Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 February 2022

at 8.00 pm by videoconference

1. Attendance

Present: Ian Terry (Chair)

 John Ball

 Ann Cowper

 Robin Dallaway

 Carol Inman (Secretary)

Apologies: Ella Blankstone

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

**2.1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 November 2021 were agreed.

**2.2 RGS Springfield**

John commented that he had not yet had an opportunity to speak to Tony Bettinson (31BS) regarding the concerns he had raised about over-hanging tree branches nor had he spoken to Laura at RGS about the railings on the north-west corner of the site. He agreed to take a further action to contact Tony once he had discussed both the railings and summer party date with Laura.

 **Action: John Ball**

**AGM**

Carol confirmed that she had sent an appropriate message of thanks to Andrew Wilkes (5BS) for his role in getting Severn Trent to carry out the successful drainage works in Back Lane South.

**Highways & Lighting**

John reported that as the street light between 48BS & 49BS was still out, he had not contacted the residents requesting they trim foliage obscuring the light. He would contact Cllr Geraghty on this again.

 **Action: John Ball**

Carol confirmed that she had contacted Cllr Geraghty about switching to LED lighting and was awaiting a reply.

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Carol confirmed that she had posted images of the fake and genuine pedlars’ certificates on B-SquOSH.

**Website**

On improving navigation, Robin reported that he had identified areas to discuss with John Cresswell at Nexus in due course.

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

1. Gulls

Prior to the meeting, Ian had circulated an email from Gordon Dugan of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) setting out the gull deterrent hawking programme for the next few months. Ian added that the Natural England licence which Gordon had been given for 2022 gave him more authority than in previous years.

It was noted that there would be hawking in a number of areas around the City centre, including Britannia Square. Worcester City Council would fund 50 - 60% of the cost with the balance being sought from businesses and residents’ associations. As a result, the contribution being sought from BSRA was £540. Ian confirmed that as £222 remained from monies collected from residents in 2020, £318 would need to be raised this year. After discussion, it was agreed that a communication should be delivered by hand setting out a simple request for a contribution of £10 per household. Ian agreed to draft a flyer for review by the Committee.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

John mentioned that there were some properties in the Square where the owners hoped to have steel mesh cages fitted to their chimney stacks. It was noted that some stacks were too tall to be reached by a cherry picker and would need access from roof hatches. It was agreed that issues at individual properties should be dealt with directly between the householders and WRS, without the Committee’s involvement.

1. National Organisation of Residents’ Associations (NORA)

BSRA had renewed its membership of NORA for 2022. It was agreed that NORA newsletters should be loaded to the BSRA website and publicised via BSquOSH WhatsApp, highlighting articles of particular interest or relevance. Ian agreed to send those received to date to Robin so that they could be added to the Residents’ Area of the site.

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

1. Future events

**5.1. Street clean**

Ian agreed to contact Lisa Smith at Worcester City Council to agree a date for a Street Clean, ideally on a Sunday/Monday in May.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

**5.2 Platinum Jubilee party**

The Committee agreed that an event should be held to mark The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee during the four day bank holiday weekend at the beginning of June. It was hoped that a party could be held on Sunday 5 June so John agreed to contact Laura at RGS Springfield to establish whether the grounds would be available on that day. Ann agreed to contact Kennedy Luton to enquire whether she would be happy to assist with planning activities for children attending the party.

 **Action: John Ball & Ann Cowper**

Once a date is agreed, the party would be publicised via the website, newsletter, flyer and B-SquOSH.

1. Committee Reports

**6.1 Planning**

Carol confirmed that in January the Planning Department had decided all of the outstanding applications relating to properties in the Square. The decisions had been notified to Committee members via WhatsApp.

John reported that he had attended and spoken at the Planning Committee considering the application from The Feathers public house in the Tything for a roof terrace. The application had been approved but with a number of conditions. In particular, there could be no music on the terrace and the terrace could not be used after 10 pm.

**6.2 Highways & Lighting**

As referred to under Matters Arising, the streetlight between 48BS & 49BS was still out. It was agreed that in addition to John contacting Cllr Geraghty, Carol would report it via the County Council website.

 **Action: Carol Inman**

**6.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

Carol reported that there had been a couple of incidents recently relating to vehicles. She planned to include a reminder in the next newsletter about keeping cars locked and removing all valuables.

**6.4 Wine Club**

John planned to talk to John & Liz Prosser about having the usual Summer Party in their garden this year. He was also considering the possibility of holding an event in March/April in the URC Hall.

 **Action: John Ball**

**6.5 Membership**

Membership currently totalled 55 (53 Life, 2 Annual).

It was noted that David London would be moving from 52aBS on 18 February and that the Harrison family would be moving in. Ann would send a Welcome Pack to them once they had settled in.

 **Action: Ann Cowper**

**6.6 Finance**

The Association’s bank balance stood at £1,402.14.

**6.7 Newsletter**

It was agreed to await finalisation of dates for future events before preparing the next issue, which would also include an update on gulls.

**6.8. Website & photographic archives project**

Robin reported thathe was hoping to get some images for the website from Historic England showing the Lodge at 54BS before it was demolished and replaced by Marlow Court. He had asked to purchase 8 images but has been offered 6, free of charge. Once received, they would be loaded to the website.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

1. Any other business

Ann mentioned her ongoing concern, raised at September’s Committee meeting, that over the next few years the Committee should address relevant environmental issues such as new heating options and charging points for e-vehicles. It was noted that at the BSRA AGM in November, Councillors had set out how the City and County councils were addressing environmental and climate issues but they had not addressed the specific issues related to properties in our area. It was agreed that Carol, as Secretary, should write to each of our 3 City councillors and our County councillor seeking guidance on where suitable advice can be sought.

 **Action: Carol Inman**

1. Dates of future events & meetings

**2022 – All dates provisional.**

Tues 5 April - Committee meeting 8 pm, venue/ Zoom tbc

Sun 5 June - Platinum Jubilee Party, RGS Springfield