

# S.G.R.A.

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## **MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**LOCATION** – Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

**DATE** – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

**PRESENT** – John Archer – Chairman, Councillor John Blundell, Mick Fitzpatrick – Treasurer, Sheila Weare – Minutes Secretary.

Plus 9 members of the Association.

**WELCOME** – John A thanked members for attending the meeting.

**APOLOGIES** – Sylvia and David Cleaver, Jayne and Bernard Every, Yvonne and Walter Neal.

**MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were accepted.

**MATTERS ARISING** – Only 4 households have requested a paper copy of the minutes.

**Friends of the Meadow** – a very positive meeting has been held with Coventry City Council (Dave Lewis) to discuss possible options. Various organisations are to be approached for advice and guidance and grants may be available. The Friends hope to include the local primary schools in their project. It is understood a covenant is in place for the next 10/20 years. It is hoped to hold a community event in the meadow, possibly in 2022. **Street Cleaning** - Street Pride have cleaned and improved our area but parked cars, especially in Dewsbury Avenue, make gutter access difficult. The meeting reported that drains are blocked by leaves and debris and John A advised members to contact Coventry City Council or report on 'Fix My Street'. The maintenance and cleaning of drains and gullies does not appear to be regularly carried out.

**Stivichall Croft** – work is ongoing to clear a blocked drain. Tree pruning has been carried out in the Meadow near Bridge Cottage and this has left a utility cable exposed. The Stivichall Croft road sign had been moved to the other side of the bridge. It then disappeared; however, it is now back in its original position.

**LOCAL POLICE UPDATE** – only one incident of 'sending a communication/article conveying false information' was reported on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for Styvechale Grange.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL** – **Finham Library** – almost all of the building work has been completed and the library hopes to re-open in May/June 2021 in compliance with Covid regulations. **City of Culture** – 'Coventry Moves', the opening ceremony, has been put back to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021 although the year of culture will still start on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The **Priory Centre** remains closed while funding for remedial work is sought, but it is hoped the centre will be part of the City of Culture programme.

**Animal Pound** – John B has suggested a meeting with Coventry City Council's new Conservation Officer. SGRA has been advised a figure of £30,000 could be required to repair the pound. A general discussion followed. We have also been advised that the hedge planted around the pound is not of the correct type. Access to the pound itself is currently forbidden for safety reasons. **Speedwatch** – the Police want to carry out Speedwatch as soon as Covid regulations allow. Two members have volunteered to participate. **Street Watch** resumed on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 with two new co-ordinators, but without more volunteers may become untenable. Mick will add details to the website to encourage participation.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – **Website** – Mick will release an updated version on or around 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The website has had 71 'new' visits. 85% of all visits are from the UK and 15% from the United States. **Facebook** – our page has received 398 visits during March 2021. **Finances** – the meeting approved Mick voting by proxy to 'accept all directors' with Coventry Building Society. We currently have £706.28.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – **River Sherbourne** - John A had attended a Zoom meeting with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust who are hoping to make the River Sherbourne more accessible. The river can only be seen in one or two places and it is proposed to indicate the underground route of the river with a blue line.

**Japanese Garden, War Memorial Park** – an opening date is awaited.

**Animal Pound** - a resident in Gregory Avenue has erected a gate and laid a pathway of wood chippings to give him direct access to the pound area. **CityFibre** – there have been many problems reported with the work recently carried out by this company. Concerns were expressed that the new Tarmac in Mantilla Drive could be adversely affected. **Mantilla Drive** – the tactile pavement areas are not yet operational.

**Leasowes Nursery** is now fully open. **Coventry City Council AGM** will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at Coventry Cathedral, when Councillor John McNicholas (Lower Stoke) will become Lord Mayor. **Styvechale Local History Group** have a large membership and SGRA members are invited to join. Mick asked if it was possible to view their Facebook page without opening an account with Facebook. **Coat of Arms Bridge Road** – a large and dangerous pothole was reported on the bend under the bridge.

**Park and Ride Car Park, War Memorial Park** – the start date for the introduction of parking charges is not known and John B will follow this up. Charges may also be introduced for the smaller car park on Leamington Road. Coventry is running a **bicycle hire initiative** and bike docking points are located in the War Memorial Park near to the electric vehicle charging points.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 p.m.