**BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of**

**the Britannia Square Residents’ Association and Neighbourhood Watch**

held at

**the United Reformed Church, Albany Terrace, Worcester**

at

**7.30 pm on Friday 15 November 2019**

1. **Welcome and opening remarks**

John Ball welcomed everyone, particularly our guests Councillors Simon Geraghty and Jabbar Riaz, Parveen Akhtar (daughter of Councillor Allah Ditta), Lisa Smith, Community Engagement Officer, Worcester City Council, Mark Cox, Technical Services Manager, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) and Robin Walker, former MP for Worcester. John expressed his thanks to the United Reformed Church for the use of their building for our meeting and to our Councillors for their support of our activities.

1. **Attendance**
   1. **Apologies were received from:**

Laura Brown, Headmistress, RGS Springfield, Clive Collings, Claire Dallaway, Cllrs Lynn Denham and Paul Denham, Cllr Allah Ditta, Elizabeth Enthoven, Ann & Nick Gilbert, Jenny & Michael Goode, Anna Hocking, Toby Hooper, Pat Lewis, Bryan Neville-Lee, John Prosser, Gary Shepherd.

* 1. **Those present were:**

**Committee members:** John Ball, Ann Cowper, Robin Dallaway, David Greenhill, Carol Inman and Ian Terry.

**Other members**: Nic Aston, Maureen Ball, Ella Blankstone, Lars Frederiksen, Jill & Colin Friedlander, Lou & Wal Groves, Julia & Robert Holdsworth, Anna Hooper, Stephen Inman, Sharon & Chris Jamieson, Angela Lanyon, Sue & Ed Llewellyn, Nicky Neville-Lee, Andrew Oddy, Martin Potter, Liz Prosser, Viv Roberts, Ian Stevens, Vanessa Terry, Gill Yates.

**In attendance:**  Parveen Akhtar, Mark Cox, County Cllr Simon Geraghty, City Cllr Jabbar Riaz, Lisa Smith and Robin Walker.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2018 were approved. There were no matters arising.

1. **Election of Committee for 2019/20**

The Association’s Committee consists of a maximum of seven elected members and three co-opted members. The following members stood for election or re-election to the Committee:

John Ball

Robin Dallaway

David Greenhill

Carol Inman

Ian Terry

The above members were proposed, seconded and elected unopposed.

Clive Collings and Ann Cowper have both expressed their willingness to continue to serve as co-opted members, for which the Committee is most grateful.

Any resident wishing to join the Committee was invited to approach a Committee Member after the meeting and attend as a guest at our next meeting on Tuesday 19 November.

1. **Committee Members’ Reports**

***Copies of the Committee Members’ reports and minutes are published on our website:*** [***www.britanniasquare.org***](http://www.britanniasquare.org)***. Please find the event on the calendar and click through to see the documents or click on Residents’ Area in the header and select Document Library.***

***Additional and significant matters are noted below.***

**5.1. Neighbourhood Watch Report**

Carol Inman briefly explained how relevant incident reports from the police are circulated to those residents who have opted to receive alerts. She also attends the Cathedral Ward PACT meetings as our representative. John Ball encouraged more residents to sign up for alerts. For full details, please see Carol’s report.

**5.2. Highways and Lighting Report**

Carol Inman presented the Highways and Lighting report. The major achievement this year has been the new lamppost in Stephenson Terrace to replace the one which was knocked down during resurfacing of the Terrace in 2018. During the forthcoming year, it is hoped that a new street sign will be installed in the Terrace as the existing one is faded, particularly the No Through Road part of the sign. The one way system in Britannia Square, near Albany House Surgery, continues to cause concern although there are occasional patrols by the police to deter drivers from trying to exit the Square that way. Residents were encouraged to report faulty lighting to the County Council, via their website.

**5.3. Events Report**

Ian Terry highlighted the main topics of his report of our many successful events over the past year.

Ian thanked particularly all the residents who had volunteered for our street cleaning day, supported by Worcester City Council. He also reported that the Summer Party had been a great success, helped by the sunny weather, although the search continued for someone to act as an organiser for children’s games on the day.

For further details please see Ian’s report and the events via the calendar on our website.

