Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2021

at 8.00 pm by videoconference

1. Attendance

Present: John Ball (Chair)

 Ella Blankstone

 Ann Cowper

 Robin Dallaway

 Ian Terry (Items 1 – 7.6)

 Carol Inman (Secretary)

Apologies: Clive Collings

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

**2.1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 November 2020 were agreed.

A warm welcome was extended to Ella who had recently agreed to be co-opted to the Committee.

**2.2 RGS Springfield**

It was noted that there had been no work carried out recently on the hedge or action taken to replace the green plastic fencing.

**Angela Lanyon’s verses**

Robin confirmed that all of Angela’s recent verses had been added to the BSRA website and he had re-instated the earlier verses which, for a short period, had not been visible on the page.

**Annual subscriptions**

Ian reported that two households had renewed their annual subscriptions (22 & 35 AT) but three in the Square remained outstanding. Ann agreed to follow up 23 BS.

**Action: Ann Cowper**

**Website**

Carol had compiled a list of past BSRA Chairmen and circulated this to Committee members. The list would be added to the website in due course.

**Action: Robin Dallaway**

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

1. Gulls

Ian and John would be attending the next Gull Forum on 25 February and would report back as usual. A summary would be circulated via B-SquOSH and email. Residents would be asked to report any new nesting sites.

Ian had received a number of emails from Robin Kerr on NORA’s plans to lobby Natural England but currently he did not believe that the scale of the gull problem in Worcester warranted our involvement. However he would review this following the next Gull Forum.

It was noted that there would be hawking in the Tything this year, for which matched funding would have to be raised from residents although given that there was no residents’ organisation in place this may prove challenging.

 **Action: Ian Terry & John Ball**

1. National Organisation of Residents’ Associations (NORA)

As agreed, BSRA applied to join NORA in January. Membership has been confirmed for one year. A newsletter and a number of emails on topical issues have been received and circulated to the Committee. Membership will be reviewed and discussed at the end of the year.

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

B-SquOSH continues to operate and Angela Lanyon still composes a daily verse for circulation.

A B-SquOSH Zoom quiz had been organised by Helen Keegan on 13 February which had been much appreciated by those that took part.

1. Future events

**6.1. Street clean**

Ian agreed to contact Lisa Smith at Worcester City Council to establish whether a Street Clean would be possible this year and, if so, to arrange a suitable date.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

**6.2 Summer party**

John reported that RGS Springfield had offered two potential dates for the party, either 28 June (after Sports Day) or 11 July. After discussion, it was agreed that 11 July may be a safer option as it would allow for slippage in the release from lockdown. John would advise RGS of the chosen date and the party would be publicised via the website, email and B-SquOSH in due course.

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

1. Committee Reports

**7.1 Planning**

It was agreed to support the Planning Application at 36BS. Carol had received comments from Clive and Ian and would post these on the City Council’s website.

**Action: Carol Inman**

It was noted that work had been undertaken at 36aBS in the past few months to create a front driveway but the kerb had not yet been dropped. The need to re-locate two residents’ parking bays had still not been resolved by the County Council so it was agreed that Ella would follow this up with Alan Coleman.

 **Action: Ella Blankstone**

**7.2 Highways & Lighting**

John reported on his correspondence with Simon Geraghty, our local County Councillor, about the faulty streetlight outside 50BS and the lack of original replacement parts. The Council has proposed to install new electronic control gear and an LED light. It was acknowledged by the Committee that it was inevitable that authentic street light parts would become impossible to source at some point and that LED lights would become the Council’s preferred alternative, particularly as they sought to be as energy efficient as possible.

**7.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

Nothing to report.

**7.4 Wine Club**

John planned to talk to John & Liz Prosser about having the usual Summer Party in their garden this year. No other events were planned for the foreseeable future.

 **Action: John Ball**

**7.5 Membership**

Membership currently totalled 55 (53 Life, 2 Annual), representing 45% of the 121 households in the area.

Ann had made initial contact with the new residents of 22BS (Simon & Sue) and planned to send a Welcome Pack once they had settled in. Ian agreed to provide Ann with the necessary documentation.

 **Action: Ann Cowper & Ian Terry**

**7.6 Finance**

The Association’s bank balance stood at £1,238.

It was noted that a new logo had been applied for Andrew Grant, a sponsor of the BSRA website. Ian reminded the Committee that the new management at Andrew Grant were recording the number of click-throughs from the site and this may influence the decision on renewing their sponsorship.

**7.7 Newsletter**

Robin confirmed that he had suitable software to create a new template for the next issue of the newsletter, which should simplify the production process. It was agreed to await finalisation of dates for future events before preparing the next issue, which would also include an update on gulls and be in digital rather than paper format.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

**7.8. Website & photographic archives project**

Robin reported thatwork on the photographic archive was ongoing. He had processed a significant number of photographs from the Worcestershire Photographic Survey but had not yet uploaded them to the website as he needed to visit The Hive, once it has re-opened, to add dates. Robin had also received some photos from residents in the Square, which he planned to add in due course. It was hoped that the archive would continue to evolve, with regular additions.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

1. Any other business

None.

1. Dates of future events & meetings

**2021 – All dates provisional. If restrictions continue, Committee meetings will be held by Zoom.**

Tues 20 April - Committee meeting, 7 Albany Terrace (Robin Dallaway)

Sun 11 July - Summer Party, RGS Springfield

Tues 21 September - Committee meeting, 50 Britannia Square (John Ball)

Fri 12 November - AGM, URC, Albany Terrace

Tue 16 November - Committee meeting, 4 Stephenson Terrace (Carol Inman, Ian Terry to chair)

Sun 12 December - Christmas Carols Party, RGS Springfield