



## **MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 8.00 pm**

**Held at**

**Clifton Village Hall**

**Total Membership 264**

### **1. Apologies:**

Jill Barker, Glenys Blacknell, Jonathon Blacknell, Jan Buck, Geoff Matthews, John and Linda Pickles, Julie and Patrick Reid, Cllr. Roger Steel, Kath and John Spencer,

### **2. Present: 28 members:**

Clare Ashton, Graeme Barker, Francis Buck, Phil Bull, Sandra Bull, Christine Cartwright, Nigel Cartwright, Gary Dykes, Christine Dalby, Geoffrey Harrow, Helen Huffer, Mick Huffer, Hilary Hughes, Kath Kay, Linda Law, Ed Peterson, Vendela Peterson, Claire Simpson, Joe Rice, Pat Rice, James Royston, Maggie Royston, Mark Vandersluis, Sam Ward, Bob Whileman, Joyce Whileman, Dorothy Woodall, John Woodall.

- with Councillor Andrew Rule, Sgt. Nigel Bradley.

### **3. Previous Minutes:**

The minutes were proposed for acceptance by John Woodall, seconded by James Royston and approved by the AGM as a true record. As such to be forwarded to Jonathon Blacknell for placing on the website.

### **4. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Report**

Chairwoman, Pat Rice (PR), introduced Sgt. Nigel Bradley.

He stated that after 3.5 years running the Clifton team he is impressed with the local responsiveness of the public. In the greater Clifton area, he reflected on increased ease of road access with the new A453, there are more job opportunities within easy driving distance and consequently house prices in Clifton have increased.

His crime statistics cover a longer period than usual, owing to the lockdown period, which would explain that crime is up 10%. In addition, crimes such as shop theft are now recorded differently.

Criminals have been drawn into the Clifton area owing to the increase in shops, Lidl etc. A policy of speedy arrests ensures that the police keep on top of theft. As a result, product prices are not having to be increased. Shop theft is the result of a core cohort of ten individuals who are suppressed.

Drug taking and connected anti-social behaviour is contained and is mostly connected with one isolated 'secure' location.

Anti-social behaviour is being hit hard, and parents are involved when younger individuals

are caught.

On the matter of 'off-road' motorbikes, 1 – 2 are seized every month and a specialist scrambler unit can now chase bikers down. That problem is much less now than previously reported.

The floor was opened to questions for Nigel:

Christine Cartwright asked about the height of the hedge around the Fisherman's Carpark in the context of being able to see fly-tippers in action. Should this be trimmed – N.B. check with Prairie Bryant.

PR took the opportunity to thank Francis Buck for his efforts to keep the car-park clean as part of the Alma Davies team, helping to maintain the village litter-free.

Hilly Hughes stated that she had seen graffiti on trees, near the carpark. Nigel asked that in future such incidents be photographed and sent to him. He would get the matter investigated as often graffiti has a recognisable style or contains a tag to identify the artist.

Vendela Peterson mentioned fires in the wood above the farm and we were told to phone 101 or 999 immediately to prevent serious damage. The local police share a drone with the fire service. This is expensive equipment, in the region of £30K, that can be called into action to trace fires, for example, or missing persons. In these cases, the sooner the services are informed the more effective action can be taken.

Geoffrey Harrow commented that living on the even-numbered side of Village Road was more secure with a pavement. On the odd numbered side, one could easily be knocked over by speeding traffic. The pinch points of Village Road were discussed and the danger of the corner from Village Road to Holgate.

Linda Law described that some vehicles parked well away from the pavement outside the Old Coach House on the corner of Gervais Gardens creating problems.

PR confirmed that parking restriction road-markings would go some way to alleviate the problems mentioned. She acknowledged that speeding was an oft-discussed topic. Nigel Bradley said he could inform the mobile speeding-camera team and ask them to be available.

PR expressed many thanks to Nigel Bradbury for turning out, and to his team, and being able to bring us up to date on statistics for the whole Clifton area and answer questions relating to the village itself.

#### **4. Barton in Fabis Quarry update**

The quarry site between Barton in Fabis and Clifton was included in the County Council's Mineral Plan in March this year. This inclusion cannot be altered, we now need to focus not on site-acceptance issues connected with the Mineral Plan but purely on what impact the quarry would have on our lives.

