

S.G.R.A.

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MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LOCATION – Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

DATE – 5th August 2021

PRESENT – John Archer – Chairman, Mick Fitzpatrick – Treasurer, Councillor Mattie Heaven, Sheila Weare – Minutes Secretary.

Plus 8 members of the Association.

WELCOME – John welcomed members to the first meeting since ‘Freedom Day’ on 19th July 2021 but acknowledged there were still Covid challenges ahead. He also recommended members visit the newly-opened Japanese Garden in the War Memorial Park.

APOLOGIES – Councillor John Blundell, Sylvia and David Cleaver, Babu Mistry, Jane Moxon, Glynis Ozcan, Anant Patel.

MINUTES – The minutes of the AGM held on 1st July 2021 were accepted. In future, the minutes will be attached to the agenda which is circulated prior to our meetings.

MATTERS ARISING – **Speedwatch** – two sessions have been carried out, in Mantilla Drive and Leamington Road, where several drivers were caught exceeding 33 mph. If the drivers subsequently re-offend, the Speedwatch incident will compound the offence. It is hoped to carry out more Speedwatch sessions in the future. **Street Watch** – all members were active, partaking in patrols in July and on one patrol were accompanied by two West Midlands Police representatives. New members are always welcome and the Street Watch co-ordinator can be contacted via SGRA.

Animal Pound – this, together with the adjoining paddock, has been cleared of vegetation to enable an assessment to be made. Unfortunately, the contractors also removed the whip hedge which had been planted around the fence. The apples have been ‘scrumped’ from the trees! **Damage to Hedge in Meadow** – no response has been received from either Street Pride or the Greenspaces team and Mick will follow this up. When the grass was last cut it was taken away, probably taking the wildflower seeds with it. More people are using the meadow as a thoroughfare to the park and residents in Mantilla whose properties back onto the field claim high, dry grass may become a fire risk.

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE – the total recorded crime figure for Wainbody Ward for the month of July 2021 is 56 (a reduction on last month) and includes 15 domestic abuse and

4 vehicle crimes. **Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter** has advised there is to be a Police Officer for each 'neighbourhood'. It is hoped to start face-to-face meetings with the Police again and John will discuss suitable dates with John Blundell and Sgt. Betts.

TREASURER'S REPORT – **Oak Trees** – Styvechale Grange has ten ancient oaks, the oldest is more than 300 years old and is in Hexworthy Avenue. Mick is organising a walk with Robert Penlington, tree conservation officer, to look at these oaks; the date will be advised. **Finances** – there have been no expenses and no additional income and we still have £706.46. **Facebook** – use is down by 77% and Mick will try to stimulate interest. **Website** – we have 60 new users in addition to the 81 regular users, the majority of which are in the UK with some in the USA.

COUNCILLOR MATTIE HEAVEN – **Animal Pound** – Mattie, John B and Tim had visited the site and suggested reducing the size of the pound and isolating the fractured wall. **Our Lord Mayor**, Councillor John McNicholas, has expressed a wish to meet as many residents' groups as possible during his year of office. SGRA has been in contact with our Ward Councillors on this matter but at the moment no details are available. We hope that the mayor will be able to follow up the work of his predecessor, Councillor Linda Bigham, who opened the pound in 2019, and ensure that the area is made safe and accessible to the public. **Litter Pick** – Sunday, 15th August 2021 at 11 a.m, meet at Hexworthy Avenue shops. Pickers only need to bring gloves as tools, etc., will be provided. Approximately six people have volunteered and we hope to increase this number. **Weeds in Streets** – various complaints have been received, particularly from Girdlers Close, and any areas requiring treatment should be reported to Mattie via SGRA. A bungalow's garden in Girdlers owned by Cornerstone Partnership is reported to frequently be overgrown and this spreads weeds around the Close. There is no salt bin in Girdlers and this matter has been raised with the Council. **Police** – Mattie, John B and Tim look forward to resuming face-to-face meetings with our Police. **Mantilla Drive** – Mattie will raise the problem concerning the very poor condition of the road surface on the remainder of Mantilla.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – **Gilbert Richards Centre** – Age UK will issue a definitive statement on 16th August 2021 and classes are scheduled to begin on 1st September 2021. Any **SGRA matters** can be forwarded to Mattie for inclusion in the Wainbody Councillors' newsletter.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 2nd September 2021 via Zoom. John will contact Grange Farm School to see if they are willing to accommodate our subsequent regular meetings.