

Minutes HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 20 January 2026
Highfield Church Halls 19:00h



Welcome: Prof. Roger Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Clare Diaper who was to give the presentation.

Committee Members present: Roger Brown, Ken Burtenshaw, Paul Beard, Jerry Gillen, Nadine Johnson, Nicolla Martin, Ed Hill

Others present: Councillors Savage, Finn, Bunday and Barbour; Malcolm White (OTRA), Sonia Cottrell (University), Graham Linecar, Katherine Holmes (BVRA)

Apologies were received from Martin Benning, Councillor Fielker, Karen Edwards, Stephen Connolly, Paddy Bedi (University), Sarah Schofield, Christine Rawnslet, Dave White, Charlie Nicholson

1. Declarations of interest: None
2. Guest Presentation and Questions: Clare Diaper, Southampton Collective (see Annex.i. Agenda).

Clare spoke about her new projects for Portswood and in October Books which were awaiting confirmation of funding.

Kat Barbour commented that a Local Plan was needed and she was gathering interest in discussing this

Cllr Savage spoke about the importance of October Books as a local hub

Roger thanked Claire for her contribution

3. Minutes, 10 December 2025 Committee Meeting – previously circulated were approved
4. Matters Arising, not covered elsewhere
 - a. ATZ update – Councillor Finn confirmed that a letter was about to go out to those most likely to be affected by the proposed new measures in the SCC Survey. The survey would describe a range of options to replace the build-outs.
Roger asked the name of the Survey and Councillor Finn suggested, 'The Highfield ATZ'
 - b. Highfield House Hotel update – Councillor Savage reported a continuation on the number and frequency of protests. The situation was due to be discussed at the Council Meeting the following Thursday
 - c. Chair's letter to Cllr Winning – no response to the Chair's letters including a question of small business support in Portswood
5. Avenue Campus update and strategy – Paddy had reported no update or development on the current position. Councillor Savage reported that had met Jane Falkingham on 5 January and discussed the wider issues and implications of the proposed build. The discussion had included reference to the Hampshire Strategy Documents and consideration of thew SSSI on The Common. He wondered if the University was having a re-think and reviewing projected student numbers particularly those from overseas who were more likely to choose PBSA due to cost and social aspects.
Katherine Holmes offered to look at Environmental Impact should the project go ahead.
6. Information from Councillors
 - a. Councillor Barbour: PACT Meeting; Avenue Campus procession
 - b. Councillor Finn: Carers consultation; Portswood school; Fly tipping; Community reassurance
 - c. Councillor Savage: Working with Environment agency; attended UK100 meeting in Westminster; met with Brookvale Rd residents regarding concerns over dangerous traffic movements locally; attended Operation Ford personal security awareness training; held meetings with anti-racism group Southampton; held meetings with Sustainability Resilience Institute and UoS leadership re Avenue Campus development; helped negotiate settlements from Southern Water when 1400 St Denys

homes experienced unusually high mains water pressure; attended business engagement meetings with businesses on PW High Street; attended weekly meetings with police regarding HHH protests and police public order strategies; completed preparation and delivery of the Portswood Central Community Litter pick.

7. University

- a. Sonia Cottrell Students Union Chief Executive Officer (Agenda Annex.ii). Roger thanked Sonia for this report
- b. End of Year Student Waste – still no plan from the University

8. HRA@50 – Programme update (BC): the next event would be the Afternoon Tea on 14 February. Some Committee members had already volunteered to help at the event. Barbara had visited Mencap Kitchen in Portswood who would provide some nice goodies. She would organise the event and be in contact with volunteers for the jobs rota. Roger apologised as he would be in NI.

9. HRA Crime WhatsApp group for Highfield and HRTA PACT Report- NJ (Agenda Annex.iii)
Roger thanked Nadine for this report. The PACT official Minutes of the meeting: see Annex.i.

