

S.G.R.A.

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MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LOCATION – Grange Farm School

DATE – 13 March 2025

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

Plus 17 members of the Association.

WELCOME – John welcomed members to the meeting. Our councillors were unable to attend as they were meeting elsewhere with councillors from other wards to discuss political activity in the coming year. As least two Wainbody ward councillors will be due for re-election next year. ITV Midlands' early evening news had reported on the environmental issues which would be caused by the felling of 26 trees on Clifford Bridge Road, to allow for a cycleway. A survey commissioned by Coventry City Council had highlighted 7 possible hazards, but all of these had been addressed. A further survey had highlighted 30 issues but as the decision to go ahead had already been made, these were not considered. Residents' drives cut across the cycleway, but the danger of this had not been included in the first survey. Residents were endeavouring to hamper the cutting down of the trees.

APOLOGIES – Councillor John Blundell, Judith and David Cule, Heidi Elliott, Jayne and Bernard Every, Councillor Mattie Heaven, Terry Kenny, Babu Mistry, Jane Parfitt, Kirt Parshad, Anant Patel, Councillor Tim Sawdon, Manjit Singh, S. Subramanya.

MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2025, having been posted online and circulated, were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING – **Application for an Alcohol Licence, 48-52 Hexworthy Avenue** – The store's opening hours could be 7.30 am to 11.00 pm, seven days a week. Letters opposing the application had been sent to the Licensing Authority. However, we have been advised that if the premises do hold a licence, then the situation is easier to police and control. The application has been granted. **New Women's Institute (WI) Group** – approximately 20 people were reported to have attended the first meeting. The next meeting is on Wednesday 26 March 2025 at 7.30 pm. **St John's Ambulance** have offered to return on 1 May 2025 to demonstrate 'how to stop a bleed'. It is hoped the same team will return. **Vehicles Parked Mantilla Drive/Leamington Road** – the congestion has eased and the situation would appear to be under control. The three hours free parking at the **War Memorial Park** is to continue.

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE – Response from our local police team is weak, however it is important to maintain what contact we do have. John was not able to attend the January and February Partner and Communities Together meetings because he was either not informed about them or was informed of the incorrect date. John Blundell is to meet with the Chief of Police on 2 April 2025 and will discuss their lack of involvement with the general public, especially in our area.

Figures obtained from West Midlands Police website for Wainbody, Westwood, Whoberley and Woodlands area for January 2025 are: Total Recorded Crime 328, Victim and Sexual Offences 153, Burglary 32, Criminal Damage 27 and Other 26. The figure for Styvechale Grange is 2 and for Finham 15 and Canley 142. The following priorities have been agreed with Councillors to appear on West Midlands Police website. Anti-social behaviour, especially young people at Tile Hill and Canley stations, road safety and drug dealing in the community, crime prevention advice in shop premises, parking awareness advice, shoplifting and disruption across the area. A quantity of drugs and several un-taxed or uninsured vehicles were seized.

STREETWATCH – one patrol was completed in February, with nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT – **Finances** – we currently have £1,184.50. Sales of the DVD Coventry's Industrial Past have totalled £45 and thanks go to Cliff Weare for producing this. **Website** – 80% of users are from the UK with 15% from the USA and 5% from elsewhere. **Facebook** has 88 active viewers and 66 new. Last month new viewers were 33. Figures are for February 2025. The company Best Host who manages our domain/hosting has changed its financial structure, charging quarterly for the hosting package and yearly for the domain name. £18 was charged in December 2024 (with further quarterly charges to come), made up as follows: once a year payment of £7.50 January 2025 to January 2026 plus £10.50 quarterly charge January to April 2025. Total charge for the year will be £49.50. Mick has just paid £10.50 for the next quarter April to July 2025. Mick referred to the support SGRA had offered to Dave James regarding his history group. It is thought Dave's group has had some problems getting started because of venue difficulties.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – **Admission Charge to Herbert Museum and Art Gallery** – from 1 April 2025 a minimal fee of £3 for entry will be introduced, with a reduction for seniors and Go CV+ cardholders. There is no charge to use the archives room. **No.9 Bus** – a suggestion has been made as to whether this service could pass through the bus hub at Central Six. Would this degrade the service because of the longer journey times? John will approach Finham Parish Council and ask them to put this item on their next meeting's agenda. Generally, it is felt that the No.9 bus service is good but is sometimes let down by buses missed out. **Ikea** – The Graham Group has been appointed to take on the cultural hub project following the collapse of ISG. Work is expected to recommence before summer 2025. The top two floors will be occupied by Coventry University. The Graham Group is reported to also be working around Broadgate House. **Students in Coventry** – 48% of students in Coventry are from outside the UK. There is expected to be a significant drop in student numbers in September 2025, leaving a lot of student accommodation vacant. These may be offered as social housing but are not thought suitable as such. Warwick University are reported to be offering voluntary redundancy to administration staff. Fees for foreign students have risen sharply and are greater than those charged to UK students.

Alpine Rise Railway Line Fence – it is believed the fence was replaced some 17 to 20 years ago and the posts supporting the fence have now rotted and the fence is in a state of collapse. Residents at Nos.42 and 44 are willing to pay for the work to the fence on their properties but this leaves an unstable 8-10 metre middle section to be funded. The Council promised to visit the site but have not so far and Network Rail say the fence is not owned by them. Following a site meeting on Saturday 15 March 2025, it is likely that residents in Alpine Rise will try to fund the project themselves. **Fletchamstead Highway Police Station** is for sale, the police having moved to nearby Burnsall Road.

The meeting concluded with the raffle.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 3 April 2025 at 7.30pm.