

S.G.R.A.

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

MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LOCATION - Grange Farm School

DATE – 14th November 2019

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

Plus 21 members of the Association.

WELCOME – John thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

APOLOGIES – Dennis Bodycote, Pauline Carson, Sylvia and David Cleaver, Judith and David Cule, Julie and Roger Griffiths, Pat Jilks, Janet Lennox, Councillor Tim Sawdon.

MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting on 3rd October 2019 were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING – **Protection of our Green Spaces** – the situation remains that the green spaces on Styvechale Grange belong to the residents and are held in trust by Coventry City Council and are not to be used for development. An email received from Coventry City Council confirms that the land is safe from any development for the foreseeable future. **A46 Strategic Link Road** - the planned layout will impact on the King's Hill development and will adversely affect the wider area. Mattie Heaven's online petition '**Stop the King's Hill Access Road**' is open until 26th December 2019.

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE – **Police Liaison Meeting at Canley, 20th November 2019** – PC Jo Bowes conducted the meeting as Sgt Amy Wright was on sick leave. Jo stated that crime figures for Wainbody Ward from 1st September to 31st October 2019 totalled 144, compared with 140 for the same period last year. **Burglary 7, Criminal Damage 5, Drugs Offences 1, Robbery 2, *Theft 46, *Vehicle Crime 25, *Violent Crime (including domestic) 58 (*the vast majority were on or around Warwick University campus).** **Styvechale Grange** suffered 2 Criminal Damage incidents. PC Bowes made the following comments: (1) Be aware that the darker nights give criminals opportunity to work unnoticed. Check doors, windows and lights if you are going out. (2) Police officers will be going into schools to carry out intervention/diversion schemes to try and prevent escalation of minor crimes towards more serious offences. (3) Speeding was seen as a low priority. Speed signs and humps had little effect, though chicanes could help. (4) ANPR cameras in unmarked cars will be used to check inconsiderate parking, particularly around schools. (5) She hoped officers would attend Residents' Association meetings if shift patterns allowed. However, it was stated that the Police are not duty-bound to attend Parish Council or Residents' Association meetings. It is understood Police surgeries are held regularly in Finham library. The date of the next Police Liaison meeting is to be advised (probably in January 2020).

An online survey on WMNow about how the Police connect with the public has been received by SGRA and John has responded. John had contacted the Police 'chat line' to enquire about the disposal of a large number of nitrous oxide canisters, but progress on the chat line was slow. John had attended a meeting with Tony Swann from Finham and other Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and reported there has been a reduction in reported crime in Finham and Styvechale Grange remains a low-crime area. Young 'travellers' had on the day of this meeting unlawfully entered a garden in Finham.

TREASURER'S REPORT – **Website** – this has a new look and has been updated. Only two areas are awaiting revision. Google Analytics show that 93 users (80 new) visited the website between 3rd October and 13th November 2019. Mick asked that, following circulation of the November minutes, members acknowledge receipt and inform him that they have looked at the website at least once. **Calendar** – the 2020 version has been updated with new photographs and 30 copies have been distributed, with additional copies available at our December meeting. **Finances** – we now have £788.07; this includes calendar donations. Mick had met the owner of the site of the icehouse whilst visiting St. James Church. The icehouse remains are located in Knoll Croft. It is now a garden feature. A book entitled 'Styvechale Parish, Coventry and the Parish of St. James' is available at St. James Church office on the Leamington Road at a cost of £5, providing a valuable history of our area.

NEWSLETTER – articles on local issues, or of a wider nature, are always needed for future issues of our newsletter.

COUNCILLOR MATTIE HEAVEN – **City of Culture** – we advised Mattie that Ellen Booth, Producer (South West) Coventry City of Culture Trust, will be the guest speaker at our meeting on 6th February 2020 and will inform us of current progress. It is hoped Ellen will give us ideas how we can connect with City of Culture at a local level and at the same time improve our own image. SGRA has also received an email, via Tim Sawdon, from Ellen Booth with updates and details of a travel bursary. It is of considerable concern that a proposal is being made to switch off streetlights between midnight and 5 a.m. Mattie advised that the proposal to charge for the use of the children's splash pool and to park at the War Memorial Park, will be challenged. (Since the meeting, an article in Coventry Telegraph states that parking for up to three hours will be free).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – **Animal Pound** – the next working party will be on Sunday 24th November 2019, 12 noon - 2 pm. Tony Rose and Jim Passmore have created a path between the Pound and Stivichall Primary School and are now extending this path towards Kenilworth Road. Following the 'pruning' of a tree near to the pound, a resident has erected a gate on the boundary between Gregory Avenue and the common land. **Scam** - John advised of a telephone scam involving a claim, supposedly by Amazon, that Amazon Prime is being offered at a reduced rate. **Traffic Congestion on the A45** is extremely bad, due in part to the traffic lights slowing down the flow and lorries diverting from the M6 onto the A45. Local residents are worried about the increase in pollution levels. Mattie advised that there is a proposal to plant a tree for every person in Coventry, to be undertaken over the next 5 years, using some of the funding available to tackle pollution. **Gilbert Richards Centre** – a Christmas Fayre is to be held on Saturday, 7th December 2019, 11 am - 2 pm, everyone is welcome and entry is free.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 5th December 2019 at 7.30 pm.