Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16 November 2021

at 8.00 pm by videoconference

1. Attendance

Present: Ian Terry (Chair)

 John Ball

 Ella Blankstone

 Robin Dallaway

 Carol Inman (Secretary)

Apologies: Ann Cowper

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

**2.1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 September 2021 were agreed.

**2.2 Matters Arising**

**Committee responsibilities**

Subsequent to the meeting, further to discussions between Ella & Carol, it had been agreed that Carol would continue to co-ordinate the Committee’s responses to planning applications.

**Gulls**

Ian reported that it was still too early to contact residents to assess their willingness to provide further funding for hawking although it was noted that at the AGM there had been no objection in principle to making a further payment. Gordon Dugan, Gull Control Officer at Worcester City Council, would contact us in the New Year once City Council funding had been confirmed. At that time, Ian would then contact York Place Residents’ Association about their willingness to request funding for hawking from their residents.

John confirmed that wire netting had been fitted to the chimney stacks of 4BS.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

**Residents’ Parking Scheme**

Ian had contacted the City Council’s Parking Manager who had confirmed that when using the new MiPermit scheme residents had to provide vehicle registration details for visiting commercial tradespersons.

On the loss of a residents’ parking space outside 36aBS, Ella had followed this up with her contact at County Hall and Cllr Geraghty. At the AGM, Cllr Geraghty had confirmed that he had recently visited the Square with a member of the Highways team and they had identified that it would be possible to create a parking space outside 37/38BS, on the north side of the Square. Following a discussion at the AGM, Cllr Geraghty agreed to consider whether two spaces could be created.

**RGS Springfield**

John reported that he had spoken with Laura earlier that day about some of the concerns raised by Tony Bettinson (31BS) at the AGM. On the overhanging branches, Laura had confirmed that all trees in the school grounds were subject to an annual inspection by an arboriculturist along with the City Council’s tree officer and the latest survey had concluded that all were stable and did not pose any risks. John agreed to relay this information to Tony.

 **Action: John Ball**

**Website sponsorship**

There had been no further interest shown by Dom Stokes (49BS) so it was agreed to consider the matter closed.

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

1. Review of Recent Events

**3.1. AGM - Friday 12 November 2021**

It was noted that using microphones at the meeting had been helpful but that standing up when speaking would help project voices even more effectively. It was also agreed that the microphone attached to the lectern should be used by those on the platform, leaving the hand-held microphones for those seated in the Church.

It was agreed that Carol would convey the Association’s thanks that Gill Yates had expressed to her neighbour, Andrew Wilkes, for getting Severn Trent to carry out the successful drain clearance works in Back Lane South.

 **Action: Carol Inman**

Regarding Colin Friedlander’s question submitted in advance of the AGM about publicising the House Painting guide, it was agreed that, in future, this would be included in the Welcome Pack for new residents. There were currently no plans to expand the guide to cover woodwork. Guidance on this could be found on the websites of the Georgian Society and English Heritage.

 **Action: All**

1. Gulls

It was agreed to defer any further discussion on gulls to the first Committee meeting in 2022, by which time it was expected Gordon Dugan would have confirmed that the City Council’s Policy & Resources Committee had approved the Environment Committee’s request for additional funding.

1. Residents’ Parking Scheme

It was noted that following the AGM, Gill Yates had sent an email to Cllr Lynn Denham, blind-copied to some members of the Committee seeking clarification about the Parking Scheme.

1. RGS Springfield hedge & trees

John agreed to mention to Laura that the railings on the north-west corner of the RGS Springfield grounds remain in a poor state of repair. Robin mentioned that a skilled blacksmith, such as Tony Ingarfield of Bringsty, should be able to carry out the work needed to restore them.

 **Action: John Ball**

1. Future Events

**7.1. Christmas Carols Party - Sunday 12 December 2021**

As previously agreed, Lucas Ball had been engaged to play the piano to accompany the carol-singing at a fee of £50. It was noted that Ian and John would need to review the song sheets to agree a running order that could be sent to Lucas in advance. John agreed to compere the evening and also to buy drinks for the bar, which would be run by Carol & Stephen Inman.

 **Action: John Ball & Ian Terry**

It was also agreed that Ann should ask Hannah Dallas whether her daughter Freya would be prepared to play a few numbers at the party.

 **Action: Ann Cowper**

Ian would update the flyer for issue in early December. **Action: Ian Terry**

1. Committee Reports

**8.1 Planning**

Carol reported that the City Council’s Planning Department was experiencing a number of staffing issues resulting in there being a backlog of applications to be dealt with including several relating to properties in the Square.

**8.2 Highways & Lighting**

It was noted that following recent works by Western Power on the east side of the Square most lights were working, the exception being the light outside 48BS. This had already been reported. Also John agreed to ask the residents of 48BS & 49BS to cut back foliage originating from their properties which obscured the light.

 **Action: John Ball**

Ian added that there was a light out near 16AT which he would report.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

John reminded the Committee that in the long term the County Council planned to convert all existing lights to LEDs in the interests of energy efficiency and to save money. However it was unclear how the new units would look once fitted into the historic lamp standards in the Square. It was agreed that this issue should be followed up with Cllr Geraghty.

 **Action: Carol Inman**

**8.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

A message from the Police about “Nottingham Knockers” had been circulated to NW members and posted on B-SquOSH on 15 November. This included a request for Ring doorbell or CCTV footage from residents visited by such callers the week before. John suggested that the examples of fake and genuine Pedlar’s Certificates should also be posted on B-SquOSH.

 **Action: Carol Inman**

**8.4 Wine Club**

John hoped to organise an event in February 2022, possibly to be held in the Llewellyns’ ballroom.

**8.5 Membership**

At the AGM, Ian had collected one Life membership from new residents, Dan & Kennedy Luton (8AT), and one Annual from Ella (The Old Coach House). The following day at the shoe box wrapping at the URC hall, he had collected a Life membership from long-standing residents, Simon & Sylvie Humphryes (7BS).

**8.6 Finance**

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

Ian reported that the Association’s bank balance stood at £1,370. An invoice for the hire of the URC for the AGM had not yet been received.

Ian also confirmed that the Association’s new NatWest bank account had been opened and that a further resolution was required to authorise the use of “Bankline for Communities”, a website and app for day-to-day operation of the account.

The Committee resolved that either one of the signatories, being Carol Inman and Ian Terry, is authorised to:

* Complete and sign the National Westminster Bank PLC’s Bankline application form for provision of internet banking services; and
* Accept the Bankline for Communities pilot terms of behalf of the Britannia Square Residents’ Association.

**8.7 Newsletter**

It was agreed that the next Newsletter would be produced in Spring 2022, once Gordon Dugan had confirmed the funding required for the gull deterrence programme. The Newsletter would be circulated in pdf format by email, uploaded to the website and publicised on the B-SquOSH WhatsApp Group

**8.8. Website & photographic archives project**

Robin expressed his aim to make the website easier to navigate. Ian commented that the Association would be able to fund external work, if required.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

1. Any other business

John reported that he had delivered the Association’s gift of a framed photograph to Noreen Collings, formerly of 52BS, now residing at Whiston Court, White Ladies Close. Noreen was in good spirits and had settled in well at her new apartment.

1. Future dates

**2021 - Event**

Sun 12 December - Christmas Carols Party, URC, Albany Terrace

**2022 - Committee Meetings (to be held by Zoom until further notice)**

Tues 25 January

Tues 5 April