Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2022

at 8.00 pm **at 30 Albany Terrace (Nicky Neville-Lee)**

1. Attendance

Present: John Ball (Chair)

Ella Blankstone

Ann Cowper

Nicky Neville-Lee

Carol Inman (Secretary)

**Guests:** Mark & Tracy Scott

Apologies: Robin Dallaway

John welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly our guests Mark & Tracy, and thanked Nicky both for agreeing to join the Committee and for hosting the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

**2.1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 September 2022 were agreed.

**2.2 Matters Arising**

On gulls, John reported that Gordon Dugan was about to retire as Gull Officer at Worcestershire Regulatory Services and Mitchell Wright had been appointed to take over the role from 1 April 2023. Mitchell was known to us from his hawking activity in the Square over the past few years.

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

1. Review of Recent Event

**AGM - Friday 11 November 2022**

The Committee discussed ideas for a suitable gift for Ian Terry who had retired as Treasurer and Membership Secretary at the AGM.

Carol thanked Ann for conveying the Committee’s thanks to Nick Carroll for the enjoyable and thought-provoking talk he had given following the AGM.

1. Future Events

**4.1. Christmas Carols Party - Sunday 11 December 2022**

John agreed to buy wine and soft drinks for the party and deliver them to the URC Hall. The bar would be run by Carol & Stephen Inman. He would also deliver the song sheets to the Hall.

**Action: John Ball**

As previously agreed, Lucas Ball had been engaged to play the piano to accompany the carol-singing at a fee of £50. Ann offered to ask Kennedy Luton and/or Hannah Dallas whether they would be prepared to lead the carol-singing. The chosen leader would then need to review the song sheets to agree a running order that could be sent to Lucas in advance.

**Action: Ann Cowper**

Carol would update the flyer and Ella would arrange printing. It was agreed that this should be delivered to residents in early December.

**Action: Carol Inman & Ella Blankstone**

**4.2 Coronation of King Charles III**

At the AGM, Robert Holdsworth had asked what plans the Committee had to mark the Coronation on Saturday 6 May 2023. It was agreed that an event similar to the Platinum Jubilee party should be held on Sunday 7 May 2023, ideally in the grounds of RGS Springfield but with the URC Hall available as an alternative should the weather be cold and/or wet. John agreed to ask RGS about using their grounds and Nicky would book the Hall.

**Action: John Ball & Nicky Neville-Lee**

Ann would ask Rachel Andrews and Kennedy Luton whether they would be prepared to help as they had for the Jubilee party.

**Action: Ann Cowper**

Carol would ask Robin to add the date to the BSRA website.

**Action: Carol Inman**

In the New Year, a small working group would be formed to plan the party.

*Post meeting Note: On 16 November, Ann confirmed that Kennedy would lead the carol singing at the Christmas party and assist with children’s activities at the Coronation party.*

1. **Local Government Boundary Commission proposals for Worcester City Council**

The Committee had received a note from Stephen Inman setting out the background of the City Council’s Cathedral Ward, which has included the BSRA area since the ward was created in 2004. It currently has three elected Councillors.

Following changes in population over the past 20 years, there has been a further Boundary Commission review which has recommended that the existing ward be split into two new ones entitled “City Centre” and “Fort Royal”, each with two Councillors. Under this proposal, the BSRA area would become part of the new “City Centre” ward.

The Boundary Commission is seeking the views of local individuals and community organisations on the proposed changes in a consultation period running to 9 January 2023. As a result, it has been suggested that the BSRA Committee may like to express an opinion and alert local residents that they may also like to comment on the proposal.

After discussion, it was agreed that Carol should submit a comment on behalf of the Committee rejecting the rather bland name of “City Centre” for the new ward, instead advocating that the new ward should retain the “Cathedral” name. She would also post details of the consultation on B-SquOSH.

**Action: Carol Inman**

1. **Committee membership & responsibilities**

It was noted that Ian Terry had not sought re-election to the Committee at the AGM which had resulted in the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary becoming vacant. John confirmed that following the AGM Nicky had agreed to join the Committee and was willing to act as Membership Secretary.

It was further noted that Tracy Scott had been asked to consider whether she was prepared to join the Committee as Treasurer.

Other Committee responsibilities were unchanged.

*Post meeting Note: On 19 November, John confirmed that Tracy would join the Committee as Treasurer.*

1. Committee Reports

**7.1 Planning**

Carol reported that there was only one application pending decision, the rear extension proposed by 12 BS.

**7.2 Highways & Lighting**

The Committee noted the good news recently received from Cllr Geraghty about the planned upgrade to all light bulbs and switchgear in the heritage lights in our area within the next few months. The actual columns and heritage lanterns would be unaffected.

Nicky confirmed that Severn Trent had booked the URC Hall for a “Drop In” event from 5.30 to 7.30pm on Thursday 24 November about the sewer replacement works due to be carried in Albany Terrace over the next few months.

**7.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

Nothing to report.

**7.4 Wine Club**

John hoped to organise an event in Spring 2023, possibly a visit to Malpas Stallards.

**7.5 Membership**

At the AGM, Ella had collected two annual membership fees, from Nic Aston and herself. The Campbells at 35AT had also renewed their annual membership prior to the meeting.

Richard Elwell (prospective buyer of 15BS) hoped to move in at the end of November. Once he had settled in, Ella would deliver a BSRA Welcome Pack. She would also deliver one to the new residents of 10BS in due course.

**Action: Ella Blankstone**

**7.6 Finance**

Carol reported that the Association’s bank balance stood at £1,898.17 including the three recent annual membership subscriptions. Cheques for AGM nibbles and for the hire of the URC were signed at the meeting.

It was noted that due to Ian’s ill-health, John Ball had been appointed as an additional signatory on the bank account. He had not yet received a NatWest Smart Card reader to enable him to authorise online payments

**7.7 Newsletter**

It was agreed that the next Newsletter would be produced in Spring 2023. The Newsletter would be circulated in pdf format by email, uploaded to the website and publicised on the B-SquOSH WhatsApp Group

**7.8. Website & photographic archives project**

A comprehensive update had been presented at the AGM.

1. Any other business

None.

1. Future dates

**2022 - Event**

Sun 11 December - Christmas Carols Party, URC, Albany Terrace

**2023 - Next Committee Meeting**

Tues 28 February (at 50BS, TBC nearer the date)