**BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of**

**the Britannia Square Residents’ Association**

held at

**the United Reformed Church, Albany Terrace, Worcester**

at

**7.30 pm on Friday 10 November 2023**

1. **Welcome and opening remarks**

John Ball welcomed everyone, particularly new residents, Lindsay & Tracey Read, and our guests PCSO Brian Carnemolla, PC Kieran Redman, County Councillor Simon Geraghty and City Councillors Lynn Denham and Atif Sadiq. John expressed his thanks to the United Reformed Church for the use of their building for our meeting and to our guests for their support of our activities. He also asked for a moment of reflection to mark the passing during the past year of Clive Collings, formerly of 52BS, who had been a long-serving Committee member and Tony Bettinson, a resident of the Square and long-standing member of the Association.

1. **Attendance**
	1. **Apologies were received from:**

Members: Martin & Mel Cooper, Claire & Robin Dallaway, Patrick Eckersley, Jon & Susanna French, Jenny & Michael Goode, Anna & Toby Hooper, Michael Hudson, Dan & Kennedy Luton, Jenny & Stephen Preedy, Liz Prosser, Vivien Roberts, Christopher & Maureen Savill, Mark & Tracy Scott, Ian & Lucy Stevens, Vanessa Terry, Catherine & David Wightman.

Non-members: Richard Elwell & Sarah Fernihough, Simon Hampton & Sue Sinclair, Gary Shepherd, Lisa Smith, Community Engagement Officer, Worcester City Council.

* 1. **Those present were:**

**Committee members:** John Ball, Ella Blankstone, Ann Cowper, Carol Inman & Nicky Neville-Lee.

**Other members**: Nic Aston, Virginie Eckersley, Corinne Flannigan, Colin & Jill Friedlander, Ann & Nick Gilbert, Julia & Robert Holdsworth, Stephen Inman, Angela Lanyon, Ed & Sue Llewellyn, Andrew Oddy, John Prosser, Lindsay & Tracey Read, Adele & Chris Rimell, Ian Terry and Gill Yates.

**In attendance:**  Steve Dent (guest speaker), PCSO Brian Carnemolla, PC Kieran Redman,

 County Cllr Simon Geraghty, City Councillors Lynn Denham & Atif Sadiq.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the last AGM, held on 11 November 2022, were approved.

John Ball referred to Ian Terry’s resignation as Treasurer, recorded in the Minutes, and was pleased to welcome Ian to this year’s meeting. He repeated the Association’s thanks for Ian’s valued service and presented him with farewell gifts.

There were no other matters arising.

1. **Election of Committee for 2023/4**

The Association’s Committee consists of a maximum of seven elected members and three co-opted members. Both Nicky Neville-Lee and Tracy Scott had joined the Committee when it met a few days after last year’s AGM. As a result, they would need to be elected by members. The other two elected members both stood for re-election:

John Ball

Carol Inman

Nicky Neville-Lee

Tracy Scott

The above members were proposed, seconded and elected/re-elected unopposed.

Ella Blankstone and Ann Cowper each expressed their willingness to continue to serve as co-opted members. Also, Robin Dallaway had agreed to continue as a co-opted member to assist with the website.

The Committee is most grateful for their continued support.

Any resident wishing to join the Committee was invited to approach a Committee Member after the meeting and attend as a guest at our next meeting on Monday 13 November.

**5. Committee Members’ Reports**

***Copies of the Committee Members’ reports and minutes are published on our website:*** [***www.britanniasquare.org***](http://www.britanniasquare.org)***. Please find the event on the calendar and click through to see the documents or click on Residents’ Area in the header and select Document Library.***

***Additional and significant matters are noted below.***

**5.1. Secretary’s Report**

**5.1.1 Events**

Carol Inman reported that the Association had been able to hold all of its regular events during the past year, starting with the Christmas Carols Party in December.

The Street Clean, supported by Worcester City Council, had taken place in late April, slightly earlier than usual, to reflect the earlier date of the Summer Party. The on-going Severn Trent works had hampered cleaning in parts of Albany Terrace.

