

# S.G.R.A.

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## **MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**LOCATION** – Grange Farm School

**DATE** – 6 February 2025

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

Plus 22 members of the Association.

**WELCOME** – John A welcomed members to the meeting. He expressed concern that Coventry might follow Birmingham with a 7.5% rise in Council Tax.

**Beauty & the Blade** - Dill from the newly opened salon in Hexworthy Avenue introduced himself and his team and gave an outline of their services. They include barbering, massage and beauty treatment. An appointment would be required. Opening times are Tuesday/Wednesday 10am-8pm, Thursday/Friday 10am-7pm and Saturday 9am-4pm.

**APOLOGIES** – Judith and David Cule, Heidi Elliott, Jayne and Bernard Every, Graham Mason, Babu Mistry, Wal Neal, Glynis Ozcan, Kirt Parshad, Anant Patel, Councillor Tim Sawdon, Karamjit Singh, S. Subramanya.

**MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2024, having been posted online and circulated, were accepted.

**MATTERS ARISING** – **Vehicles Parked Mantilla Drive/Leamington Road** – it is difficult to assess this problem with the recent drainage work being undertaken in Mantilla. **It is hoped that the resurfacing of Mantilla can now be carried out before the end of this financial year (31 March 2025).** The start time of our meetings will remain at 7.30 pm. Our next meeting will be held on 13 March 2025.

**LOCAL POLICE UPDATE** – Wainbody Ward remains a low crime area. The January 2025 police liaison meeting was cancelled by Sgt. Betts. A Partner and Communities Together meeting was held in January 2025, but John A did not receive an invitation. Another meeting has been arranged for 26 February 2025 at 10am at St. Martin's Church, Finham. The police website states that according to the Office of National Statistics (ONS), crime rate between October 2023 and September 2024 has reduced. 999 calls are reported to be answered in one second and calls to 101 in less than ten seconds.

**STREETWATCH** – no patrols were carried out in January, but the team hope to resume patrols on 10 February 2025 with PCSO Kate.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL** – **Council Tax** – John advised there will be a 5% increase. **The Council's Budget** will be set on 25 February 2025 and papers will be coming out on 18 February 2025 with the proposals. It is possible that the three hours free parking at War Memorial Park may be stopped and there is concern over the reduction in voluntary agencies. **Vehicles Parked Mantilla Drive/Leamington Road** – the director at Stellantis (Robins and Day) had been very helpful and has written to his staff concerning this problem. **The Partner and Communities Together** meeting in January had not been widely publicised and only two people attended along with two PCSOs. The next meeting is likely to be on a Wednesday in February. The police will vacate the Fletchamstead Highway premises and relocate to Burnsall Road on 24 February 2025. **School Streets** – five schools are taking part in a trial initiative to improve road safety and air quality outside schools through traffic and travel management. An interim report is expected on 4 March 2025 which should indicate how many fines have been imposed and what the reduction in traffic has been.

**Street Lighting** – the Council and police advise there has been no significant increase in crime while the lights are switched off during the night and therefore there is no plan to switch them back on. All streetlights may be upgraded to use LED units. **Application for an Alcohol Licence, 48-52 Hexworthy Avenue** – a convenience store will be open until 11pm seven days a week, which some residents think is too late and could encourage anti-social behaviour. 9pm is considered more reasonable. Residents should make individual appeals to object to or support the application. The closing date is 20 February 2025. Write to Licensing Team, Coventry City Council, PO Box 7097, Coventry, CV6 9SL or email [licensing@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@coventry.gov.uk). Quote Licence No.286290. Any representations that are frivolous or vexatious will cease to be relevant and will be withdrawn by the licensing authority. There had been a mains water leak near Green Lane which the Council and Severn Trent have dealt with. **Kenilworth Road** – a central refuge is being installed to enable schoolchildren to cross safely, following the loss of their subsidised transport.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – **Finances** – we currently have £1,098.79. The domain has been renewed. **Website** has 28 active users. **Facebook** has received 515 views, with 28 active people. Figures are from 12 January to 2 February 2025 and supplied by Google Analytical. The **Coventry's Industrial Past DVD** has attracted quite a bit of interest, but many people do not have a DVD player.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – **a new Women's Institute (WI) Group in Styvechale** will meet on Wednesday 26 February 2025 at St James' Centre, Leamington Road from 7pm - 9pm. **St John's Ambulance** have offered to make a return visit to demonstrate 'stop the bleed' and we will be following this up. **NHS** – there was much debate at our meeting about difficulty accessing same-day appointments. Doctors set their own appointment conditions for their surgeries. Since the meeting, John A has attended a **Healthwatch Engagement for NHS Change** event. This discussed a ten-year plan for the NHS and the event was largely information gathering. Our meeting concluded with the raffle.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday 13 March 2025 at 7.30pm.