

S.G.R.A.

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MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION **17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

LOCATION – Grange Farm School

DATE – 3 July 2025

PRESENT – John Archer - Chairman, Councillor John Blundell, Mick Fitzpatrick - Treasurer, Pratibha Reddy, Sheila Weare – Minutes Secretary.
Plus 23 members of the Association.

WELCOME – John A welcomed everyone to the 2025 Annual General Meeting and thanked members for attending.

APOLOGIES – Sylvia and David Cleaver, Judith and David Cule, Jane Oakley, Glynis Ozcan, Jane Parfitt, Kirt Parshad, Councillor Tim Sawdon, S Subramanya.

MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2025, having been posted online and circulated, were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING – **Convenience Store, Hexworthy Avenue** – this is being fitted out and hopefully will open towards the end of July. A notice in the window displays approved licensing hours and the shop can choose to open at any time between these hours. **Tomlinson Flower Company** are doing well and **Beauty and The Blade** would appear to have regular business. **Urban Looks** - very little appears to be happening. **Coventry's Very Light Rail** – the test vehicle has now been removed but could be brought back if any more trials are required.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – our three officers and two auditors have agreed to continue in their roles for another year and the meeting approved the decision. John A extended an invitation for any member to join the committee. A vote of thanks was given.

COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL – John congratulated SGRA on the impressive number of members attending our meeting. **Coventry's Very Light Rail** – John confirmed that the test vehicle has gone back to Dudley and that the track will remain in place on Greyfriars Road/Queen Victoria Road. John had experienced one of the trial journeys. The road should re-open to normal traffic in the next week or two, which will test the durability of the track itself. The track could pose a hazard to motor cyclists/cyclists. The first operational run will be from Coventry Railway Station to Coventry University Technology Park at Parkside. The exact route has yet to be defined but could be via Park Road. Funding will be sought through West Midlands Combined Authority. Several other cities have shown interest in the project. **Mantilla Drive Resurfacing** – this work is scheduled to take place from 4th August 2025. The meeting asked for assurance that the works would be a robust and sustainable solution designed to withstand the heavy use of the road, which includes electric buses. John read out the proposed 'state of the art' specification and reported on Stabilised Pavements Limited who will be doing the work. The scheme is purported to be carbon neutral and have a 20-year design life. John has asked for progress reports from SGRA once the work is underway. **22 Alpine Rise** – John was able to advise that all necessary licences for this food outlet business are in place. **City Centre South** – The Hill Group have started demolition. 1500 dwellings will be created, 300 of them affordable and they will be managed by Legal and General. John was asked how much retail space has been granted and what the mix of shops and residential would be. Additional signage is on display in Coventry market to advise the public where the entrances are and it is 'business as usual'.

46 Pershore Place, Cannon Park – an Article 4 Direction would apply here and planning permission would be required to convert the dwelling into a shared house. If residents are unhappy with any HIMO development, they should contact their Councillors. **Hexworthy Oak** – this 350-year-old tree is currently on a work schedule, to be inspected for possible maintenance. Beechwood Trees and Landscapes attended and stayed for some time and removed two branches. Mick added that two trees on the green in Alpine Rise had recently been cut down due to the detrimental effect of their roots on a nearby property. This matter has been ongoing with the Council for some years, but the insurers of the property finally 'won'. Tree roots should not come within 5 metres of any property. The 'sacks' at the base of new trees in the area are for ease of watering. Copies of the local Conservatives' latest 'In Touch' newsletter were available at the meeting.

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE – John A had attended the PACT meeting on 1 July 2025 with three PCSOs, Councillor Tim Sawdon and seven residents. Wainbody Ward is to have a dedicated PC, who will be our direct point of contact. There has been a burglary in Baginton Road near Leamington Road and a car has been stolen from Barnack Avenue, but no further details are available. PCSO Tyrone had investigated a car at a property, because the boot was open and the lights on. The householder had been rather abusive but realised that the officer had made him aware of the risk of leaving his keys in the ignition. **Bywater Close/Mantilla Drive** – parking by employees from Robins and Day appears to have returned and this is probably aggravated by extra vehicles attending a house extension in Bywater. Parking on the corner of Mantilla is illegal because it is less than 20 metres from Leamington Road. Buses have difficulty turning left into Mantilla from Leamington Road. Our police team had hoped to attend our meeting but had been needed elsewhere. Overall, Styvechale Grange has low incidences of reported crime.

STREETWATCH – John A and Sheila had spoken to our StreetWatch Co-ordinator, one of the volunteers and PCSO Katie before they set out on a patrol. The team has a total of four members and more volunteers are urgently required. A request for new members has been included in our flier, soon to be distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – a cheque for £20 has been sent to St. John's Ambulance. Mick advised that the accounts have been audited and he thanked both auditors. We presently have £1,280.96 – less an account for £70.16 for the hire of the hall just received. SGRA has received an email from Grange Farm School advising that the governors want to increase the room hire charge. At present we pay £17.54 per meeting. Since the meeting, SGRA and the school have agreed that the future rental charge for our regular Thursday evening meetings will be £22.54. The school have kindly offered to print our current flier free of charge. **Website** – the migration from BestHost to Krystal was smooth and there appear to have been no problems.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – a flier has been created thanking residents for their generous response to our request for financial support last year. The flier is to be distributed to every home in our area during July/August and John A will be contacting our volunteer distributors. A picture of Bridge Cottage in Stivichall Croft, believed to be taken in the 1950s, is included on the back of the flier. If members know of any history concerning the cottage, they are invited to contact SGRA. **Willenhall Police Station** – cells used to hold suspects arrested for criminal activity in Coventry have been fully refurbished. **Litter Pick** – this is to be arranged, although our area seems well cared for and clean.

The meeting concluded with the raffle.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 4 September 2025 at 7.30 pm.