



Minutes of meeting of Clifton Village Residents Association

**Held at The Paddocks Farriers Green Clifton Village
On Wednesday 13th April 2016 at 8 pm.**

(1) Members present:

Mrs Pat Rice (PR) Mrs Helen Huffer (HH), Mrs Glenys Blacknell (GB) Mr James Royston (JR)
Mr K. McCormick (KM), Mr Phil Bull (PB) Mr Ed Peterson (EP) Mr John Woodall (JW)

(2) Apologies: Graeme Barker

(3) Matters Arising

Village Newsletter and Membership

JW reviewed the topic of who should receive the village newsletter and agreed with that decision to restrict this to people who have paid their subscription but added that newcomers should receive the newsletter, irrespective. It was also agreed that flyers promoting events should go to the whole village.

This flyer could remind individuals that the newsletter is received as part of the village membership subscription. JW mentioned that he had welcomed Tony Millard and his wife Sophie to the village now that they are settled in Blossom Cottage on Nethergate both JW and KM would wish them to join the Village activities.

(4) Chairman's Report

Kevin urged that this meeting should be as comprehensive as possible being his final meeting as Chairman.

He commented that it would be useful to look at the roles of both Chairman and Secretary to make the jobs easier to deal with. He felt there was a need to involve committee members more in the work that both he and GB (as Secretary) have taken upon themselves over the years.

KM commented that he has very much enjoyed being part of the committee and thoroughly involved with all that this has entailed. He felt that he had seen the Village through a relatively turbulent time in the sense of threats to its conservation, which started with the issue of the street lighting and continues in the form of the Travellers and other planning issues, such as the Rectory. For KM, business and other personal pressure are such that he needs to take a back seat for the time being but he commented that we should all keep on our toes as there was every possibility that he would return with renewed strength and vigour. KM did say that he has received a number of well-wishes and some from surprising quarters which have given him delight and consolation reflecting acknowledgement well deserved.

KM wished to thank every member of the committee for their part in helping his tenure be a success. KM wished to thank, in no particular order, GB for her catering involvement, to HH for keeping the finances in good order as Treasurer, to PR for her willing involvement in so many matters to JR and EP for being there when needed to PB for his IT excellence and bringing the CVRA

into the new era and not least to JW for encouraging him in his efforts and being a sound resource to help and provide back-up and encouragement. KM wished, particularly, to express a sincere 'thank you' to Graeme who he felt had gone out of his way to look after matters connected with the Village and made a serious contribution to the value of the CVRA for the village as a whole, to the committee and to helping KM in every aspect of his village involvement. He has been an excellent right hand man to KM.

KM commented that we have willing people not only on the committee but also within the village, all very happy to pull together in this special community.

Sharing Responsibilities

KM declared that he had probably made a rod for his own back in being active in every aspect of the committee work, not distributing more effectively. He declared his wish that the incoming Chairman look to share out elements of the work so that it would not be onerous.

KM acknowledged that Graeme was in a similar position but for his part is prepared to continue to look after certain roles, particularly connected with planning, which he would come to later.

Treasurers Report

HH commented that the finances of the CVRA are sound. Xmas cards for 2015 raised £170.00 which was paid to the village school house trust fund and other sundry expenses are the reason for the slightly reduced current account.

December CVRA current acct	£1,278
Deposit acct	£1,842

April CVRA current acct	£1,048
Deposit acct	£1,842

Secretary's Report

GB prepared an update for the meeting, being away on the day. GB commented positively on his meeting with Councillors and Community Officers with Roy Nettleship. The Council committed (following much encouragement) to putting the proposal for bollards and rails to the portfolio holder, Graham Chapman, for him to decide whether to support the proposal. It turns out that the legal advisors did not say to the NCC that bollards with rails were somehow illegal just that 'bollards' alone were preferable. The NCC are now going to gather GB's email commentary alongside other documents relating to the intrusion and nuisance caused by the travellers. This, when given to the Portfolio decision makers at NCC should allow them to make a decision concerning agreement to get the works funded.

In this context, PB agreed to contact the Evening Post and their archives concerning the Travellers with information to build the case against them and reinforce the need for the bollards.

GB has advised the committee that he is prepared to stay on as named Secretary for the next twelve months. He is happy to do this on the basis that two of his many roles are shared around.

1. *Storage, movement of bar stock.* JR confirmed he would be happy to take on the stock of drink and marquees with attached responsibilities once he had cleared the garage of accumulated years of hoarding.

