



MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 20th May 2010 at 7.30 pm
Held at
Clifton Village Hall
Total Membership 256

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members present.

- 1 **Apologies:** Clare and Mike Ashton, Diva and Maurice Bonney, Phil Bull, Ann and John Hooley, Linda Pickles, Dr. and Mrs. Raoof, Dianne Rolley, Eileen and Len Small, Debbie and Roy Smith, Kath and John Spencer

Present: **31 members:**
Jill and Graeme Barker, Glenys and Jonathan Blacknell, Francis Buck, Sandra Bull, Fran Clayton, Betty Cooke, Mavis Forsyth, Pamela Gupta, Helen and Mike Huffer, Margaret and John Jenkins, Sally Joss, Geoff Matthews, Sandy and Kevin McCormick, D Murphy, Suresh Patel, Ed Peterson, John Pickles, Pat and Joe Rice, T. Smith, Barry Stevens, Dorothy and John Woodall, Lillian and Graham Young.

- 2 **Previous Minutes:**
The minutes were proposed for acceptance by John Woodall and seconded by Sally Joss and approved as a true record.

3. **Neighbourhood Watch**
(This item was shown as item 9 on the Agenda but was brought forward on the agenda). PcsO Joy Davis, PcsO Anthony Parker and PcsO Michael Butler representing the local Police were present. PcsO Joy Davis represented PC Darren White and explained the crime figures which had been published and distributed to the members. The figures given were slightly down from last year.

PcsO Davis stressed the importance of reporting any crime however small, as it had come to light that many people are reluctant to report crimes in case that would reflect on the valuation of their properties.

John Pickering asked what category “a break-in without anything taken” would come under and PcsO Davis explained that she was not quite sure as her training did not cover the assessments. John Jenkins questioned how one could defend one's property if broken into and was advised that reasonable force would be regarded as permitted.

PcsO Davis urged all to be vigilant about making burglary less inviting, by not leaving ladders, heavy tools etc. visible and easily accessible, and to put such items away in a secure place.

The figures given for arson were explained as being mainly due to cars being burnt in the car park off Fishermans Walk.

The problem of motor cycles travelling illegally (i.e.: uninsured and/or unlicensed) through the village to Clifton Woods and the riverbank was raised, as this has recently exacerbated. The

advice given by the police was to telephone them with as detailed a description of the offenders as possible, since more often than not, the police will know the offender from description given.

The Chairman thanked PcsO Davis for her report and guidance and thanked her and her colleagues for all the work done for the village. The AGM showed their appreciation by their applause.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 The Rectory

A new planning application has been made for a scheme which will divide the plot into two parts, one including a refurbished Rectory and the other to contain 4 new bungalows. Outline drawings and details were shown by Mavis Forsyth and Derek Murphy. The issue was discussed in depth; most were in favour of the scheme, provided that a condition that the refurbishment and restoration of the Rectory would be dealt with before work on the bungalows was commenced, formed part of any planning consent given by the Local Authority. This would prevent the building being left to deteriorate further if it were deemed to be a less profitable undertaking than originally thought. The general view was that the building currently forms an eyesore on entry to the village and it is imperative that there should be no further deterioration.

Graeme Barker expressed a professional opinion from similar situations he had experienced that legislation in relation to listed buildings relates to the whole site, and objects upon it so the listing would relate to both parcels should the site be split.

T. Smith, Chairman of the Gervase Leaseholders Association, told the AGM that the householders in Gervase Gardens strongly object to any access to the bungalows being made as shown from Gervase Gardens. His Association is now actively working towards an objection. The CVRA Chairman said that he would try to find out what exactly is going on and that the CVRA and the Gervase Leaseholders Association should get together to discuss this further. The AGM agreed. Frank Murphy proposed that the AGM formally object to the scheme, and this was seconded by T. Smith – AGM agreed.

Geoff Matthews who, with the Neighbourhood Watch, has worked tirelessly for the restoration of the Rectory, had drafted a letter for English Heritage (who in their involvement with the Rectory as a listed building, have set out specific criteria which should be adhered to for the restoration). The Chairman then sent a letter based on Geoff's draft and a reply had been received. This was read out to the meeting.

3.2 The Reading Room

The Chairman said that the Council believes it has ownership of the Reading Room. However, this is still ambiguous. He also said that the door placed between the house and the Reading Room should never have been put up and requests to the Council to remove it have not been responded to.

