



**Minutes of meeting of Clifton Village Residents Association Wednesday 11th January 2023
at 2, Farriers Green. Clifton Village.**

The meeting was chaired by Julie Reid.

Those present:

Graeme Barker (GB) Phil Bull (PB) Christine Dalby (CD) Julie Reid (JRd) Helen Huffer (HH) James Royston (JR) Ed Peterson (EP) John Woodall (JW)

2. Apologies from Sam Ward, and Pat Rice (PR). We note that Sam has chosen to retire from the committee owing to work pressures. We would like to thank him very much for all his efforts and EP commented Sam had always available to help when called upon. We wish him well.

3. Previous minutes

The minutes were deemed a true record of the meeting by JW and seconded by HH.

4. Matter arising.

- Potholes remain an issue even though most appear to have been attended to. PR has spoken with Cllr Andrew Rule at his surgery meeting which is every first Monday 7.00 pm at the village Hall should any individual wish to meet with him.
- The Gervais Gardens garages that are situated to the far end of Gervais were discussed. [It was agreed that EP would speak with Carol Watts to learn if this was something that the Gervais Gardens committee have in hand, considering their poor state of repair.](#)

5. Chairwoman's Report

First, many thanks to everyone who made the lead up to Christmas in the Village a great success. There have been many positive comments from residents as we have been making our way out of the restrictions made necessary by Covid over the past two years and returning to normality.

After a wet start to the Tree Lighting and Carols on Cross Hill the rain ceased, and everyone enjoyed the refreshments and chance to catch-up with other Village residents. James led the Carol singing by the tree accompanied by Jill on the violin. The Carol singing continued around the Village to those residents who live alone or were unable to make it to High Cross.

Thanks to Ed and the team who put up the tree and lights. A special thank you to Clare Ashton who knew just where everything was for the event itself. Thanks to Roy, Ruth and Maggie for catering.

After the Tree Lighting we became focussed on the annual Christmas Lunch at the Village Hall. Ticket sales went well with 85 sold. This was a great improvement on last year's ticket sales. Christine and I did the shopping with the help of Phyllis Lea. A great group of volunteers helped with the catering, setting up and clearing away on the day. Francis ensured that the mulled wine was up to standard! It was great to see so many old and new faces at the party. James and his daughter led the singing. I'm not sure if there was any bribery concerning who was going to sing Five Gold Rings! A big thank you everyone for making the party a success.

6. Treasurers Report

HH reported the financial state of the CVRA. It was noted previously that owing to the sales of memorabilia and funding from the city that the Queens Jubilee event was financially successful. HH emphasised the need to keep an eye on costs. There is a growing awareness of the increasing costs that the CVRA has to shoulder. There are for example increased costs in providing the Xmas tree, a need for new tree lights to accommodate not having easy access to electricity. Increased printing costs and providing the newsletter etc.

HH pointed out that money received in was £1,778.20 and money paid out was £1,903.23. Micawber had comment to make on such a situation over a century and a half ago.

JR described that wine boxes be used rather than bottles of wine for events, to save costs. [JR will do some analysis to see where costs occur and what savings can be made. Wine and beer prices to increase.](#)

The Disco night made a profit owing to the efforts of the team to introduce simple fayre, in this case baked potato and chili con carne, rather than rely upon the usual 'Fish & Chips' which would have had added cost implications. The profit made was a result of hard effort by all involved.

The Christmas party has usually run at a small loss and this year was no exception.

JR commented that the wine used for the Christmas Party was perhaps excessive and somewhat unnecessary.

CD suggested the purchase of bottles of mulled wine for this event, rather than making our own which involves boiling off all the alcohol from good wine. Purchased mulled wine would be considerably cheaper and could be made to taste just as good.

JR commented that he is aware of the cost of the drink and amount used to give a drink 'for free'. He may use a different approach next year. Hopefully this will ensure costs are constrained.

