



MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 21st May 2009 at 7.30 pm
Held at
Clifton Village Hall

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members present - in all 43 attending.

1 Apologies: Jean Bird, Fran Clayton, John Clayton, Jane Haymes, Allan Haymes, Ann Hooley, John Hooley, Margareth Jenkins, John Jenkins, Eileen Small, Len Small.

2 Previous Minutes:
The minutes were accepted and approved as a true record.

3 Matters Arising
Nothing to report.

4 Neighbourhood Watch
(This item was shown as item 9 on the Agenda but was put forward for PC Darren White to introduce three new CPSO members, Anthony Parker, Joy Davis and Michael Butler, and give a report on police activity before carrying on with his patrol.

John Spencer, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, referred to his report*, and in particular a petition the Neighbourhood Watch team have instigated regarding the Rectory, to date over 200 signatures had been gathered, all from the village population. He and his team will formulate a letter to go with the petition which will be handed into the Council. He thanked the team for their input and support during the last year.

John Spencer passed over to PC Darren White who introduced a new team of police assistants who will patrol the area. He explained the crime figures handout and was pleased to report that crime was down, however, vehicle crime was up not only on cars parked in public places but vehicles on peoples' drives. Also there had been a recent bout of arson (hedge fires). A problem with the Rectory was discussed (see further discussions on this subject under AOB); the police are unable to keep a 24/7 watch on the place, but give priority to all calls concerning trespass. John Woodall, however, expressed some dismay at not getting any action when dialling 999 to report a trespass. Darren apologised for this and said he would make sure it was known within the force to give the Rectory a priority response.

Clare Ashton pointed out that School House was empty at the moment; she was told the police was aware of this and would be observing the property.

Darren urged all to be vigilant and report any incident however small, this will in turn be included on the police time sheet thus allowing extra funding to be granted. He concluded by

thanking the villagers for their support and cooperation.

The Chairman thanked Darren and his team for attending the meeting and also for their support given to the village.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to John Spencer for his significant work as coordinator of Neighbourhood Watch, and this sentiment was echoed by the members present.

5. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman explained that when Glen Rolley resigned and no candidate had come forward, John Woodall had agreed to act as temporary Chairman until Christmas 2008. Kevin McCormick was co-opted on to the committee in September 2008. The secretary Dianne Rolley also wished to resign at the same time and Lillian H. Young was co-opted as the new secretary.

Particular mention was made regarding the various social events and thanks were expressed to everyone involved in the success of all the events.

The latest issue of the Newsletter was referred to and Mike Huffer conveyed his compliments on the excellent new format. The Chairman told the meeting that an invitation for local businesses to buy advertisements had been included in the Newsletter, thus any income would pay for the production of future newsletters.

The Website was explained and Jonathan Blacknell was thanked for taking on the job of resurrecting the site, adding new items and keeping it up to date - an excellent result.

Dates and venues for coming events were given by the secretary who referred to these items already being published in the Newsletter, Website and shown on the Noticeboard. They are:

Summer Party - Sunday 19th July 2009 - "Holly House" (The Woodalls) or the Village Hall
if bad weather.

Carols and lighting the Christmas Tree: Sunday 6th December 2009

Christmas Party - Sunday 13th December 2009 - Village Hall

Clare Ashton asked to add to the events the annual Clifton Music & Flower Festival 2009 which will take place from 2nd to 4th July 2009 at St. Mary's Church.

The Chairman told the AGM that functions beyond the traditional ones would be discussed at a future committee meeting and he welcomed ideas to come forward in that respect.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Helen Huffer outlined the accounts and referred to the written accounts handed out.*

She pointed out that the recent subscription collected would be included in next year's accounts. There were no issues raised on this subject.

Helen Huffer thanked Helen Lander for carrying out the Audit.

The report was proposed by Kevin McCormick and seconded by John Woodall and accepted by the AGM.

