Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17 November 2020

at 8.00 pm by videoconference

1. Attendance

Present: Robin Dallaway (Chair)

 John Ball

 Ann Cowper

 Ian Terry

 Carol Inman (Secretary)

Apologies: Clive Collings

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

**2.1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 September 2020 were agreed.

**2.2 RGS Springfield**

John reported that the final tidying up after the hedge-cutting had been completed by RGS Estates staff. He had not raised the issue of replacing the green plastic fencing with Laura, given the pandemic, but he would remind her in the spring about using the irrigation system again to ensure the saplings in the hedge survive the summer.

 **Action: John Ball**

**Angela Lanyon’s verses**

Robin confirmed that he had added Angela’s recent verses to the BSRA website. Ann commented that the earlier verses were no longer visible. Robin agreed to take a look at this and re-instate them on the page.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

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

1. AGM reports

Carol reported that there had only been three reactions to the publication of the AGM reports, all expressing gratitude for them.

Ian reported that as he had been unable to collect annual subscriptions in the usual way, he would remind those who paid annually within the next few weeks that payment was due. Assuming that an AGM is held in 2021, the 2019 AGM minutes will need to be approved then and a reminder given that as the 2020 meeting had been cancelled, the existing committee members had all agreed to continue for another year.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

1. Gulls

**4.1** **Proposed programme for 2021**

It was noted that the strategy for next year’s gull programme had been explained to Ian by Gordon Dugan and summarised in the BSRA Autumn newsletter. The key change was that our area would have nest disturbance activity but not hawking whereas in the Tything there would be hawking but no nest disturbance. As a result, there would be no need to raise any funding from our residents in 2021 but if hawking was used again in 2022, contributions would most likely need to be sought then.

The cherry picker was scheduled to start nest disturbance work in the Square in May 2021. It would visit on four occasions at 21 day intervals. It was agreed that we should be alert to gulls started to nest in new locations and consider asking residents to report new sites as well so that we can advise Gordon to send the cherry picker to these as well as sites targeted in 2020. Nesting material from this year had been removed earlier this month and red paint had been applied around the chimney stacks between 47 BS and 48 BS as this is known to deter nesting gulls.

**4.2 Lobbying Natural England**

Ian had been contacted by Robin Kerr, former chairman of the Federation of Bath Residents’ Associations and a member of the Committee of NORA (see 5, below), seeking support from residents’ associations in cities, like Bath, with gull problems. In particular, he is hoping to gain support to lobby Natural England to change their current licencing system for gull control to allow councils to take more effective action. Ian and John agreed to raise this at the next Gull Forum (scheduled for 25 November) and ask that the Forum lobby Worcester’s MP, Robin Walker.

 **Action: Ian Terry & John Ball**

1. National Organisation of Residents’ Associations (NORA)

Ian referred to the email he had circulated to Committee members about NORA, an organisation founded in 2003, to share advice and information on issues such as gulls, planning, licensing and traffic management. The organisation is recognised by some government departments and is invited to contribute on relevant consultations. Membership costs £25 for a calendar year. It was agreed to make an application to join in January 2021 then review towards the end of next year whether continued membership was worthwhile.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

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

B-SquOSH continues to operate, managed by Ann and Carol in a personal capacity, rather than as BSRA committee members. Its continued existence had been covered in the Autumn newsletter which had resulted in one new member to date.

Angela Lanyon was still composing a daily verse for circulation and had featured again on BBC Radio H&W. Angela was interviewed once more by Kate Justice during her programme, broadcast on 20 October, and given the opportunity to read three of her verses on air.

Ian commented that his wife, Vanessa, was continuing to collate Angela’s verses into bound versions. Ann added that her husband, Richard, was putting together a book as a record of 2020 including VE Day photos and a selection of Angela’s verses. The possibility was discussed of gifting a copy of this to Angela for her upcoming 90th birthday or selling copies in aid of a charity of Angela’s choice. Ian would discuss this latter proposal with Angela.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

1. Committee Reports

**7.1 Planning**

Carol reported that the City Council were now notifying her when BSRA was a consultee on Planning Applications. Recent communications had been for tree works, all of which had been supported by the Committee.

It was noted that the retrospective planning application (20/00469/FUL) submitted by 27b BS to regularise aspects of their work for which they were in breach of their existing permission was still categorised as “Pending a decision” on the Council’s website.

**7.2 Highways & Lighting**

Nothing to report.

**7.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

The Police had recently advised that a contract had been awarded for the provision of a new Community Messaging Service, to replace the one discontinued in May 2020. This was currently being trialled and staff being trained with a view to introducing it within the next few months.

**7.4 Wine Club**

The usual Summer Party had been cancelled and no events were planned for the foreseeable future.

**7.5 Membership**

Membership was stable, remaining at 59 paid-up members, representing 49% of the 121 households in the area. As already reported under 3. above, those paying for their membership annually would be contacted if they did not renew within the next few weeks. One annual member had already paid for 2020/21.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

**7.6 Finance**

The Association’s bank balance stood at £1,324.

Ian reminded the Committee that as a condition of the £100 sponsorship of the BSRA website received from the new management at Andrew Grant, they were recording the number of click-throughs from the site. It was thought that their willingness to repeat their contribution next year would be dependent on the interest generated.

**7.7 Newsletter**

The Committee expressed its thanks and gratitude to Robin for producing the excellent Autumn Newsletter, particularly given his broken arm. The Newsletter had been circulated in pdf format by email, uploaded to the website and publicised on the B-SquOSH WhatsApp Group. It was recognised that there were a few households for which we did not have a current email address who may not be aware of the Newsletter but from an environmental viewpoint, the Committee agreed that not producing a paper copy was the best solution environmentally and saved the BSRA printing costs.

Robin commented that for the next issue he would prefer to switch to a more user-friendly platform and update the design, which had not altered for some years.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

**7.8. Website & photographic archives project**

The possibility of adding a list of past Committee members to the website was discussed. It was recognised that information for the last 10 years would be fairly easy to piece together from minutes/newsletters but records from the early years of the BSRA, which had been founded in 1973, would take longer to review. As an initial project, it was agreed that Carol would draw up a list of past Chairmen.

 **Action: Carol Inman & Robin Dallaway**

Work on the photographic archive was ongoing.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

1. Any other business

None.

1. Dates of future events & meetings

**2021 – All dates provisional. If restrictions continue, Committee meetings will be held by Zoom.**

Tues 23 February - Committee meeting, 14 Albany Terrace (Ian Terry)

Tues 20 April - Committee meeting, 7 Albany Terrace (Robin Dallaway)

Sun 27 June - Summer Party, RGS Springfield

Tues 21 September - Committee meeting, 50 Britannia Square (John Ball)

Fri 12 November - AGM, URC, Albany Terrace

Tue 16 November - Committee meeting, 4 Stephenson Terrace (Carol Inman, Ian Terry to chair)

Sun 12 December - Christmas Carols Party, RGS Springfield