

Minutes of HRA Committee Meeting Tuesday 11 June 2024
Highfield Church Halls 19:00h



Present Committee: Prof Roger Brown (Chair), Nadine Johnson, Martin Benning, Ken Burtenshaw, , Christine Rawnsley, Nicolla Martin, Jerry Gillen

Others: Councillor Marie Finn, Jon Walsh (University), Pete Thomas (OTRA).

1. **Welcome and opening remark:** Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Barbara Claridge, Dave White, Karen Edwards, Cllr Savage, Cllr Barbour, Pete Errington, Stephen Connolly, Cllr Bunday
3. **Declaration of interests:** none
4. **Approval of minutes from the committee meeting 14 May 2024**
5. **Matters arising**
 - a. Enhanced Bus Partnership Forum meeting – BC had circulated a report about the meeting held on 20 May. The committee thanked BC for her report.
 - b. HRA to write to the Council and University expressing their concern about the loss of connectivity for the residents of Highfield as well as the more general issues raised.
 - c. Cllr Finn had asked if the Additional Licensing Scheme for HMOs was to be renewed and got this reply on 29/5. The service manager wrote:
“Presently a new scheme hasn’t been tabled yet so isn’t on the forward plan. It then needs cabinet to approve to go out to public consultation. I’m hoping to get this put forward soon to Cllr Frampton but there are a few legal matters to be addressed before any new scheme can be designated.” Cllr Finn would keep HRA informed on this issue but the fact that a new discretionary scheme might be considered was regarded as good news.

6. PB Steering Group update

RB said that the next Steering Group meeting would be on 20 August at which the outcomes of the workshops would be discussed. He suggested that the success criteria of the scheme were provisional and that a sub-group had been set up to look at this.

Christine Rawnsley made the point that with the one-way system in Belmont Road motorists were regularly driving in the wrong direction even with very clear signage. This would have implications for any traffic calming/modal filters that might be put in place as a result of the bus gate.

RB encouraged people to put their names forward for the workshops. The revised dates had been publicised on the HRA Facebook page and Website.

7. Information from Councillors

Cllr Finn said that the problems with bin collections across the city had now been resolved. MB asked about the children’s playground in Houndswell Park, (central Southampton), where a number of activities were missing e.g. swings. Cllr Finn said that she would follow this up.

CLlr Finn said that due to the forthcoming election things had been quiet. She reported that the D-Day celebrations went well.

RB informed the meeting that he had had coffee with the Council's new Chief Executive, Andrew Travers.

8. University Liaison – Jon Walsh

- a. JW reiterated that the bus companies had not wanted to share the data that led to the U1 bus route now not going via the railway station. He said that the re-routed service had resulted in an increase in passengers, primarily students. He also stated that the U6 service did go to the station. The bus company would like to know what journeys local people wanted to make.
- b. JW promoted the family events on at The Turner Sims on Sunday 30 June.
- c. JW also promoted a hustings on 26 June at which all the prospective candidates for the Southampton Test constituency will be present. It will be held in the Students' Union.
- d. The new sports hall would be officially opened at the end of September but the first event in the hall would be held on 18 September.

9. HRA Crime WhatsApp Group for Highfield

Reported incidents since the last HRA Committee Meeting of 14 May 2024: one incident - a decrease of 5 incidents since the last meeting. This had been an apparent shoplifting incident on Wednesday 5 June at around 8.30am in Waitrose. A man had been caught apparently filling up his bag with laundry products after being watched by security in the alcohol section. Staff removed the products from his bag and he had been told to leave the shop.

Councillor Thomas Gravatt, newly elected Councillor for Swaythling Ward, had now joined the WhatsApp Group. No response as yet from Councillor Matthew Bunday.

Change to the Portswood Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

Information received from Roger Brown: Inspector Brian Goodall had now moved on and had been replaced by Inspector Jeanette Maidment. RB had arranged to meet her.

See Annex i. for the Minutes from the recent PACT Meeting. RB asked how would the information from the PACT meeting be communicated to the Highfield and other communities i.e. would it be up to residents' associations to do this?