HH emphasised that inflation is having a very significant impact on costs, and as mentioned. Although every effort is made to be as fair as possible and contain the costs of tickets for

events it is necessary to make a profit. Just breaking even on every event isn't an option. It leaves no room to raise funds that are needed, for example, for items described above.

HH mentioned the annual cost of membership in this context. The conclusion being that if profit cannot be made from events, then funding will have to be sourced from membership fees.

CD commented on late ticket sales for the Christmas party, and all agreed it was not easy to continually visit people and remind. CD felt that although she put in the effort to call on houses, they often purchased tickets elsewhere. It was agreed that collectors (agents) should not be included in other agents' sales-patches and simply buy their own tickets.

EP agreed to print "I called and are you interested" little notes to be put through doors when there was no response on first visit when selling tickets.

HH pointed out that the web hosting bill was now £210.00 for three years. There is the added cost of maintaining the domain name. Our domain renewal in July was £53.98.

Our website hosting bill is expected to be £70.00 pa and so the £210 for three years is in line.

GB commented that the Village Hall and the CVRA website used to be combined. GB will talk with JB and Francis Hall to assess if one site could be used for both organisations and save money.

7. Secretary Report.

EP updated on progress re The Dovecote.

Owing to activity in the background the state of the Dovecote has been brought to the attention of the Estates Dept at the Nottingham City offices and involvement of Councillor Kotsonis, Councillor Mellen and Mr Paul Seddon of Nottingham City Council. There is agreement at this high level that in the new financial year a sum of £4,000 could be made available from the City to employ an architect familiar with historic buildings to conduct a small feasibility study. This will lead to a full services study coupled with raising funds through heritage lottery funding.

The committee agreed that EP should continue pursuing every avenue available to eventually have the Dovecote restored. The primary effort is ensuring the building itself is renovated. Lottery and other funding will only be available if the building is self-sufficient, and this will involve more than renovation. It will involve some form of modification. All options will be discussed openly and will involve the village at every stage.

EP suggested a visit to the Wollaton Dovecote. This was modified using lottery funds 20 years ago and would give some idea of what could be achieved. The committee agreed it was a good idea and to follow up in the summer.

A meeting has been arranged for Tim Allen of Historic England to visit the site in February along with the Nottingham City Heritage Officer, Toby Ebbs. This will help assess the building, in its Grade 2 context, and to consider any modifications that Historic England would find acceptable. The eventual aim could be to refurbish the Dovecote in a way that will be useful for educational purposes and have some commercial space let to provide an income and ensure the building be self-sufficient.

This may, in time, involve transferring ownership of the Dovecote to a charitable incorporated organisation with villagers as trustees. EP acknowledges that it is important to bring everyone in the village and interested parties on board with any progress in the process so that village input can be made.

EP commented on the grassed triangle.

This grass area was described at the last CVRA meeting and is now our designated area which the Council will not cut regularly, as part of its drive to save money. The committee have agreed that our funds be invested in seeding the area with yellow rattle. PR JRd and EP received advice from the Wildflower Farm Centre at Langar. This was to sow yellow rattle seed asap on the triangle. This would be the first step in a process to encourage wildflowers on the area. The purpose of the yellow rattle plant is to weaken the grass and create space for wildflowers. Wildflower seed would be sown in August.

It will take a few years to take full effect.

GB asked if the necessary wildflower seeding could be funded by the council and if indeed, we could claim for the money already spent.

[EP agreed to investigate this.](#)

8. Topics for discussion

8.1 Seeding the Green. Previously covered

8.2 Barton Green

Re: planning permission for houses on university land alongside Barton Green, access via Hawksley Gardens. GB confirmed he had not seen any follow up and the planning application is on hold. It is understood that archaeological surveys (trenches) are being carried out before planning progress can be made.

8.3 Barton in Fabis Quarry

We know that the London Aggregate company is still pursuing its goal for the site to be given permission for extraction. Julian Coles has held meetings recently to ensure momentum is not lost in objecting to this application.

8.4 Potholes

PR has met with Andrew Rule to discuss this. A few potholes have been filled and some remain to be dealt with.

