

# S.G.R.A.

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## MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**LOCATION** – Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

**DATE** – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**PRESENT** – John Archer – Chairman, Sgt. Darren Betts, Councillor John Blundell, Mick Fitzpatrick – Treasurer, Councillor Mattie Heaven, Sheila Weare – Minutes Secretary.

Plus 10 members of the Association.

**WELCOME** – Grange Farm School will not allow any outside organisation into the school before half term at the earliest, therefore SGRA meetings will continue on Zoom.

**APOLOGIES** – Sylvia and David Cleaver, Sue Clifford, Peter Dixon, Jane Moxon, Glynis Ozcan.

**MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021 were accepted, with the following amendment: **Weeds in Streets** – a bungalow's garden in Girdlers managed by Cornerstone Partnership (not owned by Cornerstone Partnership).

**MATTERS ARISING** – Wainbody Councillors and John A have resumed regular meetings with our Police team. On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Councillors and SGRA members met with the Lord Mayor at the Animal Pound site. The Lord Mayor, Councillor John McNicholas, was supportive in our efforts to get the pound wall repaired, create a wildflower area and restore the broken hedge in the meadow. The Lord Mayor enjoyed a walk around Stivichall Hamlet. **Reinstatement of Hedge in Meadow** - Mick has reported this to Streetpride via Fix My Street and has asked for reassurance that the hedge will not be damaged further. He has not received a reply and John B has no further information from Streetpride. Mattie will speak to Streetpride.

**LOCAL POLICE UPDATE** – The meeting welcomed Sgt. Darren Betts. There were 56 recorded crimes in Wainbody Ward during August 2021. These included two burglaries, seven offences relating to vehicle crime and nine violent offences (assaults). **Speedwatch** - we need to specifically identify the roads where constant speeding is a problem. **New Coventry Police Station** – West Midlands Police have revealed plans for a new police station in Coventry, the building will replace a vacant industrial building in Sir Henry Parkes Road. It is not envisaged that the public will have access. **Telephone No.101** - John A had tried to report a collision between his car and a cyclist but after a lengthy wait, gave up. **Police Museum** – this is presently in the City of Culture shop in Hertford Street and is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 am to 3 pm. It will be administered by the City of Culture team until April 2022, when a small collection will be displayed in Little Park Street. It is likely the museum will then move to Birmingham. The West Midlands Police Commissioner will make the final decision.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – There has been no income or expenditure during August 2021 and we still have £706.46. **Facebook** – Mick posted an article on our Facebook page and 59 people had looked at it. **Website** – this will be updated mid-September 2021.

**A tree walk** is planned for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 commencing at 2 pm in Alpine Rise and finishing in Hexworthy. Coventry Tree Wardens will join the walk and may be able to provide some additional information.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL** – **Godiva Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021** - John B was asked (1) What was the attendance figure compared to the maximum attendance allowed, (2) How many people took advantage of the pop-up Covid vaccination centre and (3) what profit or loss was made. He will advise SGRA of the figures when they are available; he thought that approximately 57,000 tickets were sold over the three days. **Missed Bin Collections** – there is a problem in some parts of the Ward and if (brown) garden bins are not collected, they should be taken to the tip or put out again in a fortnight's time. Our Councillors are not satisfied with this policy.

**Save the Tree in Beanfield Avenue near the Junction with Medland Avenue** – as a result of a bus hitting this tree, the bus company are requesting the tree be removed. Please sign the petition against this on the Council's website. There is a meeting 'on site' on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 4 pm. This meeting with a representative of Coventry City Council has now taken place and was well attended. Various suggestions were put forward in defence of keeping the tree, one of which was the need to meet with a representative of the bus company. Because of the regulations appertaining to this particular set of circumstances, the City Council's representative will, at a meeting planned for early October, recommend to the relevant cabinet member that the tree be removed, which is very much against the wishes of the local residents.

**COUNCILLOR MATTIE HEAVEN** - **Homes in Multiple Occupancy (HIMOs)** – whilst there is some progress in restricting numbers, Coventry does have a serious problem with HIMOs, not least within Cannon Park and Moreall Meadows Estate. Every other university town or city in the country has already imposed Article 4 Directive to control HIMO numbers, but Coventry has not. Our Councillors are trying to obtain some support from Warwick University. No Council Tax is derived from the occupants in HIMOs. This problem does not affect Styvechale Grange but could have the potential to spill over into our area. A petition has been submitted to the Council.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – **Gilbert Richards Centre** – this has partly re-opened but needs more volunteers. Further details can be obtained from Mick.

**Coventry Heritage Open Days** – this year's National Heritage Open Days will take place between Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021; not all venues are 'walk-ins' and booking may be necessary. Telephone 024 76 976987. **9/9A Bus Timetable** – the recent changes to the timetable can be found on the SGRA website.

**Mattie's Concert - Soveida Ensemble** will perform rhythmical Persian music on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7 pm in the Methodist Church Hall on Wainbody Avenue South. The concert is to raise money for Afghan refugees. **Street Watch** – the area covered by our team has reduced in size and this could perhaps result in more patrols. New members are welcome. **Mantilla Drive** – Mattie reported there is no plan to re-surface the remainder of Mantilla at the present time. Mick recommended that individual residents in Mantilla should submit complaints to Coventry City Council.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30 pm via Zoom. The 7.30 pm start may be subject to change.