10. Planning

- a. The National Organisation of Residents Associations (NORA) sent a draft document for comments in response to the Government Planning Reforms to HRA for comments (Agenda Annex.iv – no Committee member had volunteered to look at this)

11. Reports

- a. Finance (MB) – Current Account Balance 5 January £2986; income £222; expenditure £225
- b. Membership (NM) - Annual Summary: 315 paid members in 2025; 7 rolling in January; 3 new members; 2 not renewed in December
- c. Digital Communications Report – NJ (Agenda Annex.v)

12. A.O.B.

- a. Sainsbury's car park access to non-shoppers (HRA Member) – Cllr Savage had been in contact – nothing to report as yet
- b. The Avenue - flooded underpass (HRA Member). Councillor Savage reported that this was a long term problem. A temporary traffic light crossing had been placed on The Avenue and a replacement pump for the underpass would be necessary
- c. Bevois PACT Meeting 29 January 6:00-8:00pm. Hosted by OARA St Andrews Church, The Avenue

Reserved Business for Committee Members will be held after the main meeting if needed

Annex.i. Official PACT Minutes 08/01/26



MINUTES

Meeting Title:	PACT meeting
Date:	08.01.26
Time:	18:30 – 20:00
Location:	Highfield Church, Portswood

Attendees:

50 x residents

2 x Southampton of University representatives

Staff:

Francesca Prior – SCC

Malkeat Singh – SCC

Tim Nelson – SCC

Leader of the Council Cllr Winning - SCC

District Commander Alexander Charge - Police

PC Adam O'Neil – Police

Acting Inspector Yozanne Richards – Police

Acting Inspector Phil Price – Police

3 x PC – Police

Ward Councillors

Cllr Anne Marie Finn - SCC

Cllr Barbour - SCC

Cllr Savage -SCC

Apologies:

Cllr Toqeer

6 x members of HRA

		Actions
	Introductions No recording of the meeting Sign in sheet going round Confidentiality – not mentioning peoples' names/ addresses can pass details onto the Police after. Respect / one person speaking at a time This meeting has had set questions sent in my Members of the Public, there will be a short time allowed at the end for AOB, this is a community meeting and should stay focused on	

	<p>the community issues.</p> <p>Updates from previous meeting:</p> <p>MALKEAT – ACTION – To invite Southampton University to attend the next meeting. – Complete</p> <p>CLLR FINN – ACTION – take this to Cllr Frampton – opening the community rooms especially in Ventnor court – Spoke to Housing Mgr and the rooms are now open.</p> <p>Public Space Protection Orders update.</p> <p>The PSPO is now live, and the signs are up. The PSPO needs to be extended after 3 years, so Nov 2028 and can then be extended for a further 2 years pending data and seeing if the PSPO is being effective in reducing the ASB it is set up to reduce. It covers street drinking, drug taking, psychoactive substances and aggressive begging.</p> <p>The objective of the PSPO is to give Police and SCC’s community safety officers additional powers to stop these behaviours.</p> <p>SCC officers and Police will be recording the use of powers used and collating data to ensure it is being effective.</p> <p>PSPO - We won’t be recording use specifically (although there will always be some form of record where we have interactions with the public. We don’t have a form or specific process around this.</p> <p>MOP – How will this be enforced?</p> <p>POLICE – Police Officers will be issuing tickets and recording the use of this.</p> <p>PSPO details can be found here: PSPO Portswood</p>	
	<p>Police</p> <p>Round up of Stats:</p> <p>Since the last meeting in Sept:</p> <p>POLICE Overall crime stats until end Dec overall crime is dropping sitting at 144 crimes. Spike in Nov of Shoplifting and some work has been done with the retailers, and this spike has reduced</p> <p>Currently burglaries is the current spike and the police will be working on this. Before Christmas there was a spike theft from motor vehicles.</p> <p>QUESTION MOP I would like to add that the problem with scooters / bikes on the pavements is not just Voi as many illegal scooters and high-powered delivery bikes use the pavements.</p> <p>POLICE – Use of illegal bikes and scooters and it does pose a danger, if people are unaware and are using responsibly then the Police approach using education. The high-powered bikes and scooters are the worry; Sgt Ponder is looking at using Smart water spray as a new approach. UV light is used to see if smart water was used. Challenging thing is to get people off the scooters; this can cause injury so there is a real balance between actions being safe. Days of action can be looked at and having a day of focus.</p> <p>QUESTION MOP Many of the shops and businesses are concerned about the break in’s and experiencing very high levels of shop lifting – what is being done by the Police to address these issues.</p> <p>POLICE Shoplifting is a continuing issue, looking at Portswood alone, has had 85 reporting since middle of Sept. The incidents where positive actioned such as summons, charged currently 48 and 7 still under investigation. Police do take shoplifting seriously and will continue to work on. Some shops have been hit harder than others and have worked with them with things such as product placement. There has never been a policy within Hampshire Constabulary to not investigate if the value is under £100. Don’t always deploy</p>	

