



**Minutes of the Meeting of Clifton Village Residents Association
Held at 10 Nethergate
On Tuesday 23rd June at 8 pm**

1 Members Present:-

Mr G Barker (GB), Mrs G Blacknell (GBI), Mr Phil Bull (PB), Mrs H Huffer (HH), Mr Terry Kay (TK), Mr K McCormick (KM), Mr Ed Peterson (EP), Mrs P Rice (PR), James Royston (JR), Mr J Woodall (JW)

2 Apologies: Simon Massarella

3 Previous Minutes

JW noted that the heading to item 12.2 was unclear – GB to change to ‘Village Hall Car Park’. Minutes were then proposed by GBI and approved by the committee.

4 Matters Arising: TK advised that no further positive news was available regarding Laings carrying out small items of remedial work around the war memorial but that following consultation with various council advisors the poppy seeds had been sown around the edges of the village green.

5 Chairman’s Report

KM welcomed James Royston to the committee and hoped that he would be able to bring new ideas and energy to the group.

KM noted that the AGM had been well supported, with GB confirming an attendance in excess of 40. It was noted that this would have been helped by the Old Rectory presentation.

KM noted that the Fish and Chip Supper was another big success. Many thanks as ever went to Jonathon for his time and input setting up and running the disco. KM now looked forward to the summer events.

KM is concerned that works have stopped on the Old Rectory. It is thought that this may be due to builders going unpaid, but GB also noted that not all planning applications have been approved and that Anthony had noted that they would not proceed until the permissions were all in hand. **Action:** GB to talk to NCC. KM to contact Anthony Trickett.

6 Treasurers Report

HH tabled the Treasurers Report. HH advised that the total ticket sales from the Lecture Series had been £440.00. It was generally agreed that the events had been a great success, although they may be best run on a biennial footing.

Membership subscriptions had contributed £262.00, whilst the bar takings and residual ticket sales banked once the Fish and Chip sales were taken into account were £303.55. A further £181.12 was paid to KM for drinks leaving a profit of around £100 once the bar licence was accounted for.

HH has submitted the events insurance forms for the Late Summer Picnic and Garden Party in the sum of £112.00. Payments have been made to Helen Lander as auditor of £25.00 and the Honorarium to the Secretary of £50.00. The report was proposed by JW and seconded by KM. Accepted by the committee.

Bank balance: Current Account £847.95 Deposit Account remains £1842.48

7 Secretaries Report

- 7.1 Membership** - GB advised that the current membership stood at 264, slightly down on the full year total, though some collection areas had already surpassed their 2014 totals. KM highlighted that all committee members should have a real push to better the total membership achieved in 2014-15.
- 7.2 Newsletter** – GB highlighted that the revised date for newsletter material is the end of the month, as it is important that the advert is lodged by the end of the month. All parties to note and action as necessary. The Cricket feature is to be run this summer. A feature from the Garden club visit was discussed for the autumn newsletter and PR will review this once the event has taken place.
- 7.3 Website** – GB highlighted that Jonathon is now on an iceberg in the South Atlantic and may be unable to post material on the website. GB to send an email with dropbox material to Jonathon to see whether the website can be maintained with Jonathon’s communications where he is.
- 7.4** GB is still to place a banner in the Noticeboard to advertise the link to Facebook and the village website.
GB to action.

8 Village Planning Matters:

- 8.1 Old Rectory** – As noted in the Chairmans report concerned was expressed at the lack of activity. KM and GB to pursue NCC and Anthony Trickett for an update.
- 8.2 Access to Village Bus Stop on A453**– PR advised that no response had been forthcoming from any party regarding the bus stop, though it was noted that Simon Massarella had led many of the enquiries. Simon to be contacted to see what the latest situation is.
- 8.3 Where has our Village gone?** - A long discussion was held regarding the fact that the ‘village’ had slowly been eroded from Clifton Village, starting with the name disappearing from postal addresses, and being followed by Laings / Highways Agency position regarding Clifton Village being removed from all signage to the village in lieu of ‘Clifton Hall’. This is two dwellings in a village of 200. All agreed action needs to be taken. PR advised that the Highways Agency had stated that their remit is to avoid ‘visual clutter’, though it was noted that a small 2 day a week market in Clifton is on the signs. PB noted that Ian Malcolm had stated to him that “Clifton Village is not an official name” and that the village’s desire to titled as ‘village’ was seen by many in the council as nothing more than ‘village snobbery’, ie. had been discriminated against in council discussion.

It was noted by EP and PB that there is no village road signboard at the edge of the green, and that one could be funded by the village to at least offer some wayfinding to people arriving. EP to enquire as to the cost and logistics of doing this. KM noted that this should run in parallel with trying to get proper signage to ‘Clifton Village’ installed.

