Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 April 2020

at 8.00 pm by videoconference

1. Attendance

Present: Ian Terry (Chair)

 John Ball

 Ann Cowper

 Robin Dallaway

 David Greenhill

 Carol Inman (Secretary)

Apologies: Clive Collings

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

**2.1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 February 2020 were agreed.

**2.2 RGS Springfield**

John reported that the irrigation system watering the beech saplings around the edge of Springfield was permanently on. He would maintain a watchful eye on the state of the hedge and fencing.

 **Action: John Ball**

**Guidance for exterior painting**

Robin advised that Clive had commented on the draft document and had suggested a range of 14 suitable colours. Concern was expressed that such a range could be seen as giving too much choice but it was agreed that provided the extremes of “Daz white” and “Country cream” were avoided, having a range of shades should not be a problem. It was also noted that the nature of a property’s render could affect the final appearance of a paint colour so the recommended list should not be too restrictive. Robin intended to discuss the document further with Clive in due course and, once agreed, make it available on the BSRA website.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

 **One-way section of Britannia Square**

Ian reported that he had seen a van recently driving the wrong way in the one-way section. No other Committee member had witnessed similar instances lately but Carol agreed to revisit the issue if there was a significant increase in incidents.

 **Action: Carol Inman**

**Finance**

Robin reported that he had heard from Jack Ballard, Agent/partner at NFU Mutual, who had confirmed that they would be unable to sponsor the BSRA website this year. It was agreed that rather than removing the logos of non-payers (NFU Mutual and Andrew Grant) from the website, as had been discussed at the Committee’s previous meeting, they should remain in place as a gesture of goodwill in the hope that both may be able to resume payment in 2021. Billing of sponsors would be reviewed at the Committee’s next meeting.

Other matters arising were dealt with under the relevant agenda items.

1. Gulls

Ian reported that surveys had been returned from 58 households, with 52 willing to contribute to the proposed hawking trial. A range of contributions had been offered which, in total, would sufficiently cover the amount due to Worcester Regulatory Services and result in a small surplus. It was agreed that invoices would be issued by email as soon as possible, starting with Committee members, with encouragement given to pay directly to the BSRA bank account. In the current climate, it was acknowledged that there may be some defaulters. Any surplus would be carried forward to next year’s programme but overpayments would be refunded if hawking could not be continued in 2021.

1. B-SquOSH (Britannia Square Organisation for Self-Help)

Ian thanked Ann and Carol for setting up B-SquOSH at the start of lockdown in March. Over 60% of households in the area had joined up, most opting to be part of the WhatsApp group with others preferring email or telephone contact. The primary aim of B-SquOSH is to enable those in self-isolation needing help with collecting prescriptions, shopping etc to request assistance but also it has become a useful means of sharing a variety of information including a daily verse from Angela Lanyon, bin collection updates, home schooling ideas, offers of plants, inspirational videos etc.

1. Future Events:

**5.1. Street Clean 2020 -** cancelled

**5.2. Summer Party 2020**

It was agreed that it would be unlikely that a party could be held but if RGS Springfield was able to re-open in June/July, the Committee would investigate the possibility of organising one at short notice.

1. Committee Reports

**6.1 Planning**

Ian reported that Theresa Mountain (28BS) had emailed him with an objection about the new extension at 27b BS. David advised that his response on behalf of the Committee to the original application in 2018 was on the City Council’s website and he had commented then that the lack of clarity of the proposed plans could give a misleading impression of the size of the proposed building. Ian agreed to respond on behalf of the Committee.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

39BS: David referred to the plans for a new conservatory to replace the existing one built in the 1980s, details of which he had circulated to Committee members for comment. David’s view was that the proposed replacement would be an improvement compared with the existing one and should be supported.

RGS Springfield: John referred to a letter he had received about the proposal for a timber-framed round house within the Forest School. David agreed to circulate the link to the application on the City Council’s website and subsequently pass on any comments.

 **Action: David Greenhill**

**6.2 Highways & Lighting**

Nothing to report.

**6.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

An alert had been circulated on the need to be vigilant online given the number of attempted frauds and scams being carried out during lockdown.

**6.4 Wine Club**

A successful blind-tasting event had been held on 7 March, where Wine Club committee members had suggested some of their favourite wines. No events were planned for the foreseeable future.

**6.5 Membership**

Of the 121 households, there are 59 paid-up members which represent 49%. Gareth Olden (51BS) had joined recently.

**6.6 Finance**

The Association’s bank balance stood at £1,121, with small amounts owed to both Robin and Ian.

**6.7 Newsletter**

The next Newsletter will be issued in the Autumn.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

**6.8. Website & photographic archives project**

Robin reported that he was able to access The Hive just before lockdown and had been able to acquire a good copy of the 1:500 1884/88 OS map of the area, which consisted of two sheets. The map would be added to the website in due course. Ian asked if he could have some A3 prints of the map for future use.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

1. Any other business

Given the lockdown, it was agreed that no formal celebrations would be arranged for the 75th Anniversary of

VE Day.

Angela Lanyon had asked via Ian whether her daily verses which were being circulated via B-SquOSH and collected on the BSRA website could be publicised more widely, for example on BBC Hereford & Worcester radio. Carol agreed to contact BBC H&W and pass on Angela’s contact details to them.

 **Action: Carol Inman**

John questioned the security of using Zoom for Committee meetings and whether other conferencing platforms such as MS Teams or Google Hangouts may be more secure. Robin agreed to investigate this and report back to the Committee.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

1. Dates of future events & meetings

TBA - Summer Party, RGS Springfield

Tues 22 September - Committee meeting, 20 Britannia Square (Ann Cowper)

Fri 13 November - AGM, URC, Albany Terrace

Tue 17 November - Committee meeting, 7 Albany Terrace (Robin Dallaway)