

# S.G.R.A.

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## MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**LOCATION** – Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

**DATE** – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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

Plus 13 members of the Association.

**WELCOME** – John A welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting and congratulated John B on his re-election as Wainbody Ward Councillor.

**APOLOGIES** – David and Sylvia Cleaver, Ross and Vicky Crawford, Bernard and Jayne Every, Vera Macpherson.

**MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 were accepted.

**MATTERS ARISING** – The partly exposed utility cable in the Meadow has been declared 'dead' and removed. **Japanese Garden, War Memorial Park** – the opening date has not yet been advised. Owners of two properties adjoining the **Animal Pound** have erected gates in their boundary fences. The gates are allowed legally but may not be used to access the spinney. **CityFibre** – it is assumed all cable installation work on Styvechale Grange has been completed. The standard of work across the city has been widely criticised. **Tactile Pavement Areas** – Mick has requested the location of existing and proposed areas and when they will become operational. **Styvechale Local History Group** – their Facebook page is available to SGRA members but permission to view is required and it is necessary to be a Facebook subscriber. Mick will put details on the May update of the SGRA website. **Coat of Arms Bridge Road** – the pothole under the bridge has been repaired following a resident reporting this as 'urgent' on the Coventry City Council website. **Street Watch** – it is proving difficult to recruit volunteers. John B will enquire whether the team in Finham is still operational.

**LOCAL POLICE UPDATE** – The number of recorded crimes in Wainbody Ward in April 2021 was 72 (last month 55). Theft of, and theft from, motor vehicles has increased and the cloning of keys by thieves was discussed. John A advised to always keep vehicle doors and windows secure and in addition, recommends using a steering column lock. John B advised that catalytic convertors are being stolen, even during daylight hours. Only 10 variations of key had been produced for the Garador garage doors originally fitted to many Styvechale Grange properties.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL** – John B acknowledged his re-election and will serve Wainbody Ward for a further three years. **CityFibre** – John B and Mattie had attended a public relations meeting with the company concerning lack of reinstatement work. CityFibre can use British Telecom ducting for their own installation work where it is available. **Repairs to Animal Pound** – A meeting with Coventry City Council's Conservation Officer has taken place and she is aware of the urgency of this repair. Following a meeting with Mark Yates, Coventry City Council, John B will follow this up with him. Meanwhile, SGRA can work to remove the vegetation in the areas surrounding the pound itself but need to liaise with the park rangers. **Car Parking Charges, War Memorial Park** - will commence in July 2021 or later. **Speedwatch** – it is hoped to carry out a Speedwatch in Mantilla Drive as soon as possible and resident participation is essential. **20 mph speed restrictions** – there is nothing further to report. General questions on speed limits were discussed. John B wants to have two vehicle activated signs installed in Green Lane, but these are at present being utilised elsewhere following a serious incident. **Police** - it is hoped face-to-face Police meetings can resume shortly. **Kenilworth Road Spinney** – it was reported that access to the footpath had been blocked. Upon investigation it was found that this had been caused by building work and access would be reinstated. **Travellers – War Memorial Park** – various incidents were reported including threatening behaviour and criminal damage by the travellers. It is believed the travellers vacated the park this evening (13<sup>th</sup> May 2021).

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – **Finances** – We currently have £706.28. **Website** – since our last meeting SGRA have had 78 new users and 27 returnees. Mick thanked those residents who had submitted personal stories for inclusion on the website. There had been some difficulty obtaining these stories and Mick would continue to request them. **Facebook** - there have been 105 visits since our last meeting compared to 398 last month, but no comments have been received, only a 'like' from members. Styvechale Local History's Facebook has a similar negative response. 27% of visitors to SGRA Facebook page are in the U.S.A. and Mick is trying to establish a common interest. John B advised that Coventry is twinned with Coventry New York State, Coventry Connecticut and Coventry Rhode Island.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – **Friends of the Meadow** – no update has been received. **City of Culture Evaluation Project** is an initiative on behalf of the Collaborative City Producing Team investigating the impact City of Culture 2021 is having on the local community. John A and Mick have provided all the information regarding Styvechale Grange and its historical hamlet to Emilie Jones in connection with this project and anyone interested in participating should contact John A or Mick. **City of Culture** officially begins on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and Coventry Moves will take place on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021. John A asked for volunteers for Speedwatch and to help remove the vegetation around the Animal Pound and asked members to respond according to their preference. Mick showed a photograph of the wartime bunker in the War Memorial Park and one SGRA member who had visited the bunker when she was five years of age recalled that 'it was very wet'.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 at 7.30 p.m.