



## MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 - 8pm

Held at

Clifton Village Hall

Total Membership 267

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members present.

- 1 **Apologies:** Mike Ashton, Glenys Blacknell, Jan Buck, Diana Gamble, Ed Peterson, Claire Simpson, Stephen Simpson, Eileen Skinner, Rebecca Massarella, Ann Massarella
  
- 2 **Present:** **29 members:**  
Graeme Barker, Diva Bonney, Maurice Bonney, Irene Briggs, Francis Buck, Phil Bull, Sandra Bull, Betty Cooke, Mr E Edwards, Mrs E Edwards, Mavis Forsyth, Mrs SM Harding, Mr R S Harding, Helen Huffer, Mick Huffer, Mr Terry Key, Simon Massarella, Sandy McCormick, Kevin McCormick, Pat Moore, Mr D Murphy, Joe Rice, Pat Rice, R Skinner, Eileen Small, Mr John Spencer, Barry Stevens, Dorothy Woodall, John Woodall

Also present: PC Darren White for Neighbourhood Watch Report.

- 2 **Previous Minutes:**  
No comment received. To be updated for re-issue on website.  
The minutes were proposed for acceptance by John Spencer, seconded by John Woodall and approved by the AGM as a true record.

- 3 **Neighbourhood Watch Report**  
PC Darren White was welcomed to the meeting by John Spencer.

Darren acknowledged the continued hard work of John Spencer and the whole AGM joined in thanking John for his hard work.

PC Darren White reported that there had been 12 crimes in the first 3 months of the year, and that the majority of this was vehicle damage / theft from cars in the Fishermens Car Park. Notices had been put up but it is unfortunate as this reflects negatively on the village crime rate.

Darren also re-assured villagers that the listed 'firearms' offence was the simple confiscation of a shotgun following licensing issues.

Darren noted that the repeated visits of travellers had allowed the police had allowed them to hone down a strategy for encouraging them to move on, and that asking the child welfare and education officers to visit seemed to have better effect than serving legal notices. The police continue to be vigilant and will address these issues as soon as they arise to minimise disruption to residents.

Darren acknowledged that the recent use of the green by traffic enforcement officers had been an issue for residents, especially the turning of HGV's on the grass, but that following internal

feedback to the Chief Inspector this latter practice had now ceased. Darren advised that the work was important, as it is part of a local drive to reduce the 'fatal four' – speeding, mobile phones, seat belts and drink driving.

Darren highlighted the 'on line' Neighbourhood alerts a simple means of keeping up to date with current issues in the area.

Darren ended by highlighting the practice of 'distraction burglaries' that seemed to peak on visits from Traveller where a door to door 'salesman' offers to carry out work to occupy the resident whilst an accomplice breaks into the property elsewhere.

The Chairman closed the report by expressing on behalf of the village continued thanks for all of the hard work being carried out by Darren and his team. The AGM expressed their support with a round of applause.

#### **4 Matters Arising**

No matters arising were raised.

#### **5 Chairman's Report**

##### **Village Social Events**

The Chairman began by commenting that the Summer Garden Party had been a great success, with fine weather and a good turnout. He thanked Glenys / Kath and the rest of the catering team for all their hard work, as well as the committee and other supporters for helping to erect gazebos etc. for the day. Thanks also to John and Dorothy for their continued support and invitation to use their wonderful garden for the event.

KM stated that the Late Summer Picnic had been a fantastic event, with Geoff Briggs once again setting the tone for a fine afternoon's entertainment. Many thanks to Maurice and Diva for the use of their garden.

KM noted that the Christmas Tree erection had gone smoothly, helped by a more compact tree than last year! Village feedback that low turnout was due to not being aware of the date of the Christmas Tree lighting was noted and KM confirmed a late flyer would be planned this year to ensure people know when it is.

Thanks to all who helped facilitate the Christmas Party, especially the catering team once again, and to Mavis for producing the mulled wine.

KM went on to review the Fish and Chip Supper. He noted that it was great to see so many families at the event. Mel was thanked for yet another prompt delivery of delicious fish and chips. KM gave special thanks to Jonathon Blacknell for running the disco once again, despite being only just having returned from work abroad that day.

KM closed this review by thanking all on the committee for their continued efforts in making all the events happen, selling tickets and helping on the day.

