

S.G.R.A.

John Archer – Chairman Tel. No. 02476 419008
Association Website: www.sgra.co.uk
Association e-mail: sgrainfo@gmail.com

MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LOCATION – Grange Farm School

DATE – 7th April 2022

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

Plus 23 members of the Association.

WELCOME – John A welcomed members to the first face-to-face meeting since March 2020. SGRA is grateful to the Headmaster and staff at Grange Farm School for facilitating our return.

APOLOGIES – Councillor John Blundell, Pauline and Don Carson, Delma Carter, Bridie and Vic Clarke, Sylvia and David Cleaver, Sue Clifford, David Cule, Peter Dixon, Rosemary Griffiths, Carole and Colin Harris, Jane Moxon, Walter Neal, Glynis Ozcan, Jane Parfitt, Sue Powell,

MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2022, having been posted online and circulated, were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING – **A Police liaison meeting** has been arranged for 25th May 2022 at 1.30 pm at Canley Police Station. **Refuse Collection Dispute** – general and recyclable waste is being collected by Tom White Waste. **A community litter pick** held on Sunday 13th March 2022 was well supported. The next **Councillors' Drop-in Session** will be held on Friday 22nd April 2022 at 10.45-11.45 am at Finham Library; it is hoped a Police representative will also attend. **Animal Pound** – no response to John A's email to the Parks Department requesting maintenance assistance has been received and Coventry City Council have not commented further about making the structure safe.

Parking Around Grange Farm School – letters outlining measures already taken by the school have been delivered to homes in Hexworthy, Barnack and Dewsbury and it is hoped some feedback will be forthcoming. A small article about this appeared in the school's newsletter at the end of March 2022. A resident in Dewsbury has supplied John B with photos of vehicles parked on double yellow lines and has also reported a disagreeable incident concerning a driveway obstruction.

Mantilla Drive Resurfacing – Mattie has raised a petition to have the work included in the Highway Capital Programme for the year April 2022 to March 2023 and volunteers are collecting signatures (currently just over 300). Mick has reported the worst areas on Fix my Street, but the damage would appear to be too serious for them to offer any help!

War Memorial Park Centenary Celebrations will take place on 9th and 10th July 2022, but no further details are known at this time. SGRA are awaiting an attendance application form to register our interest. We can then hopefully raise the profile of the Association and the importance of the Animal Pound maintenance. Current ideas are a video sequence and an exhibition of photographs; however this will only happen if enough support is forthcoming from SGRA members.

STREET WATCH – our Co-ordinator gave details of patrols undertaken during March and also of anticipated patrols. No problems have been encountered and it is hoped these patrols are having a deterrent effect. They would like to increase the number of patrols to cover different times of the day. It was suggested that patrols be carried out at school starting and/or finishing time. New members are needed and a brief training session would be given. Fliers are available promoting Street Watch and giving details of membership. Since the meeting, Mick has emailed SGRA members asking for volunteers.

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE – Sgt. Betts had reported that theft of and from vehicles is increasing. Members are advised to remove valuable items from vehicles and keep unattended vehicles always locked.

COUNCILLOR MATTIE HEAVEN – Mattie confirmed **Police Liaison Meeting** on 25th May 2022 at Canley Police Station; also our **Councillors' Drop-in session** on 22nd April 2022 at Finham library, 10.45 to 11.45 am, a Police representative to attend. A member of SGRA expressed concern that when she had required Police help, they were unresponsive. Mattie advised that more Police have been recruited. **Refuse Collection Dispute** – brown-lidded bins (garden waste) collections will re-commence 19th April 2022 and will be collected the same week as blue lidded bins. It is expected that all drop sites will close on 16th May 2022. Conservative Councillors had tried to move an **alternative budget** to the 2022/23 charges that the Council had proposed, but this was rejected. **Footway Repairs, Mantilla Drive** – the Council have admitted that they made a mistake in not finishing this work. They are looking at all reported trip hazards. **Mantilla Drive Road Resurfacing** – in addition to the current petition, Mattie will meet with the Head of Highways Department to show them the problem. Mick advises as many residents as possible to individually report this stretch of Mantilla to the Council. **HIMOs** – Article 4 Direction, which would limit the number of HIMOs, will be introduced by Coventry City Council in the near future. Mattie will ensure that Wainbody Ward is protected. **Community Litter Pick** – morning of Sunday 10th April 2022 at Cannon Park. **Parking Around Grange Farm School** – this problem is ongoing. Coventry City Council would like to carry out a pilot scheme restricting peak time driving, although this would be a complicated exercise. Grange Farm School need to constantly remind parents to be careful and considerate about how and where they park. With regular bin collections now established, Mattie was asked if the **waste disposal unit at Whitley** could be opened without the need for an appointment. Mattie thinks this may be possible.

A member reported a lot of litter in Coat of Arms Bridge Road and reminded people to 'take litter home'.

TREASURER'S REPORT – **Finances** – after expenses of £28.95 for the recent flier and raffle, we have £628.01. Mick will advise the Coventry Building Society that SGRA accepts all Directors in the recent ballot. **Facebook** – 114 people are supporting our Facebook page, but Mick receives little feedback. It is proposed to merge our page with the local history group's page published by a Styvechale Grange resident. The main café in the park is closed for refurbishment and Mick gave details of the changes that will be made. Completion and opening will hopefully be in time for the BBC Big Weekend at the end of May. An application for a drinks licence Monday to Sunday 11.00-23.00 has been submitted. We understand this has now been reduced to 11.00-20.00. John B will look at the conditions of the application and what variations could be applied. There are gratings in the park where the model railway used to be and Mick is seeking further information from the visitor centre. **Website** – this is updated monthly. Mick reported on a long length of ditch in the park that has been culverted. He advised that the covering is more user friendly and will better serve the next function in the War Memorial Park. It should blend in with the area over time. Mick reported the death of Bob Brown who had been instrumental in providing historical information of our area.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – **Forthcoming attractions: Styvechale Open Gardens** Sunday 12th June 2022, £5 per ticket; **Assembly Festival Garden** open from 14th April 2022; **Exhibition regarding Caludon Castle** at Herbert Art Gallery – open now; **Courtaulds photographic exhibition** at the Old Grammar School from 28th April 2022. There have been reports of disturbances at a bus stop on Mantilla Drive involving pupils from Finham Park. The school has been contacted. A resident had asked if there is a bus service between Styvechale Grange and Cheylesmore. The only service available is No.17 which stops at Baginton Road shops and then travels down the Chesils, but does not serve the main parade of shops.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 12th May 2022 at 7.30 pm. (5th May is local elections).