

S.G.R.A.

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MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LOCATION - Grange Farm School

DATE – 6th February 2020

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

Plus 35 members of the Association.

WELCOME – John wished members a Happy New Year and thanked all who had delivered SGRA's January 2020 newsletter. John paid tribute to Roger Griffiths who sadly died shortly before Christmas.

APOLOGIES – Councillor John Blundell, Gail and Trevor Brigden, David Cule, Councillor Tim Sawdon.

MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting on 5th December 2019 were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING – **How Well Do You Know Coventry?** – The answer to the picture quiz in Newsletter No.25 is The Gordon Cullen Tile Mural in the Lower Precinct.

CITY OF CULTURE 2021 – Disappointingly, Ellen Booth (Producer South West Coventry City of Culture Trust) who had been due to address the meeting was unable to attend. The arrangement had been set up in November last year and we will try to arrange a suitable time for a future meeting. John asked us to consider what 'culture' means and how Styvechale Grange could be included in City of Culture 2021.

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE – **Police Liaison Meeting** – John had attended the recent meeting with representatives from Finham and Canley and had met the new Sergeant for Wainbody Ward, Sergeant Darren Betts – email d.betts@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk. (The Canley Police team contact number is 101 then 8316302). John informed Darren of our concerns that Styvechale Grange does not have the benefit of any Police presence and there is no communication continuity. **Crime Figures** available from the meeting for Wainbody Ward were November 2019 - 89 (including 9 burglaries), December 2019 – 58 (8 burglaries), January 2020 - 53 (2 burglaries). There is no longer any Police presence at Warwick University campus. The next Police Liaison Meeting is on 19th February 2020.

COUNCILLOR MATTIE HEAVEN – **Notice Board for Animal Pound** – the Council will not fund this. Two options are available to SGRA, fund this ourselves or try to obtain funding as part of City of Culture 2021.

King's Hill – The situation remains that, despite objections put forward by Councillor Tim Sawdon, Warwick District Council have approved outline planning permission for 2,000 dwellings (Phase 1). Coventry City Council have approved two new access junctions at St. Martins Road and Green Lane. The plans do not show how the infrastructure will cope with the increased traffic and no solution to this problem has been given. 1,200 people supported Mattie's online petition and this number would have been greater but for the temporary unavailability of the website. Coventry's population growth figures provided by the Office of National Statistics are inaccurate and have not taken into account departing students. Local residents can still intervene and perhaps this may influence the number of dwellings proposed. **Action Day for Clean Up on Styvechale Grange** – Mattie has suggested either Sunday 15th March or Sunday 5th April 2020 for this and is looking for volunteers and suggestions where we could meet. **Crime** – Wainbody Ward is a low crime area, however there is a need to prevent knife crime across the city. West Midlands are to receive 360 additional Police officers and Coventry would benefit from this. **Inconsiderate Parking** – several residents reported instances of vehicles parking on the pavement and/or obstructing driveways and roadways. The Council monitor parking; however, obstruction is a criminal offence. The 'direct' approach may be ineffective and other options will have to be considered. Congestion is caused in Peveril Drive at a drop-off point for pupils attending Finham school. The Council or Police can be notified of the registration numbers of offending vehicles, including dates and times, particularly if they are causing an obstruction. Alternatively, report details to our March meeting. John was concerned about an article in Coventry Telegraph concerning Bannerbrook Park, where plans for a local school were scrapped due to an apparent lack of need and dwellings are to be built instead. With large classes in primary schools and waiting lists, this is a short-sighted decision. Primary schools no longer have catchment areas.

TREASURER'S REPORT – **Website** – Because of the collapse of our web hosting company (IKHost) we have a new site with BestHost. Charges will increase from £20 to approximately £50 per year. Our domain name is now **sgra.co.uk** and this should be available on most platforms. (sgra.org.uk now only shows the old website). Mick will update the website following this meeting and would welcome feedback. As a matter of interest, Mick advised that the coat of arms plaques on either side of the bridge in Coat of Arms Bridge Road are not identical. Mick also suggested that the aviary in the War Memorial Park is interesting. **Finances** – we now have £801.46, less an amount of £45.96 due to Grange Farm School.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – The closure of Ikea was discussed with likely suggestions for the use of the building – a second Walk-In Centre was suggested. **Cadent Gas/Balfour Beatty** - following the gas-pipe refurbishment in our area, some pavements have been left uneven and dangerous. Photographs of poor pavement re-laying can be posted online on the Council's website or reported to our March meeting. It was acknowledged that the workmen had been courteous and helpful. The installation of the road bridge for JLR across the A45 at Tollbar is imminent. John will contact the Headmaster of Stivichall Primary School to update him about the Animal Pound. Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre is now closed and classes meet at different venues around the city, including the Gilbert Richards Centre and The Boys and Girls Club. A keen gardener is needed to help Earlsdon Primary School children cultivate one fifth of a local allotment. The meeting concluded with the raffle and Mick thanked all who had donated prizes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 5th March 2020 at 7.30 p.m.