Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 September 2021

at 8.00 pm by videoconference

1. Attendance

Present: Ian Terry (Chair)

John Ball

Ella Blankstone

Ann Cowper

Robin Dallaway

Carol Inman (Secretary)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

**2.1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 May 2021 were agreed.

**2.2** Matters arising were dealt with under the relevant agenda items.

1. Review of recent events

3.1 Street Clean

This had been held successfully on Sunday 4 July with a higher turnout than usual even though there had been heavy rain showers late in the afternoon. A report was included in the Summer Newsletter and posted on the BSRA website. Thanks were sent to Nathan Gunnell from Worcester City Council who had attended on the day.

3.2 Summer Party

Originally scheduled for 27 June, this was held in the gardens of RGS Springfield on Sunday 1 August. The Party was well-attended by residents who enjoyed a relaxed afternoon in the sunshine.

1. Committee membership & responsibilities

It was noted that Clive Collings had left the Committee in June 2021 as a result of his move to Diglis.

Robin confirmed that he needed to step back from Committee work from the end of 2021 so would not therefore be seeking re-election at the AGM. However he would continue to maintain the BSRA website. Other current members would be standing for re-election or election as appropriate.

Ella, who had been co-opted to the Committee in February 2021, would take over responsibility for planning applications from Carol in the New Year. Carol would explain the current process to Ella before then.

**Action: Ella Blankstone & Carol Inman**

1. Bank account

*Note: John Ball acted as Chairman for this Item.*

Given that charges were due to be introduced for BSRA’s current bank account, Ian explained that he planned to open a new Community Account with Nat West. This was free to operate and offered online banking, a cheque book, paying in book and debit card. The two Authorised Signatories would be Ian Terry (Treasurer) and Carol Inman (Secretary).

The Committee resolved that:

* the Cardholders (who are also Authorised Signatories to the bank account cards are being requested for) are authorised to request and be issued with Debit Card(s) and/or Debit Card details (including replacement cards, card details and security details) for use in relation to the operation and the giving instructions in relation to the bank account.
* the Signing Rules contained in the mandate provided to operate the bank account cards are being requested for be supplemented (but not replaced) by the additional Card Transaction Authorisation Rules which will apply to the operation of the bank account using a Debit Card or Debit Card details. The current mandate to operate the bank account shall accordingly continue as supplemented and amended.
* the Customer agrees to be bound by the Debit Card terms contained in the Business account terms and any amendments made to them from time to time.
* the Customer agrees that all transactions authorised by a duly authorised Debit Card should be debited to the bank account cards are being requested for and that the Customer accepts liability for any unarranged overdraft resulting from any such transactions that Cardholders may use their Debit Card to order cheque books and statements and to obtain details of the balance on an account.
* the Bank may continue to rely upon this Resolution until it is revoked in writing by a suitably authorised notice to the Bank.

The Committee further resolved that:

* a banking relationship will be maintained with National Westminster Bank Plc (the Bank) in accordance with this mandate and:
* the individuals identified as Authorised Signatories may, in accordance with the Signing Rules:
  + sign cheques and give instructions for Standing Orders, Direct Debits, electronic payments, banker’s drafts and other payments on the accounts even if it causes an account to be overdrawn or exceed any limit; and
  + sign, accept or endorse bills of exchange
* Authorised Signatories identified in the Signing Rules for unlimited amounts may, in accordance with the Signing Rules:
  + sign agreements for electronic products, including payment systems, and appoint or remove administrators and operators of those electronic products. The Business / Organisation authorises the administrators and operators to exercise the powers detailed in the terms of each electronic product. These powers may be extensive and include the power to make payments and access information on behalf of the Business / Organisation, and in the case of administrators, the power to appoint and remove other administrators (with the same powers) and operators
* any Authorised Signatory may give other instructions or requests for information to the Bank in relation to the accounts; opening accounts with the same Signing Rules and Authorised Signatories; closing accounts; or other banking services or products
* the Bank may accept instructions that do not have an original written signature provided the Bank is satisfied that the instruction is genuine. Acceptance will be subject to any other agreement the bank may require for those instructions
* The mandate will continue until the Customer completes a new mandate / passes a new Resolution advising the changes in authority on the account(s)
* The Customer agrees to provide the Bank with a copy of its constitution and any amendment(s) to the constitution, certified as correct by the Secretary.

The Committee also agreed the following Account Signing Rules:

* On behalf of the Britannia Square Residents’ Association, the Bank may act on the instructions of one Authorised Signatory for unlimited amounts; and
* This is a mandate for a new account and applies to all accounts in this connection.

1. Gulls

Ian reported that he been contacted by Gordon Dugan, Gull Control Officer at Worcester City Council, who had advised that in February 2022 a month of hawking was being scheduled in an area including Britannia Square and York Place and that funding was being sought from residents’ groups to help offset the costs. BSRA had some funds remaining from last year but it was agreed to circularise residents to assess their willingness to provide further funding and assess views on the success of hawking in 2020. Among Committee members, the view was that hawking had disturbed the gulls and fewer were now nesting in the Square. Netting put over chimney stacks at 48/49BS had also acted as a deterrent.

