



Minutes of ZOOM meeting of Clifton Village Residents Association
February 22nd 2021

Those present over the internet:

1. Graeme Barker(GB) Phil Bull(PB) Helen Huffer(HH) Kath Kay(KK)
Ed Peterson(EP) Julie Reid (JRd) Pat Rice(PR) James Royston(JR) Sam Ward (SW) John Woodall(JW) Councillor Roger Steel(RS) and Councillor Andrew Rule(AR)
2. Apologies from Glenys Blacknell
3. **Previous Minutes:**

Minutes from November were proposed by JW and seconded by JR and approved by the committee as a true record of that meeting.

4. **Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Chairwomen's report**

PR welcomed everyone to the first committee meeting of 2021 and particularly to Councillors Andrew Rule and Roger Steel.

PR commented that there was not a lot to report as the year had commenced with a further lock-down. The usual events of Christmas party and carol singing did not take place, although the tree lighting was attended by a number of socially well-distanced villagers.

PR thanked those who erected the Christmas tree, especially Jonathan for his electrical work and Keith for supplying the power and to Graeme, James, Dan and for erecting and dismantling the tree.

Likewise, the Community Carol Service normally held at St Mary's had to be rearranged. Holding it on the village green proved to be a particular success as even more people felt able to attend. Lydia had forewarned the police, to avoid arrests!

PR particularly thanked PB for his sterling efforts to not only organise a jig-saw with a village theme but also to sell these and raise a very worthwhile sum which he has given to the village hall.

Other committee members have been selling village calendars with proceeds also going to the village hall and to the Alzheimer's charity. PR thanked everyone involved and to the photographers who contributed to this year's calendar.

PR noted that we have also made determined efforts to ensure that all of our senior residents were able to book vaccination appointments. EP supplied the necessary contact details and link and committee members contacted each of the seniors age group to ensure all had appointments and successful vaccinations. There was a concerted village approach to this matter.

6. Treasurers Report

HH stated that as per the last meeting, with no changes, that the account balance including the donation of £5,000 for the Village Sign (to be paid on delivery in the future), remains at £8,252.02.

HH commented that Simon has yet to produce the invoice for the Christmas tree and this should be allowed for in the next report.

7. Secretary's Report

EP repeated thanks to the helpers involved with the Christmas tree and acknowledged comments that this year's size of tree was ideal for both erecting and covering attractively with the lights. EP removed the tree-remnants following the council not collecting on the promised day.

EP commented, as secretary, on the amount of work he had seen our chairwoman involved with and thanked her for exercising calm and understanding when it has been clear that, for some, the strain of the lock-down has brought emotions to the surface.

EP reported that Tomlinson's had been a little uncaring about traffic control around the Rectory in the morning with some residents having to wait significant lengths of time to pass the area. On visiting the site, Tomlinsons confirmed they would ensure a clear road in morning rush hour and afternoon.

8. Planning Matters

Holgate and parking

To give context: On 10/02/21 there was a zoom meeting initiated by Nigel Cartwright, to discuss over-parking on Holgate, Nethergate and Orchard Close.

Present were Andrew Rule (Councillor), Roger Strel (Councillor), Pat Rice, Clare Ashton, Lydia Cartwright, Graeme Barker, Francis Buck, Christine Johnson, Nigel Cartwright.

The meeting focussed on the dilemma of allowing church visitor use, and reasonable access by fishermen and walkers, to the carpark and Holgate itself, while curtailing contractors and student parking which have caused considerable inconvenience to immediate residents.

The CVRA now wishes to impose the same restrictions applying to the rest of the village, to limit student parking around Holgate etc. Holgate had not been included years ago, when the restriction signage was requested, owing to the needs of the church. At that time it was not anticipated that deliberate reduced-student-parking in the university grounds would exacerbate the problem, unintentionally driving students to this far end of the village.

Councillors Andrew and Roger were invited to join this CVRA meeting to clarify any discussion points on the way forward, and obstacles, to the committee.

PR invited AR to comment.

AR acknowledged that parking in this area is a controversial subject in that considerations of residents and also the church and walkers/fishermen need to be accommodated. AR is in touch with traffic enforcement and suggests a telephone number that the church could phone to have parking enforcement lifted for one day for weddings, funerals etc. i.e. whenever weekday restrictions are imposed as per the rest of the village.

