

S.G.R.A.

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MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LOCATION – Grange Farm School

DATE – 4 September 2025

PRESENT – John Archer - Chairman, Councillor John Blundell, Mick Fitzpatrick - Treasurer, Councillor Mattie Heaven, Pratibha Reddy, Sheila Weare – Minutes Secretary.
Plus 24 members of the Association.

WELCOME – John A welcomed members to the meeting and thanked everyone who had helped with the flier in July/August. The flier reaches every home in our area and some response has been received.

APOLOGIES – Doreen Archer, David Cleaver, Judith and David Cule, Heidi Elliott, Bernard and Jayne Every, Max Kemp, Jane Oakley, Glynis Ozcan, Jane Parfitt, Councillor Tim Sawdon, S Subramanya.

MINUTES – The minutes of the AGM held on 3 July 2025, having been posted online and circulated, were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING – **Convenience Store, Hexworthy Avenue** – it is understood this will be a Morrisons Daily. No opening date has yet been announced. **Urban Looks** has closed but items can be ordered online. **Very Light Rail** – the track remains in situ, to enable any further testing that may be necessary. Coventry City Council is now evaluating various methods and their effectiveness in accessing existing equipment underneath the lightweight concrete slabs or introducing new utilities as needed. Quick and safe access to equipment is essential when maintenance is required. The route from the railway station to Coventry University Technology Park at Parkside is still being planned. The contractors are reported to be in financial difficulties.

COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL - **Mantilla Drive Resurfacing** - a letter has been sent to residents advising that problems have been experienced with the new technical procedure being used and all work has ceased. John B had requested specialist representation from Coventry City Council at our meeting, but nobody attended. John B feels this is unacceptable and very disappointing; he may take the matter further. He read out a report from Highways Department, City Services he had received on 29 August 2025. The report advised that some isolated soft spots have been found where the clay is not strong enough to accept the recycled layer. Remedial work is now being carried out and hardcore is being laid to accept the new material. The report also pointed out that Mantilla had originally been designed to take a significantly lower volume of traffic with occasional heavy vehicles. It is now subjected to an increased traffic flow of considerably heavier vehicles, including electric buses. The 2024/25 investigation work had determined that some drainage work would be required prior to the road being resurfaced and this was carried out. Further updates will be sent to John B. The workforce is usually on site 7.30 am to 3.00 pm, excluding weekends. Mattie stressed how important it is that the finished result is durable, irrespective of time factors and delays. A general discussion followed, when members voiced their observations and concerns. **Very Light Rail** – John B confirmed that the track will remain in place on Greyfriars Road/Queen Victoria Road and the road will re-open to vehicles, which will test the durability of the track. 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.

Coventry City Centre South – John B had met with market traders who are currently unhappy that this scheme is seriously adversely affecting trade. Several traders have left. They put forward suggestions as to how The Council could help them. Some reduction in rent would be welcome. Nothing has changed. The market was built in 1958 and it is important that Coventry protects its heritage. A survey had shown that people do enjoy visiting the market. The contractors (Hills) have erected additional signage to indicate to the public where the current entrances are and that it is ‘business as usual’. **Street Lighting** – all street lights will again be switched on throughout the night from 9 September 2025 and LED units will be introduced over the next two years. **Coventry Transport Museum** – exhibit collections currently at off-site locations could be moved into the former Ikea building. There are currently no plans to move the transport museum from its present location. **A Speedwatch** will take place in Cannon Hill Road on Friday 5 September 2025 between 3.30 and 4.15 pm.

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE – It was hoped our police team would attend our meeting, but this did not happen. A PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting was held on 2 September 2025 and John A advised there was no reported crime on Styvechale Grange during August 2025. A white Mercedes had been observed driving slowly along Hexworthy, Alpine and Mantilla during the night and the police have been made aware of this. Police are carrying out unannounced speed and parking checks at schools across Wainbody and notices or penalties may be issued. Wainbody Ward is to have a designated neighbourhood officer, Karen Rayson, who will be our direct point of contact. **Illegal E-Riders** – a government leaflet was available at the meeting setting out the rules and regulations. John B and Mattie totally endorse this initiative.

STREETWATCH – following the request in our flier for additional members, three people have come forward, which will allow more patrols to be carried out. Our co-ordinator outlined this community service and John A thanked him and his team for helping to keep our area safe.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Finances – the change in website provider had cost £8.40 for one month and then £84 for a year. We currently have £1,146.92. Mick thanked members for supporting the raffle. **Website** – Google Analytics had shown we have 430 active users, from the UK, Germany, USA, Singapore and Portugal. **Facebook** – very little happening although there were 399 views last month. Mick does not receive any comments back and thinks it may be set up incorrectly, but would welcome more members trying.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Styvechale Open Gardens – this year’s event in June raised £3,800 for various charities. Next year’s date is Sunday 7 June 2026, when the number of gardens opening increases from 7 to 18, with 3 local schools participating. **Grange Farm School** - John A had met with the business manager and the £22.54 per month for the room hire has been agreed. Any future increase will hopefully be minimal. The school has kindly printed our flier free of charge, for which we are grateful. **Heritage Open Days** – these will be 12 to 21 September 2025. **An Emergency Alert** will be tested at 3 pm on Sunday 7 September 2025. **Meadow** – Dave Lewis (Parks Department) has advised that the maintenance of this wildflower meadow now comes under Street Pride and Mick has enquired about maintenance and pathway cutting with a view to preserving the wildflowers. **Crime Prevention Event** – this will be at St. Martin’s Church on Saturday 27 September, 9.30 am – 12 noon. Tony Swann, a Finham Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, will be present together with a CCTV expert. SGRA has received an email from a member regarding a Coventry City Council decision to invest in Palantir AI technology. SGRA, being non-political, will not express a view on this.

The meeting concluded with the raffle.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 2 October 2025 at 7:30 pm.