**BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of**

**the Britannia Square Residents’ Association**

held at

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

at

**7.30 pm on Friday 11 November 2022**

1. **Welcome and opening remarks**

John Ball welcomed everyone, particularly our guests PC Helen Hawkins, PCSO Nicky Williscroft, County Councillor Simon Geraghty and Lisa Smith, Community Engagement Officer, Worcester City Council. John expressed his thanks to the United Reformed Church for the use of their building for our meeting and to our guests for their support of our activities.

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

Members: Ruth Bader, Susie & Tony Bettinson, George & Sheila Campbell, Virginie Eckersley, Jess & Matt Hall, Julia Holdsworth, Michael Hudson, Sue Llewellyn, Adele & Chris Rimell, Viv Roberts, Ian & Lucy Stevens, Ian & Vanessa Terry, Catherine & David Wightman.

Non-members: Alan Beechey, Simon Dupernex, Demetrius & Lucy Evriviades, Simon Hampton & Sue Sinclair, Mark & Tracy Scott, City Cllrs Lynn Denham & Jabbar Riaz.

* 1. **Those present were:**

**Committee members:** John Ball, Ella Blankstone, Ann Cowper, Robin Dallaway and Carol Inman

**Other members**: Nic Aston, Helen Blanchard & Mark Taylor, Claire Dallaway, Patrick Eckersley, Corinne Flannigan, Ann & Nick Gilbert, Jenny & Michael Goode, Robert Holdsworth, Anna & Toby Hooper, Stephen Inman, Angela Lanyon, Ed Llewellyn, Nicky Neville-Lee, Andrew & Pat Oddy, Jenny & Stephen Preedy, John & Liz Prosser and Gill Yates.

**In attendance:**  Nick Carroll (guest speaker), Richard Elwell (prospective buyer of 15BS), St. John Hoskyns (46BS), PC Helen Hawkins, PCSO Nicky Williscroft, County Cllr Simon Geraghty and Lisa Smith.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the last AGM, held on 12 November 2021, were approved. There were no matters arising.

1. **Election of Committee for 2022/23**

The Association’s Committee consists of a maximum of seven elected members and three co-opted members. Due to ill-health, Ian Terry had resigned as an elected member with effect from the date of the AGM. The remaining two elected members both stood for re-election:

John Ball

Carol Inman

The above members were proposed, seconded and re-elected unopposed.

Ella Blankstone and Ann Cowper each expressed their willingness to continue to serve as co-opted members. Also, Robin Dallaway agreed to continue as a co-opted member to assist with the website.

The Committee is most grateful for their continued support.

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 15 November.

**5. 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 that the NW scheme now largely operated using email and WhatsApp messaging. Recently, opportunist car crime had become an issue in the area so residents were reminded to ensure that their cars were always locked with windows fully closed and that appropriate care was taken with cars with keyless entry to prevent thieves intercepting signals. For full details, please see Carol’s report.

**5.2. Highways and Lighting Report**

Carol Inman presented the Highways and Lighting report. On lighting she was pleased to report that the County Council was planning to upgrade all the bulbs and switchgear in the heritage lights in our area within the next few months. The actual columns and heritage lanterns would be unaffected. Residents were encouraged to report faulty lighting to the County Council, via their website.

**5.3. Planning Report**

Carol Inman explained the Committee’s active role in reviewing and commenting on planning applications both within the Conservation Area and in adjacent areas which would affect residents.

She added that at last year’s AGM, there were a number of applications pending due to staff vacancies in the City Council’s Planning department. These had been filled earlier this year which had enabled the backlog to be cleared and new applications to be processed in a timely manner. Members were reminded to make use of the Council’s website to inspect plans and make comments.

**5.4. Events Report**

Carol Inman thanked all the residents who had taken part in our street cleaning day on 29 May, supported by Worcester City Council. This year’s event had been held jointly with York Place Residents’ Association and it was hoped to repeat this arrangement in 2023.

She also reported that the Platinum Jubilee Summer Party held on 5 June in the grounds of RGS Springfield had been a great success. In particular, she thanked Angela Lanyon for entertaining us with a selection of poems and added that her verses could be found on the BSRA website.

**5.5. Financial Report**

On behalf of the Treasurer, Ian Terry, Robin Dallaway presented the accounts for 2021/22 which were approved by the meeting. The sole sponsor of the website is now Fisher German. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing support.

On gull deterrence, it was noted that £560 had been collected from residents in 2022 to cover the Association’s contribution towards the cost of hawking. An invoice for £540 was still awaited from Worcester City Council.

Robin added that the Association’s bank account had been successfully moved from HSBC to Nat West in November 2021.

**5.6. Website Report**

Robin Dallaway commented that the website was maintained to provide a central resource for information about the area and encouraged residents to take a look at the resources available.

Robin highlighted the continuing work on the Photographic Project, launched in 2017, to create a visual record of our area and invited any residents who had any suitable photographs that they would be willing to be included within the project to contact him. He also highlighted the house history that had been added for Eastbourne Lodge, which had been demolished in 1959 to allow for the construction of Marlow Court, and the 1886 OS map of the area, which was available to view in the Document library.

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 commented that only one event had been held this year. This was the Summer Party held in the garden gazebos of the Prossers on 5 August. As John had been unable to attend, he thanked the team who had stepped in to run the event, particularly Ed Llewellyn who had sourced the wines and John Prosser who acted as MC

Anyone with an interest in wine was invited to contact John to be added to the mailing list for future events.

**6. Any other business**

Gill Yates expressed her thanks to Ian Terry for his years of service to the Residents’ Association and to all continuing members of the Committee for their very hard work. She also thanked County Cllr Simon Geraghty for his attendance in the absence of all three of the Cathedral Ward City councillors.

Gill added that it had been disappointing that none of the three City councillors had replied to her recent correspondence requesting that the planning application for two houses on the car park of an HMO in Moor Street should be referred to the Planning Committee. Gill reminded the meeting that the Britannia Square parking scheme also covered several streets towards Castle Street and each 'household' within the scheme is entitled to apply for unlimited parking permits.

Finally, Gill requested that the BSRA should be consulted on any planning application in the area which may affect the parking scheme and also that the Council’s street notices advertising applications be placed in more prominent positions.

Ann Cowper publicised the on-going B-SquOSH community WhatsApp group.

Angela Lanyon proposed a formal vote of thanks for Ian Terry. On behalf of the Committee, John Ball confirmed that the Association’s thanks together with a farewell gift would be conveyed to him.

Nicky Neville-Lee alerted residents to the imminent sewer works which were due to be undertaken by Severn Trent, starting within the next few weeks. Severn Trent had booked the URC Hall to hold an information briefing for residents on 24 November.

A number of residents raised concerns about dangerous parking, often by Blue Badge holders, near to junctions in Albany Terrace with the result that there had been damage to stone pillars, garden walls and also to car wing mirrors when vehicles were left with insufficient road space. It was noted that parked cars also caused congestion in the part of Britannia Square leading to Upper Tything. Cllr Geraghty advised that Civil Enforcement officers now patrolled our area on bikes. He would investigate whether “No loading” marks could be added to corners where parking has become a dangerous obstruction.

Robert Holdsworth suggested that we should consider how to mark the King’s Coronation on 6 May 2023. Carol Inman agreed to add this issue to the Agenda of the next Committee meeting.

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Following the meeting, Nick Carroll gave an enjoyable and thought-provoking talk putting forward ideas for us to consider to help make our homes more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.