



MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 19th May 2011 at 7.30 pm
Held at
Clifton Village Hall
Total Membership 256

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members present.

- 1 **Apologies:** Claire Ashton, Jonathon and Glenys Blacknell, Diva Bonney, Fran and John Clayton, Margaret Mackechnie, Pat Moore, Linda Pickles, John and Kath Spencer, Graham and Lillian Young,

Present: **34 members:**
Mike Ashton, Graeme Barker, Maurice Bonney, Irene Briggs, Francis Buck, Phil and Sandra Bull, Betty Cooke, Mavis Forsyth, Helen and Mike Huffer, Sally Joss, Terry and Kath Kay, Simon Massarella, Kevin McCormick, Geoff Matthews, Mr D Murphy, Ed Peterson, John Pickles, Pat and Joe Rice, Claire Rolley, Dianne Rolley, Gemma Rolley, Stephen and Claire Simpson, E Skinner, Eileen Small, Roy Smith, Mrs D Smith, Mr R Whitehurst, John and Dorothy Woodall

- 2 **Previous Minutes:**
JW noted that the event dates were all 2009, not 2010. To be updated for re-issue on website. The minutes were proposed for acceptance by Sandra Bull and were seconded by John Woodall and approved by the AGM as a true record.

3 **Matters Arising**

3.1 **Village Reading Room**

The Chairman reported that the Council have now confirmed ownership of the Reading Room. They had advised that the building should no longer be used as part of the adjoining residence, and that the access route between the two buildings should have the locks changed and the building number removed. The CVRA had accepted a kind offer from Mr Ed Peterson to make good the Reading Room exterior to improve its general appearance and watertightness to prevent further deterioration. Ed had written to Nottingham City Council (NCC) to request permission to carry out the works some three weeks previously but had heard nothing further. Ed had been verbally advised that the head of the relevant authority would delegate the ability to give such permission to one of his members of staff, but no-one had been identified for this. The chair thanked Ed for his kind offer and input to date to allow the works to progress and summarised that it was good that progress was being made. The CVRA would continue to offer Ed such support as required to keep the process moving.

3.2 **The Old Rectory**

PC Darren White reported that the police had been called to the Old Rectory 11 times in the last month alone, and that the Police had made the securing of the rectory and prevention of further illegal entry a key priority. The constabulary had written to Mr Kumar to formally request that he secures the building and its perimeter, and Darren advised that the police had the authority to secure the property themselves and counter-charge Mr Kumar if no progress was made.

Roy Whitehouse observed that there were different groups in the village working on this matter and proposed a working party be established to co-ordinate and focus efforts on ensuring the renovation of the site. A CVRA representative will be identified for this body at the next Committee Meeting and an initial meeting convened. Roy added that Morris of Gervase Gardens had offered to join the group.

Simon Massarella suggested that the openness of the property could be deemed to be a health and safety risk and that one avenue could be to involve the HSE to threaten enforcement action. The CVRA will look into this option if the property continues to be unsecured.

In terms of future progress Graeme Barker reported that he had contacted the Local Authority and that the Listed Building Officer Pete Smith would be visiting the site on the 20th May with a view to taking enforcement action through planning legislation to secure the property and make it watertight. It was also reported that the current marketing of the property for appraisal purposes should be coming to an end and that this would allow Mr Kumar to resubmit the enabling development (houses to Gervase Gardens) to finance restoration of the rectory. Graeme advised that there were strict rules in place to ensure that either the works to Rectory were carried out first, or the profit from the houses held by the council until such time as the listed building were renovated.

Geoff Matthews noted that other uses, such as a hotel were possible, and that other avenues of ownership and funding should be explored. The Chairman observed that hotel uses had previously foundered on the Village legal restrictions on sale of Alcohol dating back to the times of the Clifton family Estate.

3.3 Nottingham Trent University Parking

PC Darren White highlighted that the police had the authority to ticket any vehicle that was seen to be causing an obstructing to the use of the highway, or residents access to their properties. He confirmed that over 300 such tickets have been issued this year, and that the registration numbers of persistent offenders should be made known to the police.

Simon Massarella expressed thanks on behalf of the village for all PC White and his team have done on this matter.

Mick Huffer raised the issue of whether limited hours parking could be enforced in the village, but the general consensus was that this was very difficult to manage and unnecessarily penalised visitors to local residents who could find themselves ticketed.

The secretary advised that the CVRA were in dialogue with NTU on this matter, as the University are under increasing pressure to address this issue, especially as it is likely to get worse in 2011/12 with the introduction of the Workplace Parking Levy on campus.

4.0 Neighbourhood Watch

(This item was shown as item 9 on the Agenda but was brought forward on the agenda). Pcs Anthony Parker and PC Darren White representing the local Police were present. PC Darren White reported that crime was down 15% over the last year. There have been 5 burglaries in the last year but major item on the list was criminal damage to vehicles, many of which were at the Fishermans Car Park.

Large groups of youths over the last couple of months had been seen moving through the village from the estate down to the river where they had been gathering at the weir to fight against youths from Beeston Rylands. Section 60 stop and search powers had been used to catch

offenders with weapons. Darren highlighted that all residents should immediately contact the police if such activity is witnessed in the village again so that Police could address this criminal activity.

PC White highlighted that numbers of 'door knockers' selling goods on the doorstep were often seen in the village, and that these are largely local people known to the Clifton team. Darren again stressed that the police should be contacted immediately if this door selling occurs as they would like to eliminate this activity.

PC White reported that they were working with the Crime and Disorder Partnership, and had written to Mr Kumar to ensure that he takes proper responsibility for securing the Old Rectory in order to minimise criminal activity in the area. If such works are not done PC White advised that the authority had the ability to carry out the work on his behalf and give him the bill afterwards.