It was agreed that an online survey would be a useful tool to gather information and Robin agreed to follow this up. Ian and John would assist with drafting suitable questions. Additionally, John offered to contact Wal Groves to ask how his property (4BS) had been affected by gulls this year. Once agreed, the survey would be publicised via email and B-SquOSH.

Ian offered to make contact with York Place Residents’ Association about their willingness to request funding for hawking from their residents.

**Action: Robin Dallaway, John Ball, Ian Terry & Carol Inman**

1. Pitchcroft – drones & noise issues

A number of residents had expressed concern on B-SquOSH about the noise and intrusion suffered as a result of drones being flown during race meetings in July. These were being hosted by properties in the Square and Stephenson Terrace, who had effectively hired out their gardens to the drone operators. However it appears that once the level of local opposition was appreciated, no further drone flights had occurred.

1. Residents’ Parking Scheme – visitor permits & loss of space

It was noted that the Committee had been contacted about the difficulty of obtaining parking permits for visiting tradespersons under the new MiPermit scheme as the app requires number-plate details. It was agreed that space was usually available in the 3-hour slots in the Square and the Scheme should not be altered for the time-being. However, Ian agreed to contact the City Council’s Parking Manager about the requirement to provide vehicle registration details for visiting commercial tradespersons.

**Action: Ian Terry**

On residents’ parking spaces, it was note that one space had been lost outside 36aBS but a replacement space had not yet been provided. Ella agreed to follow this up with her contact at County Hall.

**Action: Ella Blankstone**

1. RGS Springfield

It was reported that concern had been expressed by residents on the west side of the Square about the state of the hedge around the school and the potential risk posed by large tree branches overhanging the road.

John commented that this year’s hedge-cutting had not been carried out to the same high standard as in 2020 so the end result was disappointing. He was also concerned about the sycamore seedlings on the field and the green mesh fencing, which had not been replaced as promised. He agreed to follow this up with Laura Brown.

**Action: John Ball**

1. Future events

**10.1. AGM**

It was agreed that John Ball would chair the meeting and Ian would contact Gordon Dugan to ask whether he would be our Guest Speaker. Carol would invite local councillors and other guests as usual. Ian would also check with Nicky that microphones would be available for those on the platform and those wanting to ask questions from the floor. John would run a cash bar, assisted by Stephen Inman, and Ann would purchase suitable nibbles.

**Action: John Ball, Ian Terry, Carol Inman & Ann Cowper**

**10.2 Christmas Carols Party**

Detailed planning was deferred to the next Committee meeting but prior to then the availability of potential venues would be established. John would contact RGS Springfield and Ian would speak to Nicky about the URC Hall.

**Action: John Ball & Ian Terry**

1. Committee Reports

**11.1 Planning**

There had still not been a decision on the proposed kitchen extension at 52BS.

There had been a recent application for an extension at 7BS, open for consultation until 6 October. This was designed to provide additional ground floor living space.

**11.2 Highways & Lighting**

It was noted that due to the current closure of Back Lane South for sewer repairs, there had been a welcome absence of noise from cars being driven at speed in the Lane.

On the proposed gas main works in the Square which were not carried out as planned in February, the new contractor, Cadent, has no plans to carry out the works in the next 12 months.

**11.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

There had an incident of car vandalism in the past month, which had been attributed to a bag being left on display in the vehicle.

**11.4 Wine Club**

The Summer Party had been held on 6 August. Due to windy weather, the party had been re-located from garden gazebos to the URC Hall but it had still been a very successful evening.

**11.5 Membership**

Welcome Packs had been provided to new residents at 8AT and 18AT, who had arrived in the past few months. Ella confirmed that the new residents at 14BS and 52BS had also been provided with Packs.

**11.6 Finance**

The Association’s bank balance stood at £1,261.29.

11**.7 Newsletter**

There would not be another issue this year but a flyer would be printed and delivered to publicise the AGM and encourage new Committee members.

**Action: Ian Terry**

**11.8. Website & photographic archives project**

The Estate Agents, Fisher German, were currently the only sponsor of the BSRA website.

Dom Stokes had expressed interest in sponsorship by his new online estate agency business but no firm commitment had yet been received. It was agreed to follow this up with him.

**Action: Robin Dallaway & Carol Inman**

1. Any other business

Ann suggested that over the next few years the Committee should address relevant environmental issues such as new heating options and charging points for e-vehicles.

1. Dates of future events & meetings

**2021**

Fri 12 November - AGM, URC, Albany Terrace

Tue 16 November - Committee meeting (Venue/Zoom TBC)

Sun 12 December - Christmas Carols party (Venue TBC)