Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 September 2023

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

1. Attendance

Present: John Ball (Chair)

Ella Blankstone

Ann Cowper

Nicky Neville-Lee

Tracy Scott

Carol Inman (Secretary)

Apologies: Robin Dallaway

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 April 2023 were agreed.

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

1. Review of recent events

3.1 Street Clean **(23/24 April)**

This year’s event had been brought forward a few weeks to reflect the earlier date of the Summer party. Weed removal in Albany Terrace had been hampered by the on-going Severn Trent works but the Square had benefited from the redeployment of volunteers unable to access parts of the Terrace. As usual, Lisa Smith, Community Engagement Officer at Worcester City Council, had provided tools for residents to use. Nicky had kindly arranged for tea to be served in the URC Hall afterwards.

It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to maintain their frontages in good condition all year round and not just at the time of the annual street clean.

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

This was held on a warm, sunny Sunday in the gardens of RGS Springfield. Although there were a number of competing events being held on the day, there was a good turn-out of residents, dressed in their best “Coronation” attire. A report with pictures and verses, narrated by Angela Lanyon, had been posted on the BSRA website. Thanks were expressed to the sub-committee who had organised the event.

1. EV Charging Points

It was noted that as many residents in the Square and Albany Terrace do not have off-road parking or a guaranteed parking space outside their property, charging an EV at home would not be straightforward. Although a number of public charging points are already available in City council car parks, local supermarkets and on the University’s Severn campus, it was agreed that we should contact our County councillor to ascertain the County Council’s plans for on-street provision, similar to that being trialled in other parts of the country. Carol would contact Cllr Geraghty about this

**Action: Carol inman**

*Post meeting note*: 5/10 - Cllr Geraghty advised that the County Council is preparing an EV charging strategy and assessing the many systems and technologies currently available for on-street charging.

1. Future events

**5.1. AGM**

This would be held at the URC on Friday 10 November. It was agreed that Louis Stephen, the current Mayor, should be invited to be our Guest Speaker. Carol agreed to contact his PA. John would chair the meeting.

Reports would be prepared as last year, John would run a cash bar, assisted by Stephen Inman, and Nicky would purchase suitable nibbles. Carol would invite local councillors and other guests as usual. Ella would arrange printing of flyers to be delivered to all households and greet attendees if Tracy was unable to attend.

**Action: All**

*Post meeting note*: 26/9 – The Mayor’s PA advised that the Mayor had a prior engagement on 10 November.

**5.2 Christmas Carols Party**

Nicky confirmed that the URC would be available for this event on Sunday 10 December, from 5 – 7pm, and that she would contact the pianist, Lucas Ball, to check his availability. It was suggested that local residents be invited to have stalls selling home-made crafts and decorations in the Hall alongside the party, and that carol-singing take place in the Church. Ann would ask Kirsty to design a suitable flyer and Carol would ask Kennedy if she would again lead the singing.

**Action: Nicky Neville-Lee, Ann Cowper & Carol Inman**

*Post meeting notes*: Kirsty would design a suitable flyer for the event; Lucas Ball was booked to accompany the carol-singing; Kennedy agreed to lead the singing.

1. Committee Reports

**6.1 Planning**

Carol advised that three applications were pending: 8AT (removal of an internal wall), 3BS (pollarding of a lime tree) and 15BS (listing building consent for various work).

**6.2 Highways & Lighting**

On visitor permits, although the rules of the BS/AT residents’ parking scheme do not provide for these the Committee had become aware that the Mi Permit app had allowed some residents to obtain permits for visitors to park in AT. It was thought that this loophole had now been closed. The rules of the ST scheme do provide for visitor permits.

It was noted that since the streetlights in the Square and Terraces had been refurbished, all were functioning well.

**6.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

Ella referred to the incident, a few weeks ago, of youths wearing balaclavas acting suspiciously. Details had been shared via the WhatsApp group and reported to the police.

**6.4 Wine Club**

It was noted that a successful Summer Party had been held in the URC Hall in July. It had not been possible to erect the gazebos in the Prossers’ garden due to high winds.

**6.5 Membership**

John confirmed that he had delivered a Welcome Pack to Catherine & Dennis Evans, who had moved into 43BS a few months ago. 4BS had been sold to Tracy & Linsey Reid in August. A Welcome Pack would be delivered once they had moved in.

Membership currently totalled 58 (55 Life, 3 Annual). Carol agreed to circulate an up-to-date list of members to the Committee.

**Action: Carol Inman**

**6.6 Finance**

The Association’s bank balance stood at £2,039.93, which included funds ring-fenced for the gull programme.

**6.7 Newsletter**

It was agreed to compile a newsletter for circulation prior to the AGM. Copy would need to be sent to Robin by COB on Friday 6 October to cover AGM, Carols party, gulls, planning & Neighbourhood Watch. Carol agreed to prompt Committee members to send their copy to Robin.

**Action: Carol Inman**

**6.8. Website & photographic archives project**

Robin had reported that work was ongoing on the photographic home page and that he was continuing to develop other content including some about Ruth Burden, an artist and former BS resident.

1. Any other business

None.

1. Dates of future events & meetings

Fri 10 November - AGM, URC, Albany Terrace

Mon 13 November - Committee meeting (50BS, John Ball)

Sun 10 December - Christmas Carols party, URC, Albany Terrace