The state of repair is dire, and the Chairman announced that Ed Peterson had approached him with a suggestion to get together a team to give the Reading Room a facelift, firstly to make the roof waterproof and gutters to be put up. Ed was looking for volunteers and said he was offering some initial financial support towards material. The idea was regarded as a positive one but the Council had to be approached before any such work could be undertaken.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman outlined the Association's involvement in the past year in keeping up to date with

internal and external planning matters relating to the village, the objection to the Gateway Project:- which is a major concern to the villagers. He said that Clifton Hall has had its ups and downs, but he was delighted to announce that the main part of the Hall is now occupied and the occupants have joined the CVRA.

It was with great regret that the May Day was not taking place this year, mainly due to the fact that the helpers through out the years “had had enough” and were not prepared to take on further organisation of such an event as it had become so big. The Chairman pointed out the success of the Summer Party, with thanks to Dorothy and John Woodall for opening their garden for that day, the Christmas Tree Illumination, Carol Singing and the Christmas Party and thanked the organisers and helpers for all these events for their input.

The Hunt (i.e. bloodhounds and riders following an aniseed scent) came to the village this winter, which gathered at the Codd's farm for a respite. Onlookers were also offered a glass of port and thus joined in and were made to feel part of the event. The Hunt will apparently make such a stop in village at future meetings.

In view of the lack of a May Day event, other events are being organised such as the Fish/Pie & Chips disco held on the 15th May 2010 which proved to be roaring success, tickets were quickly sold out, and more could have been sold but for the lack of capacity in the Village Hall. Jonathan Blacknell was the evening's DJ and he was congratulated for providing the music until well past midnight!

A Picnic will be held on the 4th September 2010 at the Old Rectory Coach House garden, courtesy of Diva and Maurice Bonney; which will feature a folk singer and a magician. Further information will be forthcoming nearer the date.

The Chairman appealed to the members for further suggestions and ideas for future events, and followed on by thanking the committee and all other willing helpers for their hard work during the year.

A special vote of thanks went to Jonathan Blacknell for his excellent work on the website which has proved to be very beneficial and popular.

The Chairman concluded his report by turning to the outgoing secretary and thanking her for the very good work provided and the support given to him, with which the AGM agreed by a warm-hearted applause. The outgoing secretary acknowledged and thanked the meeting for the appreciation.

5. Treasurer's Report

Helen Huffer outlined the accounts and made reference to the written accounts which had been handed out. The largest outlays were for the Newsletter, fees for the Website and new Christmas Tree lights.

The accounts were straight forward and no issues were raised on this subject.

Helen Huffer thanked Helen Lander for carrying out the Audit, and a gift voucher to the value of £20.00 was agreed (Proposed by Sandra Bull – Seconded by Mavis Forsyth).

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

6. Election of Officers

Kevin McCormick was willing to carry on as Chairman.

Helen Huffer was willing to carry on as Treasurer.

Proposed by John Woodall – Seconded Lillian H. Young – elected by the AGM.
Graeme Barker was elected as the new Secretary, replacing the outgoing Lillian H. Young.
Proposed by John Woodall – Seconded by Kevin McCormick – elected by the AGM.

7. Election of Executive Committee

A number of the executive committee members were willing to carry on as committee members, (with the exception of John Hooley who retired from the committee) – and as there were no other nominations, they were elected en masse by the AGM. The CVRA committee is therefore made up as follows:

Officers:

Chairman: Kevin McCormick, Secretary: Graeme Barker. Treasurer: Helen Huffer,

Executive Committee:

Glenys Blacknell, Margaret MacKechnie, Pat Moore, Roy Smith, John Spencer, John Woodall.

The Chairman expressed the CVRA's appreciation to John Hooley (absent) for his outstanding contribution given for many, many years. This sentiment was warmly applauded by the AGM.

8. Honorarium

Honorarium £50 to the Secretary –

Proposed by Kevin McCormick – Seconded by John Woodall

Approved by the AGM.

9. Social Events

Dates and venues for coming events (will be published in the Newsletter, Website and shown on the Noticeboard):

Summer Party	-	Sunday 18th July 2010 - "Holly House" (The Woodalls) or the Village Hall
“Picnic”	-	Saturday 4 September 2010 - The Old Rectory Coach House
Carols and Lighting the Christmas Tree:	-	Sunday 6th December 2010
Christmas Party	-	Sunday 12th December 2010 - Village Hall

The Chairman also pointed out the Music and Flower Festival which will take place at St. Mary's Church - 8th - 11th July.

10. AOB

Geoff Matthews expressed his belief in the importance of keeping the Association going; he as well as others he has talked to had been concerned about the CVRA's future with the cessation of the May Day event, but felt encouraged by the support shown for the disco where he experienced the true village spirit i.e. villagers getting together and getting to know each other. He appealed for the common support, for the younger generation to participate and do their bit, for new ideas and to develop a broader spectrum.

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

Lillian H. Young
Secretary to the Clifton Village Residents Association