

S.G.R.A.

John Archer – Chairman Tel. No. 02476 419008

Association Website: www.sgra.co.uk

Association e-mail: sgrainfo@gmail.com

MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LOCATION – Grange Farm School

DATE – 5 June 2025

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

Plus 16 members of the Association.

WELCOME – John A welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members for attending.

APOLOGIES – Doreen Archer, Sue Clifford, Brian Croom, Judith and David Cule, Jayne Every, Councillor Mattie Heaven, Babu Mistry, Wal Neal, Kirt Parshad, John Proffitt, Councillor Tim Sawdon, S Subramanya.

MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2025, having been posted online and circulated, were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING – **Styvechale Open Gardens** will take place on Sunday, 8 June 2025, 11am-5 pm. Tickets and map which cost of £5 will be available on the day from St. Thomas More Church. It is thought one of the organisers is ex-Styvechale and District Residents' Association (SDRA), which we understand is no longer in existence. **St John's Ambulance** have been contacted for further information following their talk, but no reply has been received. A £20 donation will be sent to them following Christopher Johnson's presentation at our May meeting. **Coventry's Very Light Rail** - a 220-metre-long test track has been constructed in Greyfriars Road/Queen Victoria Road. It is proposed to extend this eventually. It is not clear whether this will be a shared space with other vehicles.

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE – John A and Sheila had attended the May PACT meeting together with four Finham residents, a PC and a PCSO. The police team are enthusiastic and want to increase their presence in the area and we have established a good rapport with them. Three additional officers will be joining the team and there is to be a nominated PC or PCSO for Wainbody Ward, who will be our point of contact. It is hoped this will start to re-introduce neighbourhood policing. Speeding and illegal parking on Styvechale Grange were reported again and the police team are happy to carry out Speedwatch sessions. There was no reported crime in May 2025 for Styvechale Grange. The police report poor attendance at PACT meetings in other Wards. The next Wainbody PACT meeting is on Thursday 12 June 2025 at 10 am in St. Martin's Church Revive Café on Green Lane. Total recorded crime figures for Wainbody, Westwood, Whoberley and Woodlands for April 2025 are 362 (398 March). Violence and sexual offences 155 (152 March), Criminal damage and arson 39 (57 March), Shoplifting 16 (39 March), Anti-social behaviour 23 (28 March), Vehicle crime 33 (27 March). Other crime 96 (95 March). The Premier Inn is experiencing break-ins to vehicles parked overnight. The CCTV is not operational and the management appear to be unconcerned.

COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL – **Mantilla Drive Resurfacing** – following a request for a definitive date for this work, Coventry City Council's senior engineer has advised John this will now be September 2025. The meeting thought this totally unacceptable, especially in view of the number of times the work has been delayed. John and Mattie are seeking a meeting with Pat Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services and will keep applying pressure to get the work done as soon as possible. Residents in Mantilla have experienced an increase in vibration affecting their properties caused by passing buses and other heavy vehicles.

Coventry's Very Light Rail – John confirmed that a 220-metre-long test track is currently being trialled on Greyfriars Road/Queen Victoria Road and members of the public are being given the opportunity to travel on the new transport system. It is proposed to ultimately extend the track to Coventry Railway Station, Coventry University Technology Park and Coventry University. More locations are being considered. **22 Alpine Rise, Food Outlet** – John reported that the premises do hold a licence for their business within the parameters of health and safety. Regarding business use, John is waiting to hear back from Planning Department to ensure they are aware of the situation and that the necessary permission has been granted. **City Centre South** – the area has been isolated and a company called Halls will be starting demolition work when contracts have been exchanged. 1500 dwellings will be created, 300 of them 'affordable'. Legal and General will manage the sale and/or letting of these properties. Market stallholders are reported to be unhappy about how the work will affect business on the market, which is a listed building. Hertford House is also a listed building within the city centre south scheme. **Fairfax Street Swimming Baths** – the premises have needed re-securing after a recent break-in. The building is listed and would seem to be a serious liability for the Council and English Heritage. A resident asked John whether the West Midlands Combined Authority Pension Scheme had investments held in Israel. John advised that Richard Brown is responsible for finance at Coventry City Council. **HIMOs – 46 Pershore Place, Cannon Park** – it had been understood that HIMOs were no longer permitted. However, this property had three bedrooms but now has five. John advised that guidelines for HIMOs are indeed stricter but can still be 'flexible' and the property owner would need to show good reasons why the changes were necessary. Does 46 Pershore Place contravene planning policy for the area? John promised to investigate this. **Hexworthy Oak** – concern was expressed at the present size of this oak tree and its effect on nearby properties. It would appear to need some attention. It is believed the trees are checked regularly and the Council were thought to have assessed its condition recently. A photograph has been forwarded to Mattie and John will consider residents' concerns with her. **Councillor Tim Sawdon** is retiring after 50 plus years of service and John introduced his colleague Pratibha Reddy, who hopes to take over from Tim. Pratibha also compiles Wainbody Matters. Local elections in 2026 will take place on 7th May. Two Westwood Conservative Councillors have decided to support Reform UK.

STREETWATCH – no updated report has been received and all would seem to be quiet.

TREASURER'S REPORT – our two auditors have confirmed they are willing to audit the accounts for our AGM in July. **Finances** – Mick again thanked members for their continued financial support and donations and advised that SGRA now has sufficient funds to continue for the foreseeable future. We currently have £1,260.96. **Website** – our host company BestHost are to stop trading and we will be transferred to Krystal hosting, which Mick has assessed. An automatic transfer will take place mid-June. BestHost's yearly charge was £49.50 per annum and this will increase to £78 with Krystal. Given the importance of our website, we have reluctantly accepted the increase. Total views for May were 97 – 74 UK, 18 USA, 2 Spain, 2 Netherlands, 1 Ireland. **Facebook** received 62 views, all from the UK.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – **Convenience Store, Hexworthy Avenue** – a new shop front and a shutter have been added and further work inside the shop has been noticed. The repair to the brickwork near Mills Hair has been completed although the scaffolding has yet to be removed. 2–8 June is **Volunteers' Week**. The sensory garden at the War Memorial Park is celebrating four years of volunteer work and there is a new Snake Path which will open at 11 am on Saturday 7 June 2025. **Animal Pound** – John A reported that this is completely overgrown, which is so disappointing considering the time and effort given by so many members. Parks Department had committed to helping us maintain the site, but no help has been forthcoming for some time. Estimates to make the area safe have been drawn up but nobody is prepared to finance the work. The Pound Cottage also looks in a poor state of repair. **Finham Festival** is on Saturday 21 June 2025, beginning at 11 am, on the green by the library. It is thought Coventry City Council should make it clearer that food waste is allowed to be put into the brown lidded garden waste bins. It is proposed to produce a flier later in the summer for distribution to all homes on Styvechale Grange. The meeting concluded with the raffle.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Our AGM will be held on Thursday 3 July 2025 at 7.30 pm.