The committee resolved to take action on the matter. **Actions:** GB to catch up with Simon Massarella on where his discussions on the matter had reached. We can then decide who is going to campaign to each elected representative. An official position needs to be put in writing by NCC on the matter so that we know where we stand. EP is to enquire as to the cost and logistics of as village road sign. KM to bring the matter up with Councillor Chris Gibson. GB to cover in discussion with Prairie Bryant.

9 Neighbourhood Watch

TK presented the Neighbourhood Watch Report. Crime figures for the last 12 months were presented, which confirmed 25 crimes in the village in the whole year. TK advised that they were evenly spread around the village denoting no ‘high risk’ areas.

TK advised that following a lack of response to a recent incident using the 101 number the police had advised that any emergency or other need that warranted a police response should be directed to 999 as this would be more likely to be actioned. TK noted that the new lamp posts had been installed along the edge of the village green. KM highlighted the positive role Prairie Bryant at the council had taken in achieving this positive outcome for village safety.

10 Social Events

- 10.1 Summer Garden Party** – 19th July - Start time of 12.30pm was confirmed. Set up will be from 9am. **All helpers to confirm to GB ahead of time** so that we can ensure that there are sufficient people to put up gazebos. KM to provide 2no large gazebos. GB to talk to Clare Ashton about the small fold away gazebo for the bar. GB highlighted he is away for the event. KM to contact Francis Buck regarding assistance on setting the bar out. JR is also available to assist on the day. JW gazebo is to be hired for placement of food. A team will be required to take down gazebos on Sunday Morning - again **could all helpers please confirm** they are able to help – suggested time of 9.30am on Sunday Morning.
- 10.2 Late Summer Picnic** – Date confirmed as Saturday 5th September. Ticket price held at £3. Entertainment to be music by Jonathon Blacknell on PA system. Suggested theme of VJ day / 70th Anniversary / 40's theme agreed by all. **Action All** - Tag line required for Newsletter advert. Set up will be from 6pm on Friday night with JB setting up PA system on Saturday. Suggestions for advert “Remembering Victory” - turn up in your best bib and tucker for an afternoon of songs from the 40's.” See below for thoughts – Punch and Judy Show – 40's songs – ration themed food prize for be turnout. Marbles Competition? Intersperse music with a number of unnamed songs – guess the year for each?

<http://www.leektowncouncil.co.uk/whats-on/icalrepeat.detail/2015/08/15/5854/-/NDMzNTlmNDYwMjQxZDc5OWEyOTgzY2NmNDEyYjhjNWQ=/party-for-peace>
<http://www.thepjf.com/nottinghamshire.html>
<http://uckfieldnews.com/ve-day-celebrations-uckfield/>

- 10.3 Autumn Event** – It was suggested that the Wine Tasting be re-scheduled, but maybe with a slightly different approach. EP suggested a blind tasting with labels to put on different wines to see whether we can ‘taste the difference’. TK suggested that the evening be expanded to include beer – this could be bottled. EP and JR to convene to discuss ideas for this but the idea of some event at this time was supported by the committee. A date of Halloween (31st October) suggested. GB to check hall hire.

10.4 **Diary**

- Summer Garden Party – 19th July – 12.30pm.
- Late Summer Picnic – 5th September - 2pm
- Autumn Event – check Village Hall for 31st October
- Christmas Tree Erection – 5th December with Chris Carols and lighting on 6th December (4pm)
- Christmas Party – 13th December – Village Hall – set up on the day.
- Christmas Tree removal – 9th January 2016 from 9am.

11 AOB

- 11.1 Clifton Village Hall Car Park** – GB informed the committee that CVHSHT were awaiting formal agreement to the contract by NCC but that the principle of funding £30,000 of work INC VAT had been established.
- 11.2 Tree overhangs to Gervase Gardens.** PB highlighted that there are number of trees from the Old Rectory overhanging Gervase Gardens that the council have advised they cannot cut back without landowner permission. GB to discuss with Prairie and KM in include in discussion with Anthony Trickett.
- 11.3 70 Village Road** – the poor state of repair to the house was discussed and its detrimental effect on the street. JR is in contact regarding an adjoining fence and will see if anything can be done but it was regrettably concluded by the committee that there were no grounds for seeking council intervention.
- 11.4 Bollards to Green** – PR queried whether any update had been offered by NCC. *Post meeting note – GB has checked and Praise Bryant has confirmed that Legal Counsel has now been instructed and feedback is awaited.*

12.0 Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th August 2015 at 20.00 – The Paddocks, 4, Farriers Green.