Barbour saying that she would be holding surgeries at St Denys Church Hall 14.00 to 15.00 on 22 July, 23 Sept. and 25 Nov.

8. University Liaison: No University representatives were present and all had sent apologies.

Kate Fay had sent this short report:

- The extra waste collection date had gone well and helped with the management of the end of year student move out waste. Thank you for your support.
- Turner Sims has a series of events on over the summer:
<https://www.turnersims.co.uk/events/>
- An innovative wearable device to warn of dehydration in the elderly had been designed by a University of Southampton researcher - more information on Dr Suan Hui Pu's device could be found here - <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2023/06/dehydration-detection-device.page>

9. Planning:

- 112 Upper Shaftsbury Avenue – A new application had been advised. Clarification from Planning (to the HonSec) seemed to indicate that a loft conversion and dormer window, which had been assumed by the applicant to be allowable under permitted development, had to be included in the Planning Application as a whole. HRA would object again

10. Reports:

• **Finance**

Income for the month - £108. Outgoings - £276. Balance in current account - £12,709

Martin Benning Treasurer

• **Membership**

Total paid up members: 334 Rolling: 211

Nicolla Martin Membership Secretary

• **Digital Communications**

Facebook / Website

The Past and Current Photo Galleries on the About Us page of the website would need to be replaced as they no longer functioned properly. Those photos and captions that were not already stored on Nadine's laptop, would be transferred to it over the next couple of months. New photo gallery 'plug ins' were currently being investigated with a view to replacing the existing ones as soon as possible.

Pete Errington, Ken and Barbara were thanked for their photos. In addition to The Common, Nadine asked if it would be possible to have some photos of Highfield and Portswood also? History posts of Highfield and Portswood were also very popular with HRA followers. Any help with providing such posts would be gratefully received.

'Made in Here' was offering a 10% discount to HRA members at their shop in Bedford Place

e-news to members

It is intended that an e-news would go out in July, sometime after the HRA Committee Meeting of 11 July

Nadine Johnson Digital Comms

11. HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group for Highfield

Since the last meeting report on 13 June 2023, the number of reported incidents had decreased from 11 to 8. Details are in the Annex and all incidents reported in the WhatsApp Group are logged on the HRA website here: <https://www.highfieldresidents.org.uk/crime-incident>

12. AOB:

Christine Rawnsley reported that some bins in Donnington Grove had not been emptied due to them being overfull. She had tried reporting this to the Council but at present they were not taking reports about bins. She said that she would write to her local councillor.

The meeting ended at 7.35pm

There would be no meeting in August

The public consultation meeting for Phase 2 Proposals for Portswood Broadway is to take place immediately before the next planned HRA Committee Meeting on 12 September. Committee members are asked to make themselves available to help set out the hall etc.

The Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place immediately after the Public Meeting in the upstairs room as normal.

Annex to the Minutes 13 June 2023

1. Detailed HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield

(total 1) anti-social behaviour in Khartoum Road at the Highfield Road junction with Omdurman Road and the Southampton Common entrance

(total 1): overnight damage to bus stops along The Avenue. Reported to SCC by Cllr Savage - now fixed

(total 1): two stencils of Hitler face found on The Common by HRA's HonSec. Reported to the Lead Ranger - now removed

(total 1): child's scooter stolen from outside Highfield School

(total 1): man caught on CCTV in the gardens of a house in Brookvale Road

(total 1): small fire on The Common, near underpass (16 June)

(total 1): *from Southampton Cops - not in our area but to be aware of:* cyclist (description provided) stole victim's (in 60s) handbag from shoulder at approx. 7 am along Woodmill Lane. Bank cards were used in Portswood (at various locations) between 7 am and 8 am.

(+ 1 more reported late)

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

2. Report from HRA Committee Meeting 13 June 2023 to the PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) designated as our contact by Inspector Brian Goodall

The PCSO had apologised that the incident numbers had increased. However, he reported that they had not been out as much as they would have liked, to potentially stop the incidents reported. PCSOs had been dealing with other high priority issues which had occurred across the city recently, with many officers being asked to attend. However, street patrols had now recommenced, in between 'task box' duties.

With regard to potential break-ins to vehicles, PCSOs had something in place and were looking to put this into practice soon, as a district priority. They had 'defender' (or 'Faraday') boxes/pouches which prevented criminals accessing cars using a signal to unlock the car. The police were currently looking at how many of these could be distributed across the district. This would depend on which areas had been targeted most.

The police were actively working with the Council to address the problem of street drinkers in Portswood. City Wardens would also be stepping in to support the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

Report on the 'Help Shape our Citizens Climate Assembly' Zoom Meeting 11 July

This meeting had been attended by the Secretary Barbara Claridge

Approximately 12 members of the public attended this virtual event. In addition there were representatives, who were observers, from groups that were organising the Citizens Climate Assembly in Southampton - 2 universities (Southampton and Oxford) and one Charity (Involve : <https://involve.org.uk/>). There was a facilitator and an organiser (of breakout rooms and slide presentations etc). In each of the two breakout rooms there were 5 / 6 members of the public who discussed the Key Issues.

The purpose of the session was to shape up the tasks that would be put before the Citizens Climate Assembly which would run over two weekend session in the autumn. Citizens interested in being part of the Assembly would need to apply and provide some personal details, in order that the assembly would be representative across various groups (age, gender, ethnicity etc). The Assembly would run over two weekends in the autumn and applicants would need to be committed and available for both dates.

The Facilitator first explained that Southampton had narrowed the proposed focus of the assembly to a Key Question which was felt to be within the council influence. For example the council had very little control over gas boilers in homes but did have some control over local transport.

The proposed Key Question was introduced: *"How do we decarbonise the transport system in Southampton, so that it is safe, easy and connected for people to get around?"*

- The first task was to consider which of these adjectives would you prioritise as most important to be included in the question? Maximum of three to keep the question manageable.

Zero-emission	Safe	Connected
Easy	Accessible	Attractive
Affordable	Green	Helps personal mobility

- The second task was to discuss whether this was the right question to ask and why.

- The third task was:

Should we prioritise giving more time to the topics that the assembly is definitely going to cover, or should we try to include more of the additional topics?

These were:

- A To include the airport and seaport in the Assembly
- B Not to include the Airport and Seaports in the Assembly
- C Not sure

These option questions changed between the actual session and the feedback form.

I completed the feedback form.

This is a link to the current SCC Climate Change page :

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/our-green-city/climate-change/get-involved/>