PR suggested dedicated parking bays, restricting student parking in the Fisherman's Car Park.

AR and RS commented that funds were limited and not available to carry out such work. PR will persue.

AR reminded us that Trent University had previously offered help towards funding, to limit student parking.

GB confirmed he would be meeting with Clare Ashton to further discuss the needs of the church.

GB spoke of the green, which in this case is the half circle of land opposite the fishermen's carpark up to the residences attached to the farm. This would be the ideal area to locate private car-parking bays with the church daily-users in mind. These being the warden, Lydia and Clare.

RS pointed out that the crescent of tarmacked road around the green has a limited element of adopted highway and so occasional parking may be restricted.

AR commented that parking in this area on the left of the green, looking from the carpark to the properties, would involve overhanging trees and not appropriate for a conservation area.

GB suggested discrete parking bays (perhaps three) with green standing mesh allowed to grass over. GB commented that such bays could be located on the right towards the church, using the green. These designated bays would avoid the daily church visitors being caught by parking enforcement when parking restrictions come into action.

GB added that the restriction zone would end at the church, hence the parking bays being a sound alternative. Also, GB commented, better to have restriction rather than the ongoing 'free for all'.

PB suggested, alternatively, that permits be a solution for the daily church visitors.

AR commented that permits are not applicable in restricted areas of the village, right now. AR said that a meeting by the area committee would seek to confirm necessary funding for signage etc which would be allocated for the current year and speedy implementation could be made thereafter. This did not include seeking permission to implement permits for Holgate, Nethergate and Orchard Close.

AR made the point that permits have an additional cost attached to establishing and the question will arise as to how necessary this additional cost and delay would be for the area of Holgate, etc

AR described that a substantial amount of the costs involved were not the restriction-signage etc but the legal fees involved in statutory consultation, feedback/amendments and signing off. Permits should therefore not be considered in addition to restrictions for this area. Funds allocated for signage are estimated at £30,000.

GB questioned the logic and financial sense of applying for permits separately for Holgate etc when an application was to be made for the other restricted areas in the village. GB suggested that the red lines, denoting the boundary of the restricted area, be changed to include Holgate etc. This would remove one issue, i.e. that of added costs/legal fees. Simply apply for permits for all required areas at one go.

PB asked AR the likely time-scale for implementation.

AR explained there is the statutory notice period, then the application goes to 'traffic and works'. There is a backlog to deal with and AR expects approval at the local area committee meeting in March. There should then be some sense of timescale and AR will inform PR.

PR brought forward item 8.3 as this relates to the above.

8.3 Parking Permits

JRd asked about parking permits for occupants of Farriers Green. As this is a narrow road there is limited access for contactors etc. necessitating her having to park on Nethergate when contractors arrive to carry out work. JRd asked for confirmation re parking on Nethergate

GB confirmed his understanding that restricted parking will apply to Nethergate. In other words, any parking on Nethergate when restrictions are in place will involve parking fines.

PB enquired about the cost of implementing permits. AR answered that it was 'a considerable amount', which he preferred not to be disclosed.

PB commented that a lot of villagers have been involved with parking fines and this is an emotive issue reflected in comments on the village Facebook page. EP asked how many and PB replied that to his knowledge 20 people had been fined. He commented that It may be more.

AR pointed out the reason permits were not considered previously. The council- approach for residential areas such as Clifton Village is driven by the availability of drives to houses and even neighbours drives. The approach is to consider these areas sufficient to allow for the occasional off-street parking. i.e. on one's own drive and/or that of a friendly neighbour.

AR commented that he has pushed for the City Council to rescind this policy.

JRd referred to the use of permits in the Beeston area, under County control, where permits are available and seem to be effective.

AR pointed out that some firms apply for a corporate permit to allow them to park in restricted areas, while working.

8.2 Nethergate barrier and bollards to the Green

AR reported that the leader of the council, David Mellen, also looks after the portfolio for regeneration. His enquiry into implementing bollards to the end of Nethergate is complete and he has decided that this is a waste of funds and will not go ahead.