##### **Village Matters**

KM noted that there had been no complaints received following the recent commencement of the Phase 2 Parking Permit system, and that it seemed to be working well, apart from a few isolated incidents. He thanked Simon Massarella and Mick Huffer for their continued efforts in keeping up the pressure on the council and acting as a communication channel between the

village and the council to ensure people's views were taken on board where possible.

The renewed presence of travellers on the green was noted, and KM thanked PC Darren White and his team for so promptly taking action on this whenever it happened. A tried and tested strategy was now in place that encouraged the travellers to move on as soon as possible and this would continue to be pursued as long as kept working.

KM noted that a positive meeting had been held with the council to discuss a permanent solution, maybe by way of bollards along the green in timber, to be as discrete as possible, and that a figure of c. £20,000 was targeted at the meeting for a deliverable scheme. Support was offered by the council members present as they believed each visit costs the council c. £5000 to administer (court orders etc.) and clean up after. Copies of tenders of about this figure were then produced by the council, which led the CVRA to believe that a positive result would be forthcoming but since then the trail had gone cold and the suspicion was that support for funding was being quietly withdrawn. KM will continue to pursue this matter with the council.

Mick Huffer highlighted that he had raised the possible issue of funding for bollards or barriers on the green with the A453 Main Contractors to explore whether any contribution could be made that would help to defend the contractor's works area whilst on site that could then be left permanently for the future.

Clare Ashton, as a representative of the Village Hall Trust, raised a concern that any bollards may prevent access to the hall of the schoolhouse for parking. KM re-assured the AGM that any proposals would be subject to full and open consultation with all villagers by way of a presentation by the council, with the CVRA simply facilitating the events so people could have their say.

A concern was raised that the travellers leave large volumes of rubbish on the Green. KM suggested that if such rubbish is found to contact the CVRA as through the repeated visits now had direct lines of communication with the right people at the council who can sort this out.

**Nottingham Trent University Sports Pitch** – KM invited Terry Kay to update the AGM on the NTU work. Terry Kay thanked all village members for support in helping to ensure that protective measures were included in the planning permission. NTU are still negotiating funding with Sport England so only tree clearance work carried out. 15<sup>th</sup> June has been advised as the earliest start date. TK also advised that submittals for the acoustic fence and habitat works were 'with Mark Bassett'. GB urged TK to check the council website as if these had been formally submitted the village would not be notified but would only have c. three weeks to comment. Mavis Forsyth advised that the pitch had been moved some 10-12 feet further back from the boundary during negotiations between the village and NTU.

Joe Rice highlighted that the existing pitches continue to have lights on for many hours when no-one is using them, contrary to NTU statements. It was suggested that records be kept of such times and a letter sent to Ged O'Donogue, Councillor Steel and Gibson to see whether this could be addressed.

**Nottingham Grove – Proposed Tree Works** KM advised the AGM that since the original misunderstanding and concerns caused by the pink dots on trees, Nottingham Wildlife Trust and proved themselves to be accessible and willing to listen to the villagers concerns, and have made changes to the proposed works following village comment. The numbers of trees proposed to be removed is far less than originally thought, with most due to be coppiced only. Roy Nettleship is chairing a village liaison group that is to meet with NWT to discuss progress,

and a walk about has been organised for the 12<sup>th</sup> June to review matters on the ground. All are welcome.

**Clifton Hall** Mavis Forsyth noted that retrospective planning applications had been submitted for the hedges and boundary fence visible at the hall. The AGM agreed that this was a matter for individuals to comment on as they saw fit.

**Old Rectory** – KM noted with some frustration that nothing is being progressed, and it now looks like the site is back off the market. John Spencer noted that he had been making calls up to three times per week to Mr Kumar to advise him that the site was not secure, and that he did come out to lock the gates and re-fix the timbers, albeit this is soon overcome by would be intruders.

**Reading Room** – KM noted that the sale looks to be stalled, following the –‘subject to contract’ boards going up some months ago. Despite this status, a number of historical papers have been discovered by Mike Ashton that suggested the Clifton’s wished the village to take ownership of the building and KM was still therefore pursuing the London solicitors who were thought to hold the deeds. GB advised that the council had confirmed that any sale would included a reversion clause that if no works were carried out in 12 months the building would revert to council. This should help to avoid a repeat of the Old Rectory.

**34 Village Road** – It was confirmed that the council had advised that the entrance door to no. 34 was to be changed in the near future.

**Police Station** – KM noted with some regret that the police station closure had coincided with a reduction in police car presence in the Clifton Area with cars now being ordered up from the Meadows. KM has written to the new Police Commissioner Paddy Tipping on this and still awaits a response.

