Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2020

at 8.00 pm by videoconference

1. Attendance

Present: Ian Terry (Chair)

Ann Cowper

Robin Dallaway

Carol Inman (Secretary)

Apologies: John Ball

Clive Collings

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

**2.1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 April 2020 were agreed.

**2.2 RGS Springfield**

John had submitted an update prior to the meeting. He reported that the irrigation system had helped more saplings in the hedge to survive the summer but more planting would be needed this autumn to fill in gaps.

The privet hedge had been cut a few weeks ago by an external sub-contractor who had done a marvellous job with much quieter battery-powered hedge cutters. The final tidying up (particularly on the north-east corner) will be done by RGS Estates staff. This was not yet complete but John would remind Laura about it, if it remained outstanding.

**Action: John Ball**

**Guidance for exterior painting**

The House Painting Colour Guide had been completed over the summer and was now available on the website.

It had also been circulated to members of B-SQuOSH and to those on our regular mailing lists, thereby achieving over 90% coverage. Thanks were expressed to Robin and Clive for their work on this and for getting approval from Dr Paul Collins, the City Council’s Planning & Conservation Officer who would use the Guide for reference and share it with those submitting planning applications in our area.

**One-way section of Britannia Square**

No incidents of driving the wrong way in the one-way section had been witnessed recently so it was agreed that no action was required for the time-being.

**Finance**

Given the current situation, it was agreed that sponsors who had not paid for 2020 would not be chased for payment. Ian reminded the Committee that £100 had been received from the new management at Andrew Grant.

**Angela’s verses**

Carol confirmed that she had made contact with BBC H&W and, as a result, Angela had been interviewed by Kate Justice during her radio programme, broadcast on 19 May.

Ian conveyed Angela’s thanks for this having been arranged. He added that Angela was distributing her verses to a number of contacts across the world and that his wife, Vanessa, was preparing three bound versions of the verses for posterity. Interest had been expressed in publishing the verses.

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

1. Gulls

Ian reported that he had not received a report from Pest Free Solutions on their hawking activities since July. Prior to that he had received regular reports which had been shared via B-SquOSH, our regular mailing lists and posted on the website.

It was noted that as a result of hawking over the spring/summer, combined with megaphone use and an egg replacement programme, the number of viable gull nests in the Square was much lower this year and therefore the nuisance to residents was significantly reduced. It was not yet known whether funds would be available from Worcestershire Regulatory Services to continue gull deterrence activities next year.

It was agreed that Ian and John would canvass opinion from those most affected by gulls in previous years to assess how well the hawking and other gull deterrence measures had worked. Names suggested were Anna Hooper, Louise Hoskyns-Staples, Gareth Olden, Liz & Chris Price and Vivien Roberts. Evidence gathered could then be presented at the next Gull Forum, due to be held within the next few weeks, where John and Ian would represent BSRA.

**Action: John Ball & Ian Terry**

1. B-SquOSH (Britannia Square Organisation for Self-Help)

B-SquOSH continues to operate, managed by Ann and Carol in a personal capacity, rather than as BSRA committee members. The group has coverage of around two-thirds of the area’s households, of which around 60% are Association members. Using WhatsApp has reached many who have not previously engaged with BSRA and proved very useful to connect neighbours needing assistance or advice with those able to offer help.

1. Future Events:

**5.1. AGM**

It was agreed that the physical meeting at the URC, provisionally scheduled for 13 November, should be cancelled but that a meeting should be held by Zoom (or equivalent platform) so that accounts and reports could be tabled and Committee members re-elected. Ian offered to discuss the management of large virtual meetings with Emily Walsh (3AT) and to cancel the URC booking with Nicky Neville-Lee.

**Action: Ian Terry**

**5.2. Christmas Carols Party**

John had spoken with Laura Brown, Head of RGS Springfield, about the party, which had been provisionally booked to take place at the school on Sunday 13 December. Laura had advised that a full risk assessment would be required before we could use their facilities and that she would not be able to make a decision before early December. Ann added that the school was being thoroughly cleaned each evening and that if the party went ahead, we may be liable to cover the cost of this. Ann agreed to try and

clarify this with Laura.

**Action: Ann Cowper**

It was recognised that given current restrictions on gatherings of more than six people, it was unlikely that a party could be held but it was agreed not to make a decision on cancellation for the time-being.

It was also agreed that Ian would check with Nicky about the URC’s stance on risk assessments/cleaning so that if a party was possible in December and the school was unavailable, we had already researched another venue.

**Action: Ian Terry**

1. Committee Reports

**6.1 Planning**

Ian commented that Theresa Mountain (28BS) had emailed him in July about a retrospective planning application to be submitted by 27b BS to regularise aspects of their work for which they were in breach of their existing permission. The application had been drafted with assistance from Dr Paul Collins. Ian had not heard anything further on this.

**6.2 Highways & Lighting**

Nothing to report.

**6.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

Carol reported that a number of alerts had been circulated to residents in the past few months, the most recent being about an attempt to steal a resident’s car by cloning its electronic key. Unfortunately, the Police’s Community Messaging Service had been out of action since May so details of incidents had been gathered only by direct reporting from individuals or via the NextDoor app.

**6.4 Wine Club**

No events were planned for the foreseeable future.

**6.5 Membership**

Membership was stable, remaining at 59 paid-up members, representing 49% of the 121 households in the area.

**6.6 Finance**

The Association’s bank balance stood at £1,343.25.

**6.7 Newsletter**

It was agreed that the next Newsletter, due to be issued in the autumn, would be in pdf format posted on the website and publicised using email and the B-SquOSH WhatsApp group. Matters to be covered would include Gulls, the House Painting Guide, cancelled events, B-SquOSH and publicity on behalf of Worcester Food Bank and the Shoe Box appeal.

**Action: Ann Cowper, Robin Dallaway & Carol Inman**

**6.8. Website & photographic archives project**

Robin reported that he has kept the website up-to-date over the past few months and, as requested, a News section has been created on the Home page. He has posted reports and photos on the Gull deterrence campaign, Angela’s daily verses and the new House Painting guide. Access to The Hive is still limited but he plans to book a slot to continue his background research on the photos acquired before lockdown.

**Action: Robin Dallaway**

1. Any other business - resignation of Committee member

It was noted that David Greenhill had moved to Oxford with his family over the summer. As a result, he had resigned from the Committee with effect from 26 August 2020. The Committee recognised his huge contribution to the BSRA over a number of years, in particular commenting on planning applications and liaising with the County Council on resurfacing and lighting issues. More recently he represented the Committee on the City Council’s Gull Forum. Thanks were expressed to Robin for organising a leaving gift for David, which had been much appreciated by both David and his wife, Sandy.

Going forward, Clive has offered to assist the Secretary in drafting responses to planning applications. Carol agreed to notify the Planning Department that her name should replace David’s as consultee on behalf of BSRA.

**Action: Carol Inman**

1. Dates of future events & meetings

Fri 13 November - AGM (TBC)

Tue 17 November - Committee meeting (Zoom, hosted by Robin Dallaway)

Sun 13 December - Christmas Carols party (TBC)