10. Planning

Pete Thomas updated the meeting re. 4a Westbourne Crescent. OTRA were impressed with the report from the Council's Conservation Officer with regard to the re-building of a rat trap wall. The CO wanted a small section to be rebuilt and then inspected before the job would be allowed to be completed.

11.Reports

a. **Finance** – Income - £625, Outgoings - £254. Current business account balance - £4516, Savings account - £19,170, Reserve account - £1041. MB informed the group that more money would be transferred from the business account into the savings account due to it earning more interest. If HRA needed to draw money down from the savings account, the bank would need 35-days notice.

b. **Membership** - Total paid up members as of 11th June 2024: 360

Rolling: Jan	24	
Feb	11	
March	44	
April	84	
May	36	TOTAL 199

7 new members joined in May (as a result of the newsletter). 1 new member joined in June.

13 people paid in cash

71 people paid by cheque

127 people paid by BACS (Direct Bank Transfer)

48 people had not renewed.

c. **Digital Communications – Facebook/Website**

There were now 1098 followers on the HRA Facebook page, an increase of 14 since HRA Committee Meeting of 14 May 2024.

Thank you to Pete Errington and also Ken for their photos.

A digital copy of the HRA Spring 2024 Newsletter was required for posting on the website. Ken to provide.

Discounts

HRA had now acquired a discount with T-Rex Chinese Supermarket and Bubble Tea in Portswood: 10% off all drinks.

11. **AOB**

a. It was announced that Simon Hill intended to reinstate the Common Sense group. It was suggested that he met with the new Chief Ranger, Dawn Bannatyne.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 9 July

Annex i

PACT (Police and Community Together) Meeting Tuesday 21 May 2024

The Minutes of the meeting were circulated with the Agenda.

The meeting was interesting, although attendance was low with only 7 members of the community, two of whom were members of the HRA Crime information sharing WhatsApp Group. Cllr Finn also attended. PC Adam O'Neill, Dedicated Officer for Portswood, Bassett and Swaythling, was on the panel. Here are some notes to elaborate on a few aspects of the Minutes:

Speed watch programme

This relies on community volunteers. PC Adam O'Neill is happy to train volunteers in the community to use the speed gun equipment to catch motorists speeding. He would set it up and work closely with the community throughout. The information captured would then be passed to the police who can proceed with education/enforcement. Anyone wishing to set up a speed watch programme in their area should contact PC Adam O'Neill directly: adam.oneill@hampshire.police.uk

The appointment of a Shoplifting Officer

This new role had been created in the Portswood Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and the designated officer is now in post. This is a single point of contact for businesses on the High Street. The role is from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of these times, shoplifting is covered by the Portswood NPT normal weekend shift patterns.

A forum for businesses was held at Portswood Police Station recently to share concerns, evidence and how to proceed in future. Many business representatives attended. Instead of calling 101, etc. many businesses now have radios and can transmit direct to the Police Station. The Shoplifting Officer also has a radio so businesses can contact him/her directly.

The police were congratulated on this good initiative.

Questions from the audience

These have all been documented in the Minutes. One of my questions was to be investigated and responded to after the PACT meeting, as follows:

Question - Incident of bike theft outside the Post Office in Portswood High Street; there had been no feedback on whether the incident was recorded on the City Council CCTV nearby.

Answer - PC Adam O'Neill responded promptly after the PACT meeting. It appears that the victim of crime did not report the incident. As such, it was difficult to justify playback and extraction of footage from the City Council CCTV due to GDPR / data protection related criteria that must be met.

Parking – joint operations

Following an action point from the previous PACT meeting in February, the police had been put in contact with the SCC Parking Enforcement Team and are now working closely with them on parking enforcement and will continue to do so.

Hampshire Alert - the Constabulary's own email service where messages are sent directly into people's mailbox

This has had a revamp and people can now reply directly to the messages received; these replies go to the neighbourhood team for their area. The database has also been refined to include people's addresses and their concerns, where these have been provided and consent given. People will now get communications relating to their area and also that respond to any concerns they have raised, e.g. if someone reports dog fouling in Lodge Road, they will get messages that are related to such issues.

The police are encouraging people to sign up to this two-way messaging service by completing the Hampshire and IOW community survey 'Let's Talk':

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/police-forces/hampshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/lets-talk/>