The letter from Prairie Bryant to various residents in the Nethergate/Farriers Green area showed significant support for an 'A' frame to be positioned at the end of Nethergate, before the path starts, leading towards the green and A453.

AR says that the village green bollards are also organised through Prairie. She has Councillor Rebecca Langton, who is portfolio holder for Communities and Highways , giving support for all remaining areas of the green being bollarded. Prairie expects Councillor Langton to allow some of her portfolio funds towards the cost.

JW pointed out that there are bollards missing and access to the Green is now easy.

PR commented that possibly the metal bollard was removed for grass cutting. This would be looked into.

8.4 Old Rectory

PR has asked for an update from Tomlinsons.

KK confirmed her understanding it would be three weeks. i.e. towards the end of March for completion.

PR - Tomlinsons have said that they will attend to the settlement-dip in the drive at the entrance to the village hall as payment for being able to park in the village hall carpark.

GB commented that the site manager, Steve, was very good for both the site and the village. He had promised to re-surface the road and dig out any deeply rutted parts to make a good job.

8.4 Quarry at Barton in Fabis

The inspectors report has been passed on and work could commence from March. PR comments that the main concern re dampening-down to protect air quality is being pursued by both Lillian Greenwood MP for Nottingham south and the Barton in Fabis committee. The latter are putting in a response to include Larkill Residents the CVRA and themselves.

8.4 Land development to Clifton West

PR comments that the land sale has gone out to tender. The council is selling to the highest bidder.

GB – this may or may not involve the council seeking to benefit. If they are seeking to benefit further, by payments from the builder for greater housing density for example, then this is a dangerous situation. The council should sell and remove themselves from any further involvement. If they remain involved there will be less regard for issues raised, such as:

- Restricting access to the woodland
- Protection of bridleway
- Sufficient land barrier between housing and woodland
- Spending funds on playground
- Caring for Hawksley Gardens residents

PR – is there mileage in seeking a second access point to reduce traffic through Hawksley.

JW mentioned the world war artillery site that needs to be protected and indeed there may be other more ancient archaeological material to be uncovered.

GB – it is miraculous that new guidance recently issued by the council allows for this project to go ahead. On the basis of the old rules it would not have been allowed.

PR There will be considerable noise and inconvenience over the two/three year period the development is taking place to the residents of the access road – Hawksley Gardens.

8.7 Road Potholes in village

PR has been asked about potholes by villagers, particularly around the old rectory area. PR has photographed numerous ones. PR was led to understand that national funds were being distributed to councils to help with road repairs.

PR will email councillors and Prairie Bryant to ensure that larger potholes are dealt with as a matter of course and that the smaller ones are attended to before themselves becoming a problem.

Separately, PR acknowledged that Tomlinsons, the old rectory contractors, had said from outset they would repair the stretch of road around their site, up to the village hall.

JW commented he had never seen such road deterioration within the village.

AR replied that he would look into the matter of funding for repairs.

9. Social Events for 2020

- The date for the summer garden party is Saturday July 31st
- The Quiz and Curry night - 16th October

10. AOB

Speed restrictions.

PR stated that speeding on the narrow bend of Village Road has been pointed out.

AR – this is a police issue.

JW - The speeding may be just within the limits and therefore not illegal, but definitely unsociable.

In addition:

HH has noticed a van, East Midland Construction, parking overnight on the start of Groveside Crescent. The driver apparently lives in Clifton. This is a traffic enforcement issue and should be reported if seen again.

SW asked a question concerning the Gervase Gardens area. As a trustee he wished to be in touch with managers of the Alms houses concerning boundary issues and fencing.

AR confirmed there is a housing association involvement.

JRd raised the issue of safety equipment being available along the Trent river side. The recent Trent incident involving young girls falling through ice into the river raised this question.

EP said he would look into the matter with Severn Trent who have responsibility for the pathway alongside the river.

Next CVRA Meeting - before any proposed AGM, most likely by Zoom, for Tuesday 4th May.

AGM - It appears that May 17th will not be an acceptable date, during phased lock-down. Dates in June to be considered.

Thank you - Thanks to JR and daughter Emily for providing the extended Zoom access for this CVRA meeting.

Appreciated.