Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7 March 2023

at 8.00 pm **at 50 Britannia Square (John Ball)**

1. Attendance

Present: John Ball (Chair)

Ella Blankstone

Ann Cowper

Robin Dallaway

Nicky Neville-Lee

Tracy Scott

Carol Inman (Secretary)

John welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

**2.1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 November 2022 were agreed.

**2.2 Matters Arising**

Nicky confirmed that she would co-ordinate the leaving gift for Ian Terry.

**Action: Nicky Neville-Lee**

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

1. Future Events

**3.1. Street clean**

Having discussed potential dates, avoiding Easter, Bank Holidays and the Coronation, two potential Sundays were identified, 23 April or 21 May.Carol agreed to contact Lisa Smith at Worcester City Council to ask if either of these dates would be suitable.

**Action: Carol Inman**

*Post meeting Note: On 9 March, Carol confirmed that Lisa had advised that the Street clean could go ahead on Sunday 23 April, with the deep clean by the City Council the following day.*

**3.2 Summer Party - Celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III (Sunday 7 May 2023)**

John confirmed that Laura had kindly offered BSRA the use of the grounds of RGS Springfield for the event. Nicky added that the URC Hall would be available as an alternative should the weather be cold and/or wet. York Place Residents’ Association had booked the Hall for their own celebratory event taking place on Monday 8 May.

Carol agreed to post a “Save the date” notification on BSquOSH WhatsApp and invite Councillors and other regular guests nearer the time.

**Action: Carol Inman**

Ann would check with Kennedy Luton whether she was still prepared to help and also contact Rachel Andrews and Clare Harrison.

**Action: Ann Cowper**

*Post meeting Note: On 8 March, Ann confirmed that Kennedy was still willing to help along with Kirsty Jones. She was waiting to hear back from Rachel and Clare. Subsequently, Ann set up a new WhatsApp group for the Coronation Party “sub-committee” and arranged an initial planning meeting to be held on 14 March.*

1. Committee Reports

**4.1 Planning**

Carol reported that there were two applications currently at the consultation stage, the rear extension at 7ST and repair works to the rear of 23BS. The Committee had no objections to either application therefore it was agreed that Carol should convey this view to the Council.

**Action: Carol Inman**

**4.2 Highways & Lighting**

Nicky gave an update on the sewer replacement works in Albany Terrace. The complexity of the works had resulted in a budget overrun so the contractors would need to negotiate with Severn Trent to obtain further funding to complete the project.

The Committee noted that the upgrade to all light bulbs and switchgear in the heritage lights in our area in December had been a great success with all lamps now in good working order and shining brightly.

**4.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

There had been nothing to report from the Police but the residents of 52aBS had reported via BSquOSH that intruders had forced open their front gates one night in February. CCTV has now been installed.

**4.4 Wine Club**

An event had been arranged to be held on Thursday 30 March in the Ballroom of Ed & Sue Llewellyn. Invitations had been emailed to those on the mailing list. If spaces remained available, the event would also be posted on BSquOSH.

**4.5 Membership**

Two households had joined as Life members since the last committee meeting - the Scotts at 52BS and the Muntzers at 10BS.

It was agreed that John would deliver a BSRA Welcome Pack to 41BS as a change of ownership had taken place last November.

**Action: John Ball**

**4.6 Finance**

Tracy reported that the Association’s bank balance stood at £2097.93 including the recent membership subscriptions. It was noted that no invoice had yet been received for the gull deterrence work carried out in 2022.

**4.7 Newsletter**

It was agreed that the next Newsletter would be produced once the Street Clean date was agreed. This would include an article about the correspondence relating to a Dr Barnardo’s charity box which had originated from 50BS in the 1950s and had been acquired by a collector in Northern Ireland. There would also be an update on gull deterrence.

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

**4.8. Website & photographic archives project**

Robin reported that he had met with Ian Terry on a couple of occasions and had now taken over full responsibility from Ian for the website and the House Histories project. Robin planned to encourage new residents to share historical information about their properties, possibly via an appeal in the Newsletter.

**Action: Robin Dallaway**

1. Solar Together

A few weeks ago, most houses in the area had been mailed by the County & City Councils about Solar Together, a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. Although installations would not generally need planning permission, the position for Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas was unclear. The Committee also expressed concern that residents would have no control over which contractor was selected in the auction process and that one lacking suitable experience of Listed Buildings may be chosen.

Ann added that her husband, Richard, had spoken to Paul Collins, Conservation Officer at the City Council, who had advised that it would not be straightforward to get permission for the scheme to operate in our area.

As a result of these uncertainties, the Committee did not feel it would be appropriate to recommend the scheme to BSRA members.

1. Any other business

None.

1. Future dates

**Next Committee Meeting**

Tues 18 April (venue TBC)

**Events**

Sun 23 April - Street Clean

Sun 7 May - Coronation Party, grounds of RGS Springfield