8.5 Flooding at the entrance to Village Road.

Various people have cleared the ditch. Needs more effort to ensure the drain exit is cleared.

[JRd will contact Clare McCurdy and copy in Andrew Rule about this.](#)

Social Events for 2023

Spring Social Event. Village Hall Saturday March 25th 7pm for 7.30
Coronation Event @ St Mary's Church Monday Bank Holiday. Afternoon of May 8th
AGM. CVRA May 15th 8 pm Village Hall
Summer Garden Party @ John's place July 15th
Autumn Social Event. Village Hall October 28th
Remembrance Day. (JH reminded EP the day of the event and even the time !!)
Erecting Christmas Tree. Sat Dec 2nd
Carol singing and gathering. 4 pm Sunday Dec 3rd
Christmas Party. Village Hall Sunday 10th

Each event was discussed, and all the committee members are involved either directly or indirectly in making the events happen, successfully.

[JB to be asked about the quiz night for his PA system and for his involvement as DJ to the Coronation event.](#)

10. AOB

Defibrillator

JW: Benenden Health Care have allocated an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for Clifton Village. JW has no other information to answer questions such as "will that include a service agreement etc"

PB commented that the company that has been asked to quote for supply and servicing may not be available to provide annual-servicing-only if the Benenden AED is supply only. PB also said that Clare was at an advanced stage of buying one.

Christmas Cards

JW suggested we re-engage with the donation of £5.00 to a nominated charity in exchange for the list of donors being shown in the village notice board who would otherwise send Xmas cards to village residents. This would remove the need to celebrate Christmas and recognise friends by hand-posting a Christmas card.

Newsletter

GB proposed a one-off Newsletter to be produced at the beginning of the year to detail all events and important issues. This would keep down costs and could be backed up with occasional flyers to advertise events or important issues that may crop up.

CD – could advertising be included. GB suggested this being an excellent idea and that space was sold in the past. So yes, to back-page advertising.

PB commented that all events should also be listed on the notice board and on Facebook etc. [Action for this from EP and PB](#)

Parking

It has been remarked by Christine Cartwright that students are parking in the Fisherman's Car Park.

JRd commented that from her understanding students are not abusing the carpark.

It was suggested we keep an eye on the situation. Obviously new students arriving at any fresh-intake time will have to be made aware of the rules

Next meeting, Tuesday 14th March at 2, Farriers Green.

Note: Please see Treasurers details below:

CVRA Meeting 11th January 2023

Treasurer's Report

Income

Membership	£5.00
Jubilee Mugs	£10.00
Boogie Night & Bar	£705.00
Christmas Party & Bar	£858.20
Calendar Donation for Defibrillator	£200.00

Payments

Chq. to H. Huffer – Payment for Gazebo	£30.00
Chq. to N.C.C.- Drinks Licence	£21.00
Chq. to E. Peterson – CVRA Wine glasses	£75.84
Chq. to E. Peterson – Food for Boogie Night	£188.16
Chq. to J. Royston – Drinks for Bar Stock	£185.13
Chq. to E. Peterson – Wild seed & Thankyou Gift	£234.25
Chqs. for Christmas Party Food & Bar – Total	£958.85
Chq. to J. Blacknell – Web Hosting (3yrs)	£210.00

Money In - £1778.20

Money Out - £1903.23

Money for Defibrillator - £686.00

Boogie Night Disco 2022

Ticket Sales £588.00

Bar Takings £117.00

£705.00

Food £188.16

Bar Stock £185.13

£373.29

Drinks Licence £21.00

Banked £705.00

Christmas Party 2022

Tickets Sold

74 Adults @ £10	£740.00
10 Child @ £5	<u>£50.00</u>
	£790.00
Bar Takings	<u>£86.40</u>
Total	£876.40

Food Costs	£679.64
Wine, Beer & Mulled Wine	<u>£279.00</u>
	£958.85

£18.20 paid in cash- Banked £858.20