For the site itself to go ahead now, as an accepted part of the Mineral Plan, the operators, London Rock, will need to secure planning permission from the County Council. New plans have recently been submitted to the County Council with many questions still unanswered.

We are asking everyone in the village to help the cause, to stop the quarry going ahead, by making objections known to the County Council through the public consultation which is running until September 10<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, contact can be made directly with councillors involved and copying in Lilian Greenwood and others. A list will be compiled and circulated of who to contact.

Using pro forma letters as in previous writing-campaigns has no value in as much as they will all be treated as one comment. In the same way with petitions, irrespective of number of signatures, will be counted as one complaint/comment.

It is important to write an individual letter picking up on any of the points of objection. A few of which are:

- Air quality
- Noise
- Disturbance to wild-life
- Loss of local footpaths and amenities
- Loss of feeding areas for birds from Attenborough
- We also need to appeal directly to the Councillors who sit on the County Council's Planning Committee. These Councillors will have the final say on whether the gravel extraction goes ahead and therefore it is so important for us all to make it clear how important this area is to us and why it should not be destroyed.

PR described that the proposed conveyor belt will carry gravel 6 days a week from the valley floor up to the highest point in the area which is Mill Hill.

26,000 residents live within the affected area and property is yet to be added by the Barton Green development (350 properties) and the substantial development in the vale between Clifton, Gotham and Ruddington (2,500 domestic properties and additional industrial sites).

Andrew Rule commented on the impact of the site on flooding and the three SSI sites connected with the area.

Linda Law asked about the original extraction site, which was Shelford, and comments were made that suggested undue influence may have been brought to bear, resulting in the original site being dropped.

Graeme Barker stated that the village of Barton in Fabis has carried out a tremendous amount of work over the past few years, with a very professional approach.

Christine Dalby referred to the effect on all the properties yet to be built and that developers when given the 'go-ahead' should be informed for them to add to the campaign. The importance of nature versus property was mentioned and questions about the involvement of Attenborough were countered by PR with the comment that they had once been a quarry themselves, making it difficult for them to raise objections effectively, although the Wildlife Trust from Attenborough are involved.

The University is being informed by Barton.

## **6. Matters Arising**

- **Parking Permits**

PR commented that discussions were ongoing, and decisions would be arrived at that satisfied all parties. She asked Councillor Andrew Rule to comment. With humour, there followed a description of how the department responsible for releasing the money from the City Treasurers had prevaricated. It is only when the Traffic and Highways department receives the funds from the Treasurer that action can be taken.

Christine Cartwright wished to place on record her thanks to Cllr Andrew Rule for his patience in dealing with different issues connected with parking in the whole village and particularly for Holgate, Nethergate and Orchard Close. She asked about anticipated timelines, bearing in mind that the NTU, while currently quiescent, its students would reappear in September/October. Emphasis was placed on the importance of going the last mile, now.

Andrew Rule confirmed that there is a process involved. This means that when the funding is received by the Traffic/Highways department our Clifton Village project would be rubber-stamped to join the queue. However, other traffic and safety needs are currently being prioritised.

Once we know money is received, we can cajole the fund-holder on the matter of timing.

Clare Ashton reminded everyone that the needs of the Church should be considered, in this matter, as well as those of the Fisherman's carpark.

- **Bollards**

The Village Green is on a long-term lease with the Clifton Family as Leaseholders. It is for them to allow the bollards to be placed. The current map showing planned position of new bollards indicates no bollards on the side of the A453.

There are concerns that travellers could access from the roadside.

Permission from the Clifton family is now almost complete and legal costs met. The die is cast.

Pat Rice asked everyone to show their thanks/appreciation to Councillor Andrew and to Councillor Nigel Slater for their involvement and hard work on this issue.

- **The Dovecote**

The condition of the Dovecote has been under discussion for some years. A survey was conducted by the City Heritage department 6 years ago. The topic was picked up by Councillor Chris Gibson with the Heritage Officer Alice Ullathorne just before the pandemic. and discussions continued recently, involving Alice and a group from Clifton Village.

