

S.G.R.A.

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MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LOCATION – Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

DATE – 7th October 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 everyone for attending the meeting. He will ask Grange Farm School if we can return after half-term. John A reported that at 8.30 am one morning, the fountains in the War Memorial Park play area were working and he wondered if the controls had been incorrectly set.

APOLOGIES – Councillor Mattie Heaven.

MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2021 were presumably accepted.

MATTERS ARISING – **Restoration of Hedge in Meadow** – Mick read out an email response from Dan Powell, Coventry City Council, which stated that the operative had said the gap was ‘already there’ and he caused no further damage. John B thinks there may be technical problems including poor training and lack of supervision. He hopes the Director will investigate the situation. **Save the Tree in Beanfield Avenue** – this has received extensive media coverage following the petition and residents’ meeting. John B reported that the views of all interested parties will be considered but, because of existing legislation, it is highly likely the tree will be removed. This would be a very upsetting outcome for all involved. Some ‘replacement’ trees already in Beanfield Avenue have, worryingly, died already. **Pavement Repairs, Mantilla Drive** – this is in progress. A deep pothole in the road surface near Wade Avenue has been repaired. There has also been further activity by City Fibre. City Fibre are allowed to cut out paving slabs, but other utility companies are not allowed to do this. John B advised there is a Section 58 protection clause on Beanfield Avenue which prevents fibre optic cable being installed in the pavement. A general discussion followed on the quality of workmanship of City Fibre and Callan Connect. **Repairs to the Animal Pound** – the Lord Mayor was very interested in our efforts when he recently visited the site. Promises of help from Dave Lewis and Mark Yates (Coventry City Council) had not materialised. The pound is once again very overgrown. Since the meeting, John B has emailed Mark Yates requesting a meeting and dates when the work could be done. **Godiva Festival** – John B advised that 50,000 people had attended the festival and 70 people had taken advantage of the Covid vaccination facility. He will enquire what profit or loss was made.

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE – Sgt. Darren Betts is ‘out of the office until further notice’ and no crime statistics were available.

COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL – there is a problem in some parts of the Ward with refuse collections, although our area would seem to be well served. At the next Council meeting discussion will be given to investment in a **Very Light Rail** system.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mick’s backdrop image this month depicted a miniature locomotive, believed to have been used in the War Memorial Park. He will investigate the locomotive’s origin further. **Finances** - there has been no change in our financial situation during the last month and we still have £706.46. **Facebook** – there has been very little activity; Mick will post a picture of the locomotive. **Website** – no feedback has been received this month but there has been an increase of 30% in users.

Organised Tree Walk – this took place on Sunday afternoon, 10th October 2021 and was very well supported. A big thank you to Mick Fitzpatrick for a very interesting and informative discovery of our area. Members of Coventry tree wardens’ network joined the walk.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Letters are again circulating inviting residents to join ‘Nextdoor Grange Farm’. The advice remains – don’t join! **War Memorial Park – Park and Ride** – the gates are manned seven days a week by security personnel and John B will enquire why the security people are there. It is thought this may be to prevent travellers entering the park. Removal of travellers requires Coventry City Council to apply to the courts and is a costly procedure. It is unknown whether many people exceed the three hours parking time and are therefore required to pay. **What’s On, Coventry UK City of Culture 2021 booklet** – the meeting was very disappointed with the late circulation of this as many of the events listed in the booklet were now history. **Mattie’s Concert** – Soveida Ensemble gave a delightful Persian music, poetry and song concert at Woodside Methodist Church on 18th September 2021. The concert was well received by the packed hall and raised over £1,469 for Afghan refugees. **Gilbert Richards Centre** – the centre is undergoing a phased re-opening. There is a Health and Safety responsibility to employ a supervisor for the woodworking department in order that this may fully open. John B will enquire what involvement Coventry City Council has with the Gilbert Richards Centre and Age UK.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 4th November 2021 at **8 pm** via Zoom.

Footnote - Congratulations to **Emilie Lauren Jones** who has been named as Coventry’s first ever poet laureate. This is a two-year honorary post appointed by Coventry Library Service and the Coventry UK City of Culture 2021. Well done Emilie!