**Mcdonalds on the A453** – Clare Ashton enquired as to whether anyone knew whether Mcdonalds was still going ahead. It was thought by member of the AGM that the owners were waiting for the A453 works to be largely completed before ‘cashing in’.

## 6. **Treasurer's Report**

Helen Huffer presented the accounts for 2012-13. The CVRA had 278 members in 2012-13, with subscription income totalling £284.00. The big event of the year was the Jubilee celebration, which benefitted from a £750 donation from Nottingham City Council, as well as further private donations and sales of mugs and tea towels. Apart from this event the yearly spending followed the general pattern of previous years, and we ended the year some £310.54 better off than when we started, with there being £1952.72 held between our two accounts. £60 has been donated to the garden group for the continued purchase of plants for the village planters. HH thanked Helen Lander for continuing to audit the accounts. The AGM agreed the presentation of a £25 gift voucher to Helen Lander for this.

Maurice Bonney enquired whether the CVRA paid for Village Hall hire. HH confirmed that no payments were made for village events such as the AGM or specific CVRA presentation but that contributions were made for social events, in line with the general CVH hire structure.

The report was proposed by John Woodall, seconded by John Spencer and accepted by the AGM.

## 7. Election of Officers

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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 Mavis Forsyth – elected by the AGM.

John Woodall thanked all of the officers for their hard work on behalf of the CVRA. He especially thanked the Chairman for the huge amount of work that he puts in to make the CVRA and its events a success. He also thanked Helen for her commitment and dedication in being the CVRA Treasurer for such a length of time.

The AGM showed their appreciation by applause.

## 8. Election of Executive Committee

The chairman advised the AGM that all but one member of the existing committee were willing to continue to serve.

One nomination was received from Ed Peterson. This was proposed by Mavis Forsyth and Seconded by Kevin McCormick. Ed offered his apologies for this evening as he had been called away by a family illness.

KM sadly advised that John Spencer has not been in the best of health over recent months and had therefore offered to step down from the committee. This offer had been accepted to allow Ed to stand unopposed. The Chairman noted that despite these issues John had offered to continue to support the CVRA through his Neighbourhood Watch work and work on committee events. KM noted that this was in keeping with the huge amount of effort John has put in over the years for the committee, with John continuing to serve the community even through times of illness over the last few years. It was agreed by all that John had been, and continues to be, a fine supporter of the CVRA, and the AGM acknowledged this through a round of applause.

Election of all officers and committee was proposed by Sandy McCormick and Seconded by Diva Bonney. 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, Ed Peterson, John Woodall, Simon Massarella, Pat Rice, Terry Kay.

## 8. Honorarium

Honorarium £50 to the Secretary – Proposed by John Woodall – Seconded by Kevin McCormick.  
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):

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Coronation Party -      | Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2013 -Introduced by Clare Ashton. This will be the first of many fund raising events for improvement to the Village Hall. Tickets are available from Clare for £10. |
| Music Festival -        | 11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2013 at St Mary's Clifton. Tickets from Clare Ashton.  |
| Summer Garden Party -   | Sunday 28th July 2012 - "Holly House" (The Woodalls) or Village Hall if wet   |
| Late Summer Picnic -    | Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2013 - Old Rectory Coach House or Village Hall if wet  |
| Christmas Tree Carols - | 1 <sup>st</sup> weekend in December   |

Help was requested to set up for events. Set up for the Christmas Tree will be on the Saturday of the Christmas Carols at 9.30am

## 10. **AOB**

- 10.1 **Clifton Village Hall.** Clare Ashton advised the AGM that agreement in principle had been reached with Nottingham Trent University on a long term rental of a portion of land adjacent to the schoolhouse to allow a new car-park to be built to the rear of the hall. Mike Ashton has worked extremely hard to realise this, and the legals hope to be concluded with the council in the next few weeks. Work will then progress through planning.
- 10.2 **Daffodils on the Green.** Mavis Forsyth noted that the Daffodils on the Green had not been as good this year, and proposed use of CVRA funds to fertilise these ready for next year. After a long and somewhat heated debate, the AGM voted by a majority on a motion to spend £20 on fertiliser. To be actioned by Terry Kay.

## 11 **Next Meeting**

The Chairman closed the AGM thanking members present for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

The date of the next AGM was confirmed as the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014, to ensure it is kept free in people's diaries.

Graeme Barker, Secretary to the Clifton Village Residents Association