Carol also reported that the Coronation Summer Party, held on 7 May in the grounds of RGS Springfield, had been well-attended. In addition to the Coronation, the event had marked the 50th anniversary of the Association, which had been formed on 8 May 1973. She thanked Angela Lanyon for entertaining us with a selection of poems and added that her verses could be found on the BSRA website, including one relating to the anniversary.

**5.1.2 Highways & Lighting,**

The upgrade of all the bulbs and switchgear in the heritage lights in our area had been completed in December 2022 and had been a great success. However, there were a couple of unlit lamps on the north side of the Square, which had been reported to the County Council.

**5.1.3 Neighbourhood Watch (NW)**

The NW scheme continued to operate, mainly using WhatsApp messaging. Camera doorbells were proving useful to detect unwanted callers. Carol also mentioned that as over half of all crime is now online fraud, as well as securing our properties, we should also ensure that we are vigilant about our online security.

**5.1.4 Planning Applications**

Carol explained the Committee’s active role in reviewing and commenting on planning applications both within the Conservation Area and in adjacent areas which would affect residents.

Members were reminded to make use of the Council’s website to inspect plans and make comments.

**5.2. Financial Report**

John Ball reported that Tracy Scott had taken on the role of Treasurer last November following Ian Terry’s resignation but was unable to attend the AGM. In her absence, he presented the accounts for 2022/23 which were approved by the meeting. The sole sponsor of the website is now Fisher German. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing support.

On gull deterrence, it was noted that sufficient funds had been collected in the summer, by requesting £10 donations from residents, to cover the Association’s contribution towards the cost of hawking. An invoice for £560 was still awaited from Worcester City Council. John asked that residents remain vigilant and report gull issues either to him or alternatively direct to the Gull Officer, Mitchell Wright, contactable via the website of Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

**5.3. Website Report**

In the absence of Robin Dallaway, Carol Inman highlighted the key points of Robin’s report.

The website was maintained to provide a central resource for information about the area and residents were encouraged to take a look at the resources available.

**5.4. Wine Club Report**

John Ball presented the Wine Club’s report and commented that two events had been held in the past year. The first, in March, had been a tasting of supermarket wines chosen by the Wine Club committee. The second, the Summer Party in July, was relocated from the Prossers’ garden to the URC Hall due to bad weather but was well-attended and enjoyed by all. As in previous years, wines were selected from Jane McQuitty’s “Top 100 Summer Wines” as published in The Times.

Anyone with an interest in wine was invited to contact John to be added to the mailing list for future events.

**6. Any other business**

Angela Lanyon commented that following the Severn Trent sewer works in Albany Terrace, which were completed in June, unpleasant sewage smells had remained at the end of the Terrace, at its junction with York Place Lane. Severn Trent had inspected the site but believed the smell to be gas. Angela and others insisted it was sewage and asked if our councillors could contact Severn Trent on their behalf to seek a resolution to the issue.

Robert Holdsworth added that as a result of the Albany Terrace works more vehicles had used Back Lane North which had resulted in a sink hole developing at the eastern end of the Lane which needed repair.

Cllr Geraghty agreed to follow up both of the above issues.

John Prosser expressed his concern that the black bin situated adjoining his property at the junction of Albany Terrace and York Place Lane was often over-flowing, particularly with dog waste bags, and asked if it could be re-located. Cllr Denham explained that the City Council was gradually replacing all post-mounted bins with larger black bins which could be used both for general and bagged dog waste. She agreed to take up this issue and ensure the existing bin was emptied more frequently.

Since moving into the Square recently, Tracey Read had noticed that residents’ cars parked on the south side of the Square were frequently covered in pigeon droppings. As the pigeons were usually sitting in trees belonging to RGS Springfield, she asked whether the school could be asked to cut back some of the branches overhanging the road. John Ball explained that the school had regular tree surveys and carried out work as recommended by their advisors. He agreed to follow up this issue with the school.

Gill Yates commented that maybe the parking areas most affected by pigeon droppings could be allocated to 3 hour parking rather than to residents’ parking. Ann Cowper agreed with Gill as the 3 hour slots were not affected by overhanging trees. Cllr Geraghty explained that any change to the designation of spaces within the parking scheme would necessitate a Traffic Regulation Order.

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Following the meeting, Steve Dent gave an enjoyable and informative talk about the Worcester Community Garden on Pitchcroft.