	<p>directly to store, but all the packs and there is evidence is supplied there is prosecution. For every crime reported it is investigated if there is the evidence.</p> <p>Where there is evidence, we seek to prosecute, (we don't always for various reasons, for example where the evidence is insufficient to prove the offence.</p> <p>QUESTION MOP Are there plans to address an increase of patrols around the Portswood High Street area?</p> <p>POLICE – Officers do log patrols in the Portswood area, it is regularly patrolled, as much as the team can do.</p> <p>MOP – Raised the CCTV, and can they be monitored?</p> <p>POLICE – We work closely with the CCTV and when there is a live incident it is used in real time. If there was an incident, then the evidence is required we work with CCTV to have access to the evidence required.</p> <p>There is the Local Policing App, which captures data for patrols, expected patrols Op Sentinel, Portswood is included in this Op.</p> <p>QUESTION MOP There is an increase in drug dealing on Priory Hard, what can be done to actively stop this.</p> <p>POLICE – It is a location we are aware of, tackling drug related harm is intelligence led, there is under reporting is an issue. It comes down to reporting</p> <p>CLlr Finn – if people don't want to report what can they do,</p> <p>POLICE Report everything to 101, this feeds into intelligence and crime intelligence.</p> <p>POLICE – 101 calls are now answered a lot quicker or you can report online Contact us Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, don't be put off not knowing what heading it should be under, just report it and it can be put under the correct heading later by the Police. Reporting is key, Police and SCC work together all the time.</p> <p>QUESTION CLLR Savage - The latest PSPO and confirmation that the police will take action on grounds of street drinking, drug use and aggressive begging, and whether they will have an increased presence in the area. Is the latter element covered by PSPOs when street attached walk into takeaways aggressively asking staff for free takeaway food. This was reported to me by some high street staff at the weekend.</p> <p>POLICE – It could be covered by the PSPO, It could be seen as aggressive begging if people are being intimidating in their behaviour. PSPO is part of a toolbox, with homelessness we need to find them somewhere to live, and access to support services.</p> <p>QUESTION CLlr Savage Many of the shops that are victims of shoplifting have video footage and still images captured of regular offenders. Can they display the images on their premises to be viewed by their own staff to deter further thefts, and what will the police be doing to crack down on shoplifting at highly targeted shops like Boots Chemist, Tidal Vape. T-Rex Supermarket and Pound Land, amongst others.</p> <p>POLICE Yes this can be done as long as it is just for the staff.</p> <p>CLLR what are you doing for the businesses that are habitually being targeted.</p> <p>POLICE Using at Criminal Behaviour Orders, and a breach of this is a criminal offence and courts are taking this very seriously.</p>	
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3.	<p>Community concerns</p> <p>QUESTION how illegal parking on the Broadway (on yellow lines and especially at night) is being enforced? FRANCESCA - Westridge road off the Broadway is also a problem we have served 793 Fixed Penalty notices since April 2025 mostly double yellow lines and loading ban</p> <p>QUESTION MOP Businesses are reporting lots of homeless in the shop doorways, what can be done about this? FRANCESCA responded that Police, Homelessness and Community Safety held an action day to address this on the 22nd Dec, it was successful and enabled people to have access to services should they want them. It has been agreed that this would be repeated regularly. In the afternoon Malkeat the community engagement officer for Portswood and the Cllrs held a street meet and engaged with many businesses and members of the public.</p> <p>AOB Is there anything else anyone would like to raise or discuss.</p> <p>MOP – Respects the right for peaceful protest but what can be done? POLICE – Police do Police the protests and there is reviews completed Planning meeting, review meetings and managed by a commander</p> <p>MOP – Alex Winning, what powers do you have to extract surgically those few hundred into a remote and humane area away from here. What powers do you have? DISTRICT COMMANDER ALEXANDER CHARGE – None Mop – Who does hold such power? CLLR WINNING LEADER OF SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL – It sits with the Home Office.</p> <p>ACTIONS</p> <p>No actions were taken from this meeting due to the meeting being interrupted and the flow of the meeting didn't allow for further discussion.</p>	
	<p>Date of the next meeting:</p> <p>Monday 20 April / 6.30 – 8.00pm / Bellamy Court, Pettinger Gardens, SouthamptonSO17 2WN</p>	