**5.4. Financial Report**

As Treasurer, Ian Terry presented the accounts for 2018/19 which were approved by the meeting. Andrew Grant had declined to renew their sponsorship of the website. Knight Frank had renewed theirs but a decision was still awaited from NFU Mutual.

**5.5. Planning Report**

David Greenhill explained the Committee’s active role in reviewing and commenting on planning applications which is core to our purpose as an Association. Full details of all Planning Applications may be viewed on Worcester City Council’s website. Members were advised not to rely solely on public displays of Planning Notices but to make use of the Council’s excellent website to inspect plans and make comments.

Colin Friedlander commented that there appeared to be a lack of enforcement in maintaining a uniform shade of white on the exterior of buildings within the Conservation Area. David stated that in his view a “stone white” rather than a “brilliant blue white” was preferable for the Area but that this was not always promoted by planning and conservation officers. Cllr Riaz agreed to follow this up with the City Council planning team.

Ian Terry referred to the planning application for 36A Britannia Square which had been discussed at the previous year’s AGM. He asked Cllr Geraghty to advise if there had been any progress on the Highways Consultation over the potential elimination of the residents’ parking bays but he had heard nothing about this. David Greenhill added that there had been two recent applications at 36A to vary planning conditions.

**5.6. Website Report**

Robin Dallaway reported on the continuing work on the Photographic Project, launched in 2017, to create a visual record of our area. Around 60 images from the Hive’s “Worcester Photographic Survey” have recently been acquired and will be made available on the website as soon as possible. Robin also invited any residents who had any suitable photographs that they would be willing to be included within the project to contact him.

Finally, he reminded everyone that all future events are advertised on the home page and past events are documented via the calendar, often accompanied by photographs.

**5.7. Wine Club Report**

John Ball presented the Wine Club’s report and highlighted the two events held in the past year.

1. **Any other business**

Liz Prosser publicised the Maggs Shoe Box Appeal and the Coffee Morning to be held in the Church Hall the following day to cover shoe boxes.

Cllr Geraghty gave an update on the multi-agency response to the current flooding in Worcestershire and the preparatory work that had been undertaken in New Road, should a 2-way traffic flow need to be implemented. Robin Walker queried how residents should report blocked drains. These could be reported online via the County Council’s website or direct to Cllr Geraghty.

Gill Yates asked who was liaising with RGS Springfield about their unsightly hedge. John Ball reported that he was in contact with Laura Brown on this issue. In addition, on behalf of Nic Gilbert, Rob Holdsworth, expressed concern about the poor standard and late timing of hedge cutting in the late summer/early autumn, particularly the number of bare stalks left projecting from the hedge and the overgrown hedge restricting the width of the carriageway prior to cutting.

Andrew Oddy again raised the matter of residents’ parking capacity, particularly in Albany Terrace. He had been in contact with the County Council with a number of questions about the scheme, particularly as to why residents with existing permits could not be issued with reminders prior to expiry. Cllr Geraghty pointed out that having a scheme did not guarantee a parking place but the Britannia Square scheme did work better than those in many other areas. He added that he would favour a digital approach to renewals.

Nic Aston asked about the unsightly trailer which had frequently occupied parking spaces around the Britannia Square area for long periods over the past few months. Cllr Geraghty assured residents that he had been made aware of the issue by several residents and that a multi-agency approach was being taken to resolve the problem.

Lou Groves asked about the possibility of having visitor scratch cards for parking. Ian Terry reported that these were not permitted by the Britannia Square scheme. He added that a survey of residents in 2012 had found that the majority of residents were not in favour of such cards given the existing pressure on spaces and the risks involved in making any changes to the scheme.

1. **Speaker**

Mark Cox, Technical Services Manager, WRS gave a presentation on gull control in Worcester, outlining what had been done since 2003, current legal constraints and proposals for 2020. In addition, David Greenhill outlined the quotations received to carry out hawk flying in the Britannia Square area and explained that it would be necessary to establish what level of interest existed among residents to pool resources. We were most grateful to Mark for setting out previous and potential gull control measures and to both Mark and David for responding to questions from the floor.

1. **Vote of Thanks**

On behalf of the meeting, David Greenhill expressed our thanks and appreciation to Mark Cox.