

Highfield Residents' Association

43rd Annual General Meeting Minutes

22 April 2016, 7.30pm

(All Saints' Church House)

30 residents attended the meeting. The following HRA Committee members were present: Hilary Rollin (Acting Chair), Gill Beeston (Treasurer), Patrick Coulter, Sarah Wordsworth (Secretary), Mike Ratcliffe, Frank McKenna & Tony Joyce.

Agenda

1. **Apologies:**

Received from Susie Pye, Liz and Roger Grosvenor, Sally Brodhurst, Margaret Jackson, John Douglas and Audrey Saunders.

2. **Minutes of the 42nd AGM held on 29/04/15:**

Were approved.

3. **Reports & Discussion:**

a) **Chair** (Hilary Rollin)

Hilary reported that the HRA membership was healthy and several new households had moved into the area recently. It was noted that planning has been very busy over the last 12 months. This has been a huge area of activity for HRA, and Hilary pointed out that we are enormously grateful to our local Councillors for their continued support across many initiatives.

b) **Events** (Patrick Coulter)

Patrick emphasised that our events, which bring people together, were at the heart of what we do as an Association. Up and coming events included:

- Queen's 90th Birthday Street Party Sunday 12th June 2016 - Whole day of fun and events. The event is being jointly organised by HRA, New Highfield Residents Association and All Saints' Church. The day will include a community lunch, fiddle group, open gardens, afternoon tea in the church gardens, Evensong at the church and a celebration supper at the Butchers Arms;
- Street cinema in September;
- Black Fox in November in All Saints' Church;
- Highfield character and identity session: Hilary and Gill carried out an assessment of the character of Highfield for the Neighbourhood Plan. The idea is to have an evening or Saturday morning in the Autumn where Hilary and Gill will describe the assessment.

c) **Treasurer** (Gill Beeston)

Gill summarised the accounts, where we have a slight surplus over expenditure. Gill gave a big thank you for our Street Reps who have collected the subscriptions. It was agreed that subscriptions would remain at £3 per household for the coming year.

d) **Planning** (Mike Ratcliffe and Tony Joyce)

Mike explained that there were 2 aims for the AGM: Firstly, to inform people about our approach to planning. We are not always able to gather views from the entire HRA membership, so we can only really object to applications as the HRA committee rather than HRA general membership. Mike encouraged people to let us know if there are concerns/questions. Also to ensure that people send us their email addresses, so that we can keep everyone updated. Secondly, as HRA, we can and mitigate the process of change when initiatives go ahead, especially any logistical issues that arise. Mike emphasised that it works well when we engage with each other as much as possible with changes being made.

Tony talked to the main planning initiatives for the Churchill campus. Next to Littlemore Hospital, there is an area owned by the NHS, which was identified as employment land. However, the hospital has not done anything yet with this land. Tony thanked our local councillors for helping to place restrictions on the size and heights of buildings of the University Research Buildings on the Old Road Campus.

e) Traffic (Frank McKenna)

Frank reported that:-

- Access to Headington is going through a consultation process.
- There is considerable concern about speeding in the HRA area.
- There remains increased pressure on parking in our area, such as multiple occupancy houses.
- The pipeline: Vital Energy are making a new application, which will be based on the pipeline going down Latimer Road, All Saints' Road and Lime Walk South. Start of May there will be a public consultation on the pipeline. Plans are to start the work end of August and lasting for 5 weeks. Frank emphasised that it was important for HRA residents to attend the consultation meetings as Vital Energy are very willing to listen to comments.

f) New Garden Group

HRA has recently set up a gardening group. its purpose is to be an informal initiative to share ideas about gardening, and swapping plants etc. Twelve people have registered to be involved and three meetings have been held. Interesting discussions have included colour options and having inviting front door areas. Frank encouraged people to contact him about the Gardening Group.

4. *Election of Officers and Committee.*

Hilary thanked all the Street Reps for their hard work. She gave special thanks for Zora who was undertaking a great deal of Street Rep work. One nomination for the committee was received. James Larminie was proposed by Hilary, seconded by Gill and agreed by AGM attendees.

A very inspiring presentation was given by Andrew Gosler, eminent ornithologist and University Research Lecturer in Ornithology & Conservation (University of Oxford). We finished at 9:15 p.m. for refreshments.