

S.G.R.A.

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MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LOCATION – Grange Farm School

DATE – 2 October 2025

PRESENT

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

Plus 20 members of the Association.

Morrisons Daily – Laxsan from the store attended our meeting and advised that business was 'picking up' and outlined how they saw the future development of the store. Plans include a National Lottery facility and a coffee vending machine. Morrisons 'More' loyalty cards are accepted and generally their prices are lower than the Co-op. They want to promote a friendly environment and would welcome any suggestions as to what improvements could be made. Opening hours are 7:00 am–10:00 pm Monday to Saturday and 8:am-9:pm on Sunday. There have been no problems concerning the sale of alcohol. The meeting thought a flier from the store would be effective. The Tomlinson Flower Company have reported an increase in footfall since Morrisons Daily opened.

WELCOME – John A welcomed members to the meeting and thanked everyone for supporting SGRA. We have always worked closely with Finham Residents' Association, both being in Wainbody Ward and having the same Councillors. Finham is approximately twice the size of Styvechale Grange, but we have similar concerns in common. Finham have become a Parish Council and their meetings are now more structured. Finham's hope was that they would therefore have a greater input and more say over the development of King's Hill. Although this development appears to have stalled at present, there is little doubt it will eventually go ahead. It had been suggested that SGRA become a Parish Council, but John A preferred a 'wait-and-see' approach. John A and Mick had attended a recent Parish Council meeting at Finham and 7 officers and 5 Finham residents had also attended. One Finham resident insisted on making a video recording of the entire meeting which would then be uploaded to their website. This was because there had been allegations that certain items discussed at meetings had previously been missing from the minutes or had been minimised. Much of Finham's meeting was taken up with the fact that some residents objected to appearing in a video recording. John A and Mick were not required to sign in at the meeting. (SGRA prefers members signing in for health and safety reasons - for the school and for us). John A asked our meeting if Parish Council status would be considered appropriate for SGRA.

APOLOGIES – Doreen Archer, Ann Brown, Delma Carter, Judith and David Cule, Max Kemp, Babu and Kusum Mistry, Wal Neal, Jane Parfitt, Kirt Parshad, Anant Patel, John Proffitt, Prathiba Reddy, Councillor Tim Sawdon, Manjit Singh, Wendy Sneath, S Subramanya.

MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2025, having been posted online and circulated, were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING – **Mantilla Drive Resurfacing** – this has been completed and the No.9 bus will revert to its usual route on 3 October 2025. 'SLOW' signs have been painted on the surface at appropriate bends/curves. A reverse camber has been noticed in one place. **A Crime Prevention Event** was held at two different venues on 26 and 27 September 2025 but these were not well attended. **Urban Looks** appears to be empty, although online shopping is still available. The white Mercedes observed driving round at night belongs to a resident who goes to his temple at 4 am and then takes the opportunity to 'patrol' the area. Mick has thanked Dave Lewis for clearing The Animal Pound and has enquired about the frequency of cutting the meadow but has received no reply. John B suggested Mick contact Tim Wetherill at Parks Department. Nobody is living in the Pound Cottage and it remains very vulnerable to burglary and vandalism.

COVENTRY SOCIETY will hold their 5th Annual Heritage Conference on Saturday 18 October 2025 at the Herbert Museum. Application for tickets for this free event must be made via Eventbrite and numbers are limited to 80. The conference is entitled City Heritage – Future Strategies.

SPEEDING IN HEXWORTHY- serious concern has been expressed at the excessive speed of vehicles travelling down Hexworthy Avenue, especially at school start and finish times. This was reported to the police at the PACT meeting on 30 September 2025 and they are quite prepared to follow this up. SGRA will take up the matter with PCSO Tyrone Breslin. The 20-mph speed limit very frequently goes unheeded, both in Hexworthy and Dewsbury.

COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL - Mantilla Drive Resurfacing – John B is pleased to confirm that the resurfacing has been completed after a long delay and inconvenience to residents. Mick is of the opinion that the finished surface is much coarser than the previous surface. It was reported that in a few areas the level is considerably lower than previously. The meeting thought that different contractors were appointed after problems were found. **Greyfriars Road** – this road has been designated a bus gate. Most other vehicles cannot travel in a west direction, but travelling in an easterly direction is still allowed. **School Streets** – an interim report is awaited. More schools are being brought into this initiative. Grange Farm has been proposed but does not comply with the 6-point criteria; there may be a ‘problem’ with Dewsbury Avenue. Mattie explained how the initiative works and advised that it does seem to be successful where it is being trialled. John B suggests a petition from SGRA residents with their complaints and he will forward sample wording to SGRA. **Street Lighting** is again in operation throughout the night. **Coventry City Centre South** – market traders are unhappy that this scheme is seriously adversely affecting trade due to reduced footfall and they are losing income. This was debated at a recent Council meeting. **Video Recordings of Meetings** – John B advised that this can be normal practice and is used at Council and Planning meetings and is then available to view on the respective websites. **King’s Hill** – the greater part of this area is in Warwickshire. John B reports that the developers are currently in discussion with Warwick District Council. The number of dwellings proposed is 5,000 but no schools are proposed in the plans.

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE – It was hoped the police team would attend our meeting, but no one came. PCSO Tyrone Breslin has advised that parking concerns can be reported to the Council on www.coventry.gov.uk, then enter Report a Parking Problem. Wainbody Ward is to have a dedicated neighbourhood officer, Karen Rayson, who can be contacted on 1583@westmidlands.police.uk. The StreetWatch Co-ordinator for Wainbody/Westwood/Whoberley/Woodlands can be contacted on 30413@westmidlands.police.uk. Up-to-date crime figures are not published until every area in the country has submitted theirs. The latest available figures for Wainbody/Westwood/Whoberley/Woodlands are for July 2025, when there were 344 crimes, including 6 on Styvechale Grange. From 9 to 30 September 2025, 47 crimes were reported within Wainbody Ward, but none in Styvechale Grange. With the onset of darker nights, the message from the police is ‘keep your car(s) locked’.

STREETWATCH – our local co-ordinator reports there were three patrols during September, one with the PCSO and one is tentatively planned for 30 October 2025, again with the PCSO and all current members attended at least one patrol. Three new members have come forward.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Finances – we currently have £1,197.43 and Mick again thanked our ‘anonymous’ donors. Mick also thanked members for supporting the raffle. **The September Website** – Google Analytics have provided an update showing that the Welcome page had 38.5% increase in views. The Minutes page had 500% increase in views. Our September Facebook page has increased views of 669.1%.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – a resident has raised the question of the frequency of the No.9 bus and whether 6 per hour (3 in each direction) is necessary. During the day the buses are almost empty at our end of the route but the buses are essential to take people from other areas to UHCW. Mick will respond to the resident about this. It has also been suggested that the No.9 should pass through the bus hub at Central Six. John A also knows that the developers for King’s Hill have approached the bus company to take the route through the new estate to be built at Finham. There may inevitably be some changes to the timetable, but things are to remain as they are at present. Another resident has reported suspension problems with their car caused by potholes. Nobody at our meeting has had a similar experience. John B advised that the member should write to Coventry City Council and include photographic evidence. John A asked how much the Mantilla resurfacing had cost and John B advised this would be paid for out of the local council budget. A member attending our meeting suggested posting names and contact details of reliable trades people on our website.

The meeting concluded with the raffle.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 6 November 2025 at 7:30 pm.