2. *Printing and preparation of tickets for events.* EP declared that he would be happy to do this. He is aware that GB's Architect Practice has effectively subsidised printing costs over the past years. HH noted this and as Treasurer commented that costs would be met. Both PR and HH offered their back-up with distribution of tickets and flyers which was much appreciated.

The committee hopes that this will free GB sufficiently for him to continue the excellent work that needs his expertise concerning planning and protecting the character of the Village environment.

Village Planning Matters

Village Green and Bollards

KM informed the committee that Clifton family heirs have been traced and this was an unfortunate success. Their involvement has delayed matters as the Clifton family solicitor has deliberated the issues. The Clifton family are asking NCC to pay their solicitors costs.

We are assured that, irrespective of delays, funding can be made available and the bollards with connecting top stretcher rails will be used.

It should be mentioned that Paul who lives by the Green has been instrumental in ensuring that Travellers move on speedily, at personal risk to himself.

Village Green re-seeding

Such work will be carried out in the Spring as Lang o' Rourke have promised to do, for the Green and verges affected by the road widening.

Village Sign

The heritage sign is still being considered and no doubt will be given the green light in time.

Village Hall Car Park

The Car Park is now available and the use of KM with his gang of itinerants is no longer needed as the building work and demolition has been completed. There is now direct access from the Car Park to the door of the village hall.

Old Rectory and Reading Room

Work has continued on the Reading Room and Mr Anthony Trickett is now involved with the renovation works at The Old Rectory. Progress is being made with some interior work completed and a new roof appearing on one area. Mr Anthony Trickett has commented that he may move into the building with his family. It is believed that Mr Nindi Kumar may need to review issues as the project continues. KM commented that sufficient funds have been spent on the project so far as to show positive intentions to complete the work.

Progress is being made on the Reading Room building.

Gravel Extraction

This is still an issue. Essentially nothing is finally resolved. KM pointed out it should be born in mind that if Shelford is chosen then extraction at Barton will definitely happen in the near rather than distant future.

Planning proposal for Cattery at 60, Village Road

JW commented that in all matters of planning, where neighbours are involved, that the CVRA has taken a neutral stance. But, he points out, this is not a matter concerning neighbours but one that would affect the look of the Village and would set a precedent for planning proposals in the future. This would be seriously detrimental to the look and feel of the village as a whole. Comment was made on the negative sight of the proposed commercial-looking building made of white uPVC that would be imposed on the frontage.

A resolution was carried that the CVRA would actively and vociferously object to the proposal for a Cattery on the basis of:

- The Village is a conservation area
- The proposed size of the cattery (in white uPVC) to the front of the house is objectionable
- Likely detrimental activity, with visiting cars, to the village road on a busy bend

Neighbourhood Watch

No comments or information at this time except that Simon has reported neighbourhood crime stats are no longer available owing to cost-cutting.

Fish & Chip Supper

Vegetarian and meat pie options were discussed and will be available.

Clare would use the opportunity to have a raffle in aid of the Village Hall.

Late Summer Garden Party

It was confirmed that the theme would be music from the '60's.

Chairman's closing remarks

Kevin brought the matter of the need for a new Chairman to everyone's attention. He suggested that any new Chairman not be as involved as he has been but to delegate to others and actively share responsibility.

The committee roundly thanked Kevin for all his efforts as Chairman for his significant involvement over the years and sense of humour on all occasions with dogged determination and efforts to encourage the village spirit we enjoy today. It was acknowledged that he would be a hard act to follow.

PR did declare that she was prepared to stand in as temporary Chairman. She mentioned that her husband, Joe, would not be too pleased as he contends that Pat is already heavily committed to various village activities. We all agreed that this is the case but no-one rose to counter Pat's brave offer which was warmly received, welcomed and agreed upon.

AOB

GB confirmed her intention to be involved again with the catering with her team of willing ladies. This news was very well received as a semblance of organisation will now return to the Christmas party and perhaps other events where catering expertise is needed. GB did say that this would not last ad infinitum and will keep the field open to newcomers.

No other matters were discussed and the meeting ended on the sound of bottles popping and KM looking cheerful and thoughtful at the same time. He was thanked again over bubbles and a glass or three. A very generous host.

- **Fish & Chip supper/disco Saturday 7th May**
- **AGM Village Hall Thursday 12th May**

Next meeting Wednesday 25th May. Location to be advised.