7. **Election of Officers**

Election of Executive Committee

As Kevin McCormick was opted on to the Committee as Chairman, and as he was willing to stand as candidate for this AGM election, he was proposed by John Woodall and seconded by John Spencer and subsequently elected by the meeting.

As all other officers and committee executives were willing to carry on as committee members, it was agreed by the AGM to propose all en masse and all were thus duly elected. The committee members are therefore as follows:

Officers:

Chairman: Kevin McCormick, Secretary: Lillian H. Young. Treasurer: Helen Huffer, Legal Advisor: Anu Kapur

Executive Committee:

Glenys Blacknell, John Hooley, Margaret MacKechnie, Pat Moore, Dianne Rolley, Roy Smith, John Spencer, John Woodall

The Chairman pointed out that according to the Constitution there should be 6 executive members hence the committee at present comprises of 2 too many. This issue will be discussed at a future committee meeting.

Mavis Forsyth asked if it was necessary to have a Legal Advisor on the Committee; she was advised that this requirement is stipulated in the Constitution and could not be altered other than by amending it.

8. **Village Hall Report**

A written report* by John Hooley, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, was read out by the Chairman. Francis Buck told the AGM that the Committee had decided to enhance the hall by putting up pictures in the main hall and mirrors on the wall behind the bar.

9. **Any Other Business**

Councillor Ian Malcolm presented Mike Ashton, Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees with a framed picture of the "Four Winds" and "Baird House" which have been demolished recently prior to a new building for rehabilitation of mentally ill being erected.

Mike Ashton thanked him for the picture which will be put up in the hall as soon as possible.

9.1 The Old Rectory

Ian Malcolm gave an outline of the state of affairs regarding The Old Rectory. He had prepared a written report* and hand-outs were available for members to read. The AGM expressed its concern that The Rectory's lack of maintenance by the owner has created an eyesore and a derelict site. Apart from being an unsightly first impression on entry to the village, youngsters now trespass by climbing over the wall, bringing in alcoholic drinks, creating a nuisance and disturbance. The owner has been issued with an order by the Council to make certain repairs but so far nothing has been done. The fact that it is a listed building was discussed. This should have some bearing on the Council to take action.

Dianne Gamble suggested that the association should obtain legal advice and put pressure to bear on the Council for a timing schedule. Ian Malcolm said the petition along with a letter on behalf of the village, which is under way, would be a very good way of putting pressure on the Council. Ian Malcolm proposed that he presents the petition to the Council.

9.2 Reading Room

Ian Malcolm informed the AGM that the Reading Room has now been incorporated as part of the house (the ex shop) and ownership is now transferred to the Council.

The Chairman thanked Ian Malcolm for addressing the AGM on these issues.

9.3 The Green

Geoff Matthews handed over a written objection about cars traversing the Green leaving the road edges chewed up. Suggestions of putting down stone edgings were made. The Chairman will discuss the matter with the committee.

Geoff Matthews also raised the issue of the tree on the Green being treated as a memorial after a local motorcyclist died nearby, where at regular intervals vigils take place leaving behind beer cans etc. This issue will also be taken up with the committee.

9.4 Village Hall Car Parking

The Chairman of the Clifton Hall Trustees, Mike Ashton, informed the AGM there might be a possibility to create access to open up for parking at the back of the School House and the Hall.

9.5 Floral Presentations

The Chairman thanked Dianne Rolley with a floral presentation for her services for 10 years as the Association's secretary and also for leading the arrangements of the May Day Fairs in the same period. As Dianne Rolley was not present, Brenda Collishaw offered to pass the flowers on to Dianne.

The Chairman also presented Lillian H. Young with a floral presentation, as thanks for her secretarial work and support. Lillian thanked the Chairman for this unexpected gesture.

The Chairman closed the AGM thanking members present for attending the meeting.

Lillian H. Young
Secretary to the Clifton Village Residents Association

* Reports available on request from the secretary.