

# S.G.R.A.

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

**LOCATION** – Grange Farm School

**DATE** – 6 November 2025

**PRESENT**

John Archer - Chairman, Councillor John Blundell, Mick Fitzpatrick - Treasurer, Councillor Mattie Heaven, Tony Swann – Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator (Finham), Sheila Weare – Minutes Secretary. Plus 29 members of the Association.

**WELCOME** – John A welcomed members to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES** – Doreen Archer, Corinne Bodycote, Sue Clifford, Judith and David Cule, Heidi Elliott, Babu and Kusum Mistry, Jane Parfitt, Kirt Parshad, Anant Patel, John Proffitt, Councillor Tim Sawdon.

**MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2025, having been posted online and circulated, were accepted.

**MATTERS ARISING** – **Animal Pound/Meadow** - Mick has received no reply concerning frequency of maintenance or mowing. John B has not heard from Dave Lewis or Tim Wetherill at Parks Department.

**Frequency of No.9 Bus Service** – the need for 6 per hour (3 in each direction)? John A reported that the bus he had used at 4.45 pm was full, with standing room only. **Greyfriars Road Bus Gate** – this now operates in both directions but the justification for this is unknown. **Coventry Society Annual Heritage Conference** – the report from our Coventry Society member included the following: Charterhouse – the five-year agreement with the National Trust has greatly improved visitor numbers. The Burges – upper floors of the lower units remain vacant. River Sherbourne – there is a beneficial partnership with the Council to make this successful, but more funding is needed. Whitefriars – fund raising for this project continues. Ikea building – it is hoped the cultural gateway hub will open in 2027. Spon Street – work with other organisations is being considered to make this refurbishment a reality. Coventry Archives – an update on the work of the Archives and its value to the community.

**Tony Swann, Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator (Finham)** - Tony advises on crime prevention. He explained how he had joined Neighbourhood Watch several years ago following an increase in crime in our area and how he set up 'Community Watch', where residents with CCTV could register with his network. He asked if anyone from Styvechale Grange would like to join. This would enable more information to be shared. Tony currently has 430 members, but he would like more. There is strong evidence that the scheme helps bring lawbreakers before the courts. Access to individual cameras is never required. Any personal membership details held by him are not shared with any other organisation or West Midlands Police. Visit [www.comwatch.org.uk](http://www.comwatch.org.uk) and 'Join Now'. West Midlands Police have recently introduced a similar scheme. Crime prevention advice leaflets were available at the meeting.

**LOCAL POLICE UPDATE** – It was hoped the police team would attend our meeting, but no one was available. John A explained that our police team covers Wainbody, Westwood, Whoberley and Woodlands, referred to as **the four Ws**. The recent PACT meeting (Partners and Communities Together) advised that theft of vehicle number plates is of major concern. Self-tapping, tamper-proof screws for number plates are available at Little Park Street police station. Tony Swann also has a supply. Up-to-date crime figures are not published until every area in the country has submitted theirs. The latest crime figures available for the four Ws are for September 2025, with a total of 352. The most reported crimes are Violence and Sexual Offences 156, Vehicle Crime 36, Criminal Damage and Arson 31, Anti-Social Behaviour 23. There was one vehicle crime in Styvechale Grange near to Hexworthy Avenue shops. John A illustrated how difficult it can be for the police to do their job; in one instance the restricted waiting sign was the incorrect colour and therefore invalid.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL** – **118 Alpine Rise** – the landlord is proposing a change of use from C3 (residential) to C2 (children's home with three children aged between 7 and 18 and two staff) and nearby residents and the wider community are not happy about this on the grounds of amenity and how it would affect the area. The landlord is required to obtain planning permission for the change of use. John B has copies of letters of objection submitted by residents, although these have been redacted. He advised that the case can only be argued on planning grounds and he will support this; the closing date is 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025. He explained that Coventry City Council are closing large children's homes and prefer children to 'live as a family unit'. If the landlord obtains planning permission the next step for him is with the Care Quality Commission and is lengthy and arduous with several social hurdles and John B read out a list of criteria the landlord would need to address. He would also need to have a business plan. Qualified staff would have to be employed, probably through an agent. This is the first children's home to be proposed on Styvechale Grange and residents think it could set a precedent and voiced their various concerns about possible problems. The estate is covenanted to remain residential, but the planning department does not recognise covenants. The property is reported to be in a somewhat neglected condition. Would there be any behavioural problems or difficulties? Is this change for altruistic reasons or simply a business for monetary profit? If planning consent is not granted the landlord could appeal. The date of the hearing is not yet known, when both parties, including a limited number of residents, could present their case. Grace Goodman, Planning Department, is responsible for monitoring this planning application. John A added that the police would not be involved unless one of the occupants is 'known' to them.

**249 Green Lane** – an application for a children's nursery has been submitted. This has been refused and an appeal has been made. A property in **Dawlish Drive** is also looking to establish a children's home in a residential property and John B will investigate this.

**COUNCILLOR MATTIE HEAVEN** – **School Streets** – this scheme began trials two years ago and is being extended to other schools. It is an active travel and traffic management scheme that improves road safety and air quality outside schools. It closes specific roads to create safer and healthier car free environments outside schools at the start and end of the school day. However, an alternative location must be found to allow parents to drop off and pick up their children. Grange Farm is currently No.13 on a list of schools being considered for inclusion. Mattie hopes to bring a speaker to our December or January meeting to give more details.

**STREETWATCH** – our local StreetWatch co-ordinator reports that they now have eight members. There were three patrols in October, one with the PCSO. There was nothing to report. There will be at least one patrol with the PCSO in late November and one took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025. He asked to be informed of any areas of the estate that particularly need their attention. SGRA is grateful to the team for helping keep our area safe.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Finances** – we currently have £1,242.43 and Mick again thanked those members who continue to donate. Mick also thanked members for supporting the raffle. The October Website views increased by 80%. 378 new users – 257 China, 89 UK, 56 Singapore, 41 Germany, 2 Ireland, 1 Columbia. Facebook views decreased by 86%, but there were 138 views for the Gilbert Richard's Centre Christmas Fayre on Tuesday 25 November 2025.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – the parking area at the Hexworthy Avenue shops is in a very poor state. It is not known who is responsible for its maintenance. There is damage around a drain cover in Dewsbury Avenue near to where the temporary No.9 bus stop was located. This area is currently barricaded off. A similar situation exists outside a bungalow in Dewsbury Avenue. **Mantilla Drive** – following torrential rain, this was flooded between Nos. 21 and 23. John B asked if anyone had photographic evidence. Since the meeting images have been sent to him.

The meeting concluded with the raffle.

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