

Buckingham, Hamilton and Ruskin Association

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 15 November 7 pm at 19 Hamilton Drive

1. Frances Goldman welcomed the committee to the first meeting of the committee following the AGM.

Present: John Butterworth, Joanna Clarke, John Elder, Frances Goldman, Tony Hughes, Christine McGuigan, Colin Miller.

2. Apologies: Susan Triesman

3. The committee agreed to the following roles:

Convenor: Frances Goldman

Vice-Convenor: Tony Hughes

Treasurer: Joanna Clarke

Membership: Colin Miller.

It was further agreed that the meeting venue would rotate round the committee and the host would act as minutes secretary. For the moment any correspondence on behalf of the association would be done by FG or delegated to other members of the committee as appropriate.

4. It was agreed that the 1994 constitution needed to be updated. The aims remain the same: to represent the community and safeguard the amenity of the local neighbourhood. The name was changed by agreement at the AGM held on 16/6/1999, and this needs to be reflected in the constitution. The financial year no longer aligns with the timing of the AGM and should be revised. Rules for committee members to stand down need to be revised, but it was agreed that the convenor should not serve more than 3 consecutive years and committee members not more than 6. Frances agreed to draft a revised constitution for discussion.

5. In order to grow the membership and make the Association more representative, it is essential that we communicate both with current members and local residents. Public noticeboards would be useful to publicise the work done in making representations to Planning and Licensing and safeguarding local amenity and the built environment. We also need to build a feeling of community, and newsletters and a website would help us do this. Christine McGuigan had already started to build a website. In the first instance we might put the agenda and minutes in a shared dropbox.

6. Tony reported that work was being done to improve the pavement at the corner of QMD and HD. He also reported on the work he was doing to improve the turning circles in HD, as delivery vans and cars are reversing down the road, endangering pedestrians. The Council will need to be approached to see if the bollards can be moved to create a turning space at Northpark.

The local clean up had been successful, with a good turn out of helpers.

The maintenance and care of the viewpoint at the end of HPA and the garden beside it was discussed. It was agreed that this was a local amenity and ideally the garden should be accessible to all residents. The viewpoint is anyway public space. There will be discussions with the Coach House Trust and Cllr Martha Wardrop to see if the safety of the site can be secured. Local people have started to garden there since the CHT stopped due to concerns about anti-social behaviour. However, it was emphasised that nothing should be done without planning permission, that the land is council land and currently the CHT seems to hold the lease. The idea of creating a community garden was raised and found general favour. Tony pointed out that if there were concerns about anti-social behaviour the police could be called and always responded quickly.

The perennial problem of litter, bins and recycling was raised, and it was agreed that we needed to talk to the council again.

Tony reported on the most recent Hillhead Community Council meeting. They are looking at the arrangements for bulk uplifts again. The general consensus is that a fixed day is better than individuals calling to arrange uplift.

Tony also noted that a development near Chai Ovna had been discussed at HCC, and that we might like to get information on it. Another planning issue related to the Western infirmary site. There will be a presentation at the University on 26/11 from 6—8.

Tony noted that anyone can attend HCC meetings, that it is useful to have a representative from HBR there, and that they happen on the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm. Again we agreed this could be a shared responsibility.

7. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 4 December at 7pm.

Frances Goldman