The long-term use of the building was emphasised with a view to being open to suggestions that would allow the building to be used and perhaps have some natural lighting. Any alterations would be within listed building requirements. Emphasis was placed on looking to the long-term use of the building. It would be important to have income to fund ongoing maintenance, so the building would be self-sufficient.

As a large structure it could be put to several uses:

- Space for people to work away from home and use as a change of environment.
- Source of teaching aids for local schools
- Source of historical relevance to university students
- One of several buildings as part of a 'heritage trail'
- Library and resource of village artefacts
- Office space

It was pointed out that the starting point should be the Architectural Heritage Fund. They will be able to fund a viability study once the building is on the 'at risk' register, which will happen in August.

PR asked the AGM if there was a consensus to participate in ongoing discussions and offer help and be involved with the City Heritage department. The AGM agreed to proceed, and everyone was asked to put their thinking caps on as to how the Dovecote could be used and research what grants may be available.

## **7. Chairwoman's Report**

PR said that it is lovely to be able to meet up with so many after so long. This has been an historic period we have been living through, a period where a virus has affected all of us in so many ways to the extent of losing friends and family, not always through Covid but made more difficult by the virus and the shutdown it has necessitated.

PR wished to pass on sincere condolences to any who have lost a loved one or a dear friend.

PR commented on the brilliant community we live in and set out to thank all those who had helped in the early days. Jill Barker, for example, who although working at the hospital still found time to produce our newsletter about how we should best act to take care of ourselves, with inputs from other experts, Christine Cartwright and Mark and Sarah Heining. The red and green householder tick sheets were devised by Joe Rice and distributed by committee members. These were checked daily to ensure all residents were safe.

Many residents commented on how secure this made them feel that someone was looking out for them, particularly those living on their own. There were offers of help from around the community; offers to collect prescriptions, to walk the dog, to shop for those neighbours who had to isolate, to fix anything in the home such as putting in new light bulbs and not forgetting our medical experts who were there to allay any fears and anxieties. In all there were 50 + people who had offered to assist, who we could call upon for help. Thank you all.

Additionally, Clare Ashton set up a library in her barn with donations of books and games to suit all tastes.

The village even managed to celebrate VE day from the bottom of driveways, keeping safe distances, yet becoming closer as it was an opportunity to get to know one another a little better.

PR spoke of the peace and quiet in those early days of the pandemic and the importance of campaigning to support our friends in Barton in Fabis, against the unwanted quarry, noise and dust that would result. She asked as many as possible to write in and object to the application.

The completion of the Old Rectory buildings has been successfully carried out. There are now seven new homes waiting to welcome new occupants. Three of those are now occupied and welcomed to our community and all have become members of our Residents Association.

There have been many meetings, via zoom, to find a solution to the parking conundrum that includes Holgate, Nethergate and Orchard Close. A decision was made a few months ago to meet all needs, for residents, church users and occasional visitors to residents. It has taken over two years for a small group of concerned people, particularly Nigel and Christine Cartwright. Both students and building workers were using the available parking areas in this part of the village and particularly on Holgate. With building at the Old Rectory complete it remains to be seen how students behave before parking restrictions are established and permit-parking will put paid to students and other university users from parking there at will.

Residents of Barton Green, in particular Hawksley Gardens, have asked for support to persuade the authorities to have an additional access road provided, when the new building site is developed on the land between Barton Green and the old Blue Bell woods. Hawksley Garden is currently the only access for what will be a very busy building site over 2 – 3 years.

It is believed that there will be the opportunity to comment on the plans for the property layout. It is vital that everything possible is done to help Hawksley Garden residents and additionally to protect the now listed ancient woodland and its wildlife.

The committee has had a busy two years. The Old Rectory issues have ended, the student parking problems are soon to be sorted and bollards to the remainder of The Green will soon be in place. Additionally, thanks to an extremely generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous, we will have a village heritage sign. Phil Bull has picked up on the start made by Graeme Barker and carried on the task to have a company design and create the sign for us.

One remaining issue is the Dovecote which has deteriorated noticeably over the last few years. We were contacted last year by a group on the council who are tasked with helping local groups to obtain funding to ensure that such listed buildings are not lost through neglect. A few from the committee have formed a group to co-operate with a city heritage trust led by Alice Ullathorne.

