Britannia Square Residents’ Association

COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 April 2023

at 8.00 pm **at the URC Hall, Albany Terrace**

1. Attendance

Present: John Ball (Chair)

 Ella Blankstone

 Ann Cowper

 Robin Dallaway

 Nicky Neville-Lee

 Tracy Scott

 Carol Inman (Secretary)

John welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

**2.1** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 March 2023 were agreed.

**2.2 Matters Arising**

Matters arising were dealt with under the relevant agenda items.

1. Future Events

**3.1. Street clean (23/24 April)**

John confirmed that Lisa Smith, Community Engagement Officer, would deliver traffic cones and tools to his house on Friday ahead of Sunday afternoon’s street clean. Lisa had already affixed advisory notices to lampposts around the Square and in Albany Terrace. Given the ongoing Severn Trent works in Albany Terrace, it was agreed that any Terrace residents with time available after cleaning their own area, would be encouraged to help in the Square.

On Sunday, Robin and John would distribute the cones in the morning and Nicky would provide tea in the URC Hall from 3 pm.

Carol agreed to post a suitable reminder on BSquOSH WhatsApp before the weekend reminding residents to move their cars and invite them to take part in the event.

**Action: Carol Inman**

**3.2 Summer Party - Celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III (Sunday 7 May 2023)**

Carol confirmed that she had emailed invitations to the party to Councillors and other regular guests.

Ann shared out the flyers for distribution to residents within the next few days. Thanks were expressed to Kirsty Jones for creating the eye-catching design.

Kirsty had agreed to assist with children’s activities and Kennedy Luton would offer face painting. Angela Lanyon had agreed to perform some verses for the occasion. Nicky added that she could provide a mobile PA system, if required. Prizes would be offered for “Best house” (open to all residents) and “Best crown” (children’s competition).

The next meeting of the party planning sub-committee was scheduled to take place at Francini Café de Colombia on Thursday 20 April.

1. Gulls

Tracy confirmed that Worcestershire Regulatory Services had still not submitted the invoice for BSRA’s 2022 contribution to gull prevention work in the Square (£540).

John reported that he had spoken to the new Gull Control Officer, Mitchell Wright, and BSRA would be asked to contribute £550 this year. It was agreed that a flyer should be circulated to residents after the Coronation, seeking contributions of £10 from each household, payable either by direct bank transfer or cash to the Treasurer. Ella offered to arrange printing.

 **Action: Tracy Scott & Ella Blankstone**

It was noted that hawking was due to have started in the Square on 17 April, initially five times a week, reducing to three times in a month’s time.

1. Committee Reports

**5.1 Planning**

Carol reported that the rear extension at 7ST and an application from 22 BS had been approved. The application for repair works to the rear of 23BS was still pending a decision.

The Committee discussed the Listed Building consent being sought for a roof-mounted solar PV system on a south-facing slate roof pitch at 33AT. It was agreed that with the current drive towards making houses more energy efficient, it was inevitable that more households in the Conservation Area would be seeking to install solar panels. However, concern was expressed as to how panels could be sited on properties so as to have no detrimental effect on the visual appearance of the Square and Terraces.

The comments on the application from Paul Collins, Conservation Officer at Worcester City Council, had been circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting. He had concluded that the proposed panels were acceptable based on them being visible to few passers-by and hidden to a large extent by trees in the garden of 37BS. The Committee felt that the statements about there being little pedestrian traffic in the area were not entirely accurate given that the property stands on a route regularly used by many to access Albany Terrace, York Place, Stephenson Terrace and Pitchcroft.

It was agreed that the Committee should email Paul Collins to ascertain how he would view an application to install panels on a property in the Conservation Area where they would be more visible to passers-by or where it was proposed to attach them to a front roof. Carol offered to draft a suitable communication and circulate it to the Committee for comments.

 **Action: Carol Inman**

**5.2 Highways & Lighting**

It was noted that a road closure had been advertised for the north side of BS starting on 2 May for 84 days. Carol advised that she had raised this with Cllr Geraghty as it seemed ludicrous that the County Council had allowed this closure when the north side was the official diversion for ongoing Severn Trent works in Albany Terrace. A response was awaited.

**5.3 Neighbourhood Watch**

There had been nothing to report since the last Committee meeting.

**5.4 Wine Club**

A successful event had been held on Thursday 30 March in the Ballroom of Ed & Sue Llewellyn. It was hoped that the usual summer party would be held in late July/early August.

**5.5 Membership**

John had delivered a BSRA Welcome Pack to Jon and Susanna French, the new residents of 41BS.

*Post meeting Note: They have subsequently joined as Life Members.*

**5.6 Finance**

The Association’s bank balance stood at £2061.93. The Coronation party flyers had cost £15.

**5.7 Newsletter**

Robin thanked those who had commented on the initial draft of the Spring newsletter. He would circulate the updated version shortly. It would then be posted on the BSRA website with the link emailed to residents and posted on BSquOSH before the weekend so as to provide further publicity for the Street Clean.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway & Carol Inman**

*Post meeting Note. On Friday 21 April, links to the completed Spring Newsletter were circulated to residents by email and posted on BSquOSH WhatsApp.*

**5.8. Website & photographic archives project**

Robin reported that details of all planned future events were up-to-date on the website. Work to redesign certain pages of the website to improve navigation was on-going.

 **Action: Robin Dallaway**

1. Any other business

None.

1. Future dates

**Next Committee Meeting**

Tues 19 September (30 Albany Terrace)

**Events**

Sun 23 April - Street Clean

Sun 7 May - Coronation Party, grounds of RGS Springfield