Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 April 2022

at 8.00 pm by videoconference

1. Attendance

Present: John Ball (Chair)

 Ella Blankstone

 Ann Cowper

 Ian Terry

 Carol Inman (Secretary)

**In Attendance:** Rachel Andrews

***(Item 2 only)*** Kennedy Luton

Apologies: Robin Dallaway

1. **Platinum Jubilee party**

John confirmed that RGS Springfield had agreed that BSRA could use their grounds for a party on 5 June but, as in 2021, there would be no access to the school buildings. It was agreed that there would be a red, white and blue or platinum dress code and residents would bring their own food & drink. There would be one marquee already set up in the grounds and additional gazebos would be erected to provide cover if required. Angela Lanyon had agreed to perform a few verses as usual.

To attract families with children to attend, it was agreed that a range of children’s activities would be offered, such as face-painting, giant croquet, bubble machines and a decorated bike parade/competition. Ann agreed to show Rachel & Kennedy around the school’s grounds so that they could assess the space available for activities.

 **Action: Ann Cowper**

John would ask Laura whether the school’s Astroturf area would be accessible for the party.

 **Action: John Ball**

Ian would ask Nicky Neville-Lee about borrowing tables and chairs from the URC.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

It was agreed that an email should be sent within the next few days asking residents to “Save the date”. Carol agreed to send this and post a message on the BSquOSH WhatsApp group. She would also advise our usual invitees (Cllrs, Lisa Smith & PCSOs) of the date and convene a further meeting to discuss party arrangements (including children’s activities & the production of a promotional flyer), to be held in around 4 weeks’ time.

 **Action: Carol Inman**

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 February 2022 were agreed. John confirmed that he had written to Tony Bettinson about the issues he had raised concerning the RGS Springfield site.

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

1. Gulls

A few days before the meeting, John had advised the Committee that he had again been in touch with Gordon Dugan about the ongoing problems caused by rubbish accumulating around the large bins at the junction of Britannia Square and Britannia Road, highlighting how the waste attracted gulls. In addition, Ella had circulated a photo of the overflowing bins to members of the Committee. Gordon had previously contacted the City Council’s Waste Collection team about this and had agreed to contact them again. It was hoped that the Council would approach the flat dwellers and businesses using the bins to ensure waste was appropriately disposed of.

On fundraising for BSRA’s £540 contribution to the hawking programme, Ian reported that £530 had been raised to date. He added that he had received payments from a number of residents who had not participated in the 2020 fundraising campaign. An invoice had not yet been received from WRS.

It was noted that hawking had started in the Square and that the wire cages fitted to potential nesting sites were acting as an effective deterrents to gulls.

1. Future events - **Street clean**

Ian had contacted Lisa Smith at Worcester City Council and awaited confirmation of a date. Once Ian had been notified of the date, he would advise the Committee so that it could be posted on BSquOSH and publicised via the newsletter. Lisa would provide letters to residents nearer the time.

 **Action: Ian Terry**

*Post meeting note*: Lisa advised Ian that the event could be held on Sunday 29 May.

1. Committee Reports

**6.1 Planning**

Carol confirmed that the revised application submitted by 22BS had just been approved by the Planning Department.

There were no applications outstanding in our area.

**6.2 Highways & Lighting**

John reported that the streetlight between 48BS & 49BS was now working. Carol advised that she had been advised by Cllr Geraghty that suitable replacement switchgear had been located to effect the repair.

**6.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

Carol reported that there had been a recent incident of graffiti in Stephenson Terrace which had been reported to the Council who promptly removed it.

**6.4 Wine Club**

It was noted that would be no event in the Spring but it was hoped to hold a Summer Party as usual.

**6.5 Membership**

Membership currently totalled 55 (52 Life, 3 Annual).

**6.6 Finance**

The Association’s bank balance stood at £1,928.54, which included funds ring-fenced for the gull programme.

**6.7 Newsletter**

It was agreed to compile a newsletter once a date for the Spring Clean was confirmed. Other subjects to be covered would include the Jubilee party, gulls, NORA, 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 improving website navigation with assistance from John Cresswell but John only had limited time available to help with this project.

In addition, Robin had loaded NORA newsletters to the BSRA website and was continuing to work with Ian on the House History for Eastbourne Lodge (now 54BS).

1. Any other business

Carol confirmed that she had written to each of our three City councillors and our County councillor seeking guidance on where suitable advice can be sought for those living in heritage properties to make their houses more energy efficient. She reported that she had received a detailed reply from Cllr Riaz which she would share with the Committee and had been promised a reply shortly from Cllr Geraghty.

 **Action: Carol Inman**

1. Dates of future events

Sun 29 May - Street Clean

Sun 5 June - Platinum Jubilee Party, RGS Springfield