In conclusion PR thanked everyone who over the last 2 years has been involved in village life, helping in every way. Also, on behalf of the AGM a big thank to our committee, for their work and support during such a testing time. PR expressed hope to look forward to more fun and enjoyable times.

## **8. Treasurer's report**

Helen Huffer (HH) presented the accounts for 2020 – 2021.

This has been an unusual period we have gone through in terms of income and expenditure.

The only income was the donation of £5,000 to cover the cost of the Village heritage sign, and this remains in the accounts to pay for the sign, when installed.

Considering expenditure for the past year. The Christmas Tree and lights did go ahead at a cost of £186.00. No other activities took place to report other income or expenditure. Printing and stationery were still required at a cost of £210.00. With other costs of £203.78 and the Auditors gift of £50.00 meaning a total expenditure over income of £649.78.

The balance carried forward is £8,111.02.

HH thanked Helen Lander, the Auditor, for her continued help to audit the accounts.

The AGM agreed to the Auditors gift of £50.00.

The report was proposed by James Royston and seconded by Christine Cartwright.

## **9. Election of Officers**

PR commented on the hard work by Kath Kay, now retiring from the committee, and thanked her for her involvement and her wish to continue to help in the background. PR wished to specially thank Glenys Blacknell for all her commitment to the CVRA and hard work over the years, particularly connected with the Xmas party and many other social events.

John Woodall was invited to lead the election of officers and commented on the sterling work behind the scenes of the three officers.

Pat Rice was willing to continue as Chairwoman

Helen Huffer was willing to continue as Treasurer

Ed Peterson to continue as Secretary

This proposal was put to the AGM by John Woodall and seconded by Vendela Peterson and their election to the posts was unanimously voted on by the AGM

## **Election of Executive Committee**

All other committee members confirmed they were willing to remain on the committee.

There were two proposals for new committee members. These were Graeme Barker proposed by Jill Barker and seconded by Pat Rice. Also, Christine Dalby, proposed by John Woodall and seconded by Kath Kay.

PR pointed out that Graeme Barker has been an active member of the committee for many years, having left for a short time after a job-move to re-join now.

The new committee members and others were elected by the AGM. The CVRA committee is therefore made up of:

### **Officers:**

Chairwoman: Pat Rice, Secretary: Ed Peterson. Treasurer: Helen Huffer.

### **Executive Committee:**

Graeme Barker, Phil Bull, Christine Dalby, Julie Reid, James Royston, Sam Ward, John Woodall.

## **10. Honorarium**

Honorarium of £50.00 to the Secretary. Proposed by Pat Rice and seconded by Helen Huffer.

Approved by the AGM.

## **11. Social Events.**

Dates and venues for coming events will be published in the Newsletter and shown on the Notice Board and the website.

Summer Garden Party - Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July – “Holly House” or the Village Hall, if wet.

Pub Quiz night with Curry - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October

## **12. AOB**

### **Village Heritage Sign.**

PR invited Phil Bull to provide an update. Phil described that he had recently met with the Village Sign people. They are a small team led by ex craft-teachers, Pam and Harry Stibbing located in Great Hockham near Thetford, Norfolk. Our sign is now the second in the production line and should be ready this Autumn. It will be positioned at the apex to the Green. Phil has organised not only the sign from outset but also necessary permissions from both the Heritage Dept at Nottingham and Highways, Nottingham.

### **The Village Hall and Schoolhouse Trust**

Clare Ashton asked people to attend the AGM and will notify of the date in due course. She reminded all that there is an ongoing fund-raising exercise that is to pay for the new entrance and kitchen extension etc. to this Village Hall.

### **The Quarry – further discussion**

In answer to points raised by Mick Huffer and Geoffrey Harrow, PR confirmed that material would be sent to every household concerning the Quarry and this would include relevant people at the council to direct letters to. Andrew Rule referred to the main names. The Portfolio Holder for that area, being Linda Woodings (responsible for housing, planning, and heritage) and Councillor Kevin Clarke (for Clifton East).

## **14. Next Meeting.**

The Chairwoman closed the AGM and thanked members for attending and their contributions to the discussion. The meeting closed at 9.45pm. The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.

