

# S.G.R.A.

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## **MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION** **12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**LOCATION** - Grange Farm School

**DATE** – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**PRESENT** – John Archer – Chairman, Councillor John Blundell, Mick Fitzpatrick – Treasurer, Sheila Weare – Minutes Secretary.

Plus 27 members of the Association.

**WELCOME** – John A paid tribute to Councillor Gary Crookes who had died suddenly on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019. John, Mick and Sheila had attended Gary's funeral that morning. Gary always supported us well and enjoyed attending our meetings. As Lord Mayor 2013/2014, he had been a superb ambassador for Coventry and he will be greatly missed. A minute's silence was held in Gary's memory. In lieu of a raffle, donations were requested and an amount of £50 will be donated and split between Gary's nominated charities which are Diabetes UK and the Dogs Trust.

**APOLOGIES** – Adrian Burr, Pauline Carson, Vic and Bridie Clarke, Bernard and Jane Every, Kathy Jackson, Yvonne Lowe, John Potter.

**MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were accepted.

**MATTERS ARISING** – The resurfacing of Mantilla and the footpaths in Finnemore and Dewsbury is complete. It was reported that the gutter on Mantilla towards Hexworthy, is full of stones and John B will arrange for these to be removed. The vegetation on the central reservation of the A45 near to Bathway has been trimmed back. Elsewhere the poppies are spectacular.

**REVISED CONSTITUTION** - Since the 2018 AGM and following the death of Derek Acheson in September 2018, minor changes have been made to the Constitution. The role of Membership Secretary has been taken out and that of Web Master added to the Constitution. A copy of the Constitution can be found on our website.

**PRIVACY POLICY** – In order to comply with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), SGRA have a Privacy Policy as part of the Constitution, this can be viewed on the website. A member's details will only be held for as long as the member concerned agrees. Please inform the Association if you no longer wish us to hold your details. The meeting accepted the revised Constitution and the Privacy Policy.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – the three officers have agreed to continue in their roles.

**HERITAGE WEEKEND** – The Animal Pound dating from 1663 in Coat of Arms Bridge Road is being cleared and refurbished for the first time since the mid-1970s, by Mr Jim Passmore and Mr Tony Rose (Friends of Kenilworth Road Woodlands). The Pound is a Grade 2 listed building. The Friends of The War Memorial Park have offered their park rangers to erect a rustic fence around the Pound. SGRA has invited the Lord Mayor to re-open the Pound (at a date and time to be advised) and we have also applied to Heritage Trust for it to be included in Coventry's Heritage Open Days in September this year. If anyone knows where we could 'hire' a small farm animal for the event, please let us know. Two commemorative plaques will be erected at the opening ceremony, one for 1975 and another for 2019. There is a Pound cottage nearby which is still inhabited. Details about the Pound can be found on our website. Further work clearing the Pound is to be undertaken on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and volunteers are needed to help. Approximately 10 people from our meeting have offered to assist. John B may be able to provide plastic bags and gloves but please bring gloves, loppers and rakes if you can. We subsequently hope to set up a heritage trail to include six historical sites of interest within 'Stivichall Hamlet'. The residents of the three houses to be included in the heritage trail will be advised.

**LOCAL POLICE TEAM** – SGRA has been informed that there are no longer enough police officers available to attend our meetings. This was a key link in the past and enabled residents to put forward their concerns. Wainbody Ward now includes Whoberley, however no additional officers have been made available to us. Ward crime statistics for April 2019 taken from finhamnw.org.uk are: Burglary 17 (last year 11), Criminal Damage 5 (5), Robbery 2 (0), Vehicle Crime 5 (3). There was one vehicle related crime on Styvechale Grange. John A attends the Police Liaison meetings at Canley Police Station organised by Sgt. Amy Wright. The Police will no longer handle reports of lost and found property. Fletchamstead Highway Police Station is to remain open for the foreseeable future. Speedwatch trials have previously been carried out on Styvechale Grange but are considered not to be particularly viable. However, Finham Parish Council are pursuing this but there has been difficulty with equipment and a Police officer to run it.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL** – John B paid a personal tribute to Gary Crookes as a friend and colleague and said Gary had always been willing to deputise at our meeting while John B was Lord Mayor. He also paid tribute to Gary's work on the Planning Committee.

John A asked if there was a target number of student flats envisaged for Coventry. John B said the high-rise blocks were releasing houses back to family accommodation. Certain streets in Canley are completely composed of HIMOs. Coventry City Council have the authority to apply Article 4 but choose not to do so. However, following a change in Council Cabinet, the approach to HIMOs may be under review with 'Selective Licensing' where landlords must comply with certain criteria. A recent **Speedwatch** on Erithway Road had not taken place because of bad weather and faulty equipment. Posts have been erected in Cannon Hill Road to prevent parking on the verges. **Police** – John B is concerned that Whoberley has now been added into our Ward with no extra Police resources and he and Councillor Tim Sawdon will be meeting with the Chief Superintendent of Coventry, Mike O'Hara. **Heritage Trail** – John B supports our endeavours and hopes we can invite the local schoolchildren to get involved. **Congestion Charge** – Coventry City Council have submitted a revised plan in an attempt to avoid a congestion charge.

**Godiva Festival** – Entry is no longer free of charge. **Foot Golf at War Memorial Park** – No consultation had taken place and it has been noticed that part of the course has already been 'vandalised'.

**Mantilla Drive** – Following completion of the resurfacing, John B was asked whether central white lines could be added, specifically on the bends. John B advised that this would have to go through a consultation process, however he would speak to the head of The Highways Department about it. Unfortunately, the new smooth surface has encouraged drivers to exceed the speed limit. The service road on the A45 between the railway bridge and Robins and Day is being used as a short cut in order to bypass heavy traffic and various measures to stop this are being considered.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – **Website** - Mick has purchased WebEasy Version 10 software. Our website received 101 visits during June, some from abroad. Mick asked if anyone wanted a role on the Committee as Web Editor. No-one volunteered and so Mick will continue as Web Editor. **Finances** - Mick thanked the two Auditors, David Cleaver and Roy Preedy, for auditing the accounts and they have confirmed they are willing to continue. Mick presented the accounts which indicated a balance of £823.51 at the end of our financial year. Latest expenditure not accounted for reduces the figure to £776.06. SGRA's running costs per year are approximately £150 and we will eventually need to secure more income. Tony Butcher gave a vote of thanks for the three officers.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – **Speakers at SGRA Meetings** – it was suggested we occasionally have a speaker (maybe inviting members of Tea and Chat) and charge, say, £2. A list of possible speakers together with costs is being obtained from the Greyfriars Society in Coventry and the Committee will consider this suggestion. **July 2019 Newsletter** - John asked for volunteers to deliver these. **Finham Festival** was well attended with activities of interest for all the family. West Midlands Lord Mayor Andy Street attended and he acknowledged the hard work which had resulted in Finham Library obtaining charitable status. Finham library is the only community building in our area. **Finham Parish Council** have published their first newsletter. **King's Hill** – Coventry City Council owns a large amount of the land, but it comes under Warwickshire planning authority. The Finham area will be adversely affected by this development and the Parish Council are concerned that there are no satisfactory infrastructure plans by either Warwickshire District Council or Coventry City Council. Mick thanked Cliff Weare for his work on producing a map of the proposed heritage trail of 'Stivichall Hamlet' and Sheila and Cliff for producing the newsletter and the supporting pictures. **St James Church** on Leamington Road want to extend the premises. Tony Butcher and Mick Fitzpatrick are interested in visiting the crypt which exists at the church.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019. **There is no meeting in August 2019.**