PC White concluded by thanking John Spencer for the large amount of work he undertakes on behalf of the village in co-ordinating the Neighbourhood Watch and working with the local police in general.

The Chairman thanked Pc White for his report and thanked him and his colleagues for all the work done for the village. The AGM showed their appreciation by their applause.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman began by outlining the success of the last year's village events. Thanks were expressed to Dorothy and John Woodall for one again opening their garden for a successful summer garden party, and similarly to Maurice and Diva Bonney for providing their grounds for the Late Summer Picnic. The Chairman confirmed that it was the intention to emulate the success of both of last year's events, with the Summer Garden Party on the 24th July and the Late Summer Picnic on the 10th September.

Thanks was expressed to the Christmas Tree erection and dismantling team, to Mike and Claire Ashton for their kind hospitality, and to all of the other helpers who made this and the Carol Singing possible. The Chairman invited other village members to step forward and assist with this important village event.

The Chairman highlighted that the continued success of the Village Christmas Party and Summer Garden Party was in no small part due to the hard work of Glenys Blacknell and her team of assistants, and expressed his thanks to the whole team for their continued support. The Chairman invited other villagers to offer whatever time they could if they felt they could to assist in future events.

The chairman reported that the CVRA had invested over the last year in a marquee to help with the organisation of village events.

The Christmas Hunt had repeated its success of the previous year and it was hoped that this would remain a regular village occasion.

The Chairman congratulated Claire and Mike Ashton on their hosting of the very enjoyable Royal Wedding Celebrations to raise funds for the Village Hall. He thanked Sandra Bull and all other villagers who had contributed to making the event such a success.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to John Spencer for his continued work in support of the

Local Police and neighbourhood Watch.

The Chair closed his report by reminding all villagers that the CVRA was there to represent the village as a whole, and invited villagers to put forward any thoughts on how the CVRA events calendar could be further enlivened.

Mike Ashton suggested that a Street Party be organised for the Queens Jubilee in 2012. The Chairman noted that this had already been discussed in outline in recent CVRA Committee meetings. He reported that the CVRA clearly supported such an event, but that it would require support and input from the wider village community to emulate the success of the Millennium Celebrations on which it could be modelled.

Geoff Matthews reminded the AGM of the successful evenings of dance given by the local Armenian Dance Group. Concern was expressed by members that the dance group had already visited the village twice, and may not have wide enough appeal, but that the principle of such an evening, albeit with a different group, would be possible.

Eileen Small suggested that Race Nights used to be very successful in the village and could be suitable as a winter event.

Other ideas raised included Antiques Roadshows, hosted by local antiques /auctioneers, Story tellers, and Morris Dancers.

These suggestions will be investigated and discussed at future CVRA meetings for inclusion on the Village Calendar.

5. Treasurer's Report

Helen Huffer outlined the accounts and made reference to the written report which had been handed out. Helen Huffer thanked Helen Lander for carrying out the Audit, and a gift voucher to the value of £20.00 was agreed (Proposed by Simon Massarella – Seconded by Eileen Small). Income had been improved by the addition of the Fish and Chip Supper and Late Summer Picnic. Expenditure included a donation for Rebecca Massarella for her forthcoming project to Ghana.

The accounts were straight forward and no issues were raised on the figures.

Simon Massarella queried whether the income of the CVRA could be augmented by applying for charitable status and Gift Aid. The view of the Chairman was that the CVRA had insufficient turnover to justify the expense and time for changing from its current organisational structure.

The report was proposed by Kevin McCormick, seconded by Simon Massarella 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.

Graeme Barker was willing to carry on as Secretary.

Proposed by John Woodall – Seconded Francis Buck – elected by the AGM.

John Woodall thanked all of the officers for their hard work on behalf of the CVRA. The AGM showed their appreciation by applause.

7. **Election of Executive Committee**

The chairman advised the AGM that both Roy Smith and Pat Moore were standing down from the Committee in order to allow new members to serve. Margaret MacKechnie is also to stand down as her possible move means that she cannot commit to the CVRA for the whole of the next term. The Chairman expressed his thanks to all three for their hard work, and hoped that they would continue to find time to support the CVRA and its events in the future.

Other members of the executive committee were willing to carry on as committee members, and two nominations had been received. These were Pat Rice, proposed by Mavis Forsyth and Seconded by Joe Rice, and Simon Massarella proposed by Kevin McCormick and Seconded by Graeme Barker.

All 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, John Spencer, John Woodall, Simon Massarella, Pat Rice

8. **Honorarium**

Honorarium £50 to the Secretary – Proposed by John Woodall – Seconded by Mike Ashton
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 Garden Party	-	Sunday 24th July 2011 - "Holly House" (The Woodalls) or Village Hall if wet
Late Summer Picnic -		Saturday 10 September 2011 - Old Rectory Coach House or Village Hall if wet
Carols and Lighting the Christmas Tree:	-	Sunday 4th December 2011- Village Road
Christmas Party	-	Sunday 11th December 2011 - Village Hall

Mike Ashton highlighted that the Music Festival which will take place at St. Mary's Church on the 7th - 9th July.

10. **AOB**

Mavis Forsyth highlighted the danger of ice on Village Road in the recent winter, and asked that CVRA formally request grit bins from the Highways Authority. It was suggested that bins be requested at the junctions between Village Road and either end of Groveside Crescent. Mike Ashton outlined to the AGM that negotiations were ongoing with NTU and the City Council on creating a car-park for the Village Hall by purchasing a section of land from NTU to access the land to the rear of the Schoolhouse and Village Hall. It was highlighted that this would be a big investment from the village and would no doubt need their support and fund raising in the future to make this happen.

The Chairman closed the AGM thanking members present for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Graeme Barker, Secretary to the Clifton Village Residents Association