



Clifton Improvement & Preservation Society



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 18th April 2012

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Church Hall, Stanford Lane, Clifton and was opened at 8.00pm with a welcome from the Chairman - Dr David Lincoln. Twenty nine (29) people attended and their names and addresses were recorded on the register of attendance.

Apologies

Apologies were recorded from eighteen members – Mr Colin Brown, Mr Alan Outon, Mrs Kathy Blackmore, Mrs Dianne Cousens, Mr Eric DeSoura, Mrs Betsy Gray, Mrs Edna Ames, Mr Terry & Mrs Maureen Clinch, Mr Stuart Laing, Mr Philip and Mrs Linda Dawes, Mrs Sue Gudgin, Ms Tracey Moynihan, Mrs Jean Peacock, Mr John & Mrs Jane Mortimer and Mr Barry Livesey.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Wednesday 16th March 2011 having been circulated electronically in advance and distributed at the meeting, were confirmed by Mr Peter Ames, seconded by Mr John Whitbread and approved by the members.

Matters arising

Mr Bob Smith confirmed that he had met the police at the “One Stop” survey station and had raised the matter of inappropriate and dangerous parking. Regrettably, it seems that parking will continue to be a problem.

Correspondence

Mr Richard Daniels had requested a meeting with CIPS representatives which was arranged and attended by Dr David Lincoln and Ms Tracey Moynihan.

Secretary's Report

At the AGM on Wednesday 16th March 2011, it was agreed that the committee would arrange a strategy meeting to formulate plans prior to the election of District Councillors. This meeting was held at the Chairman's home on Wednesday 6th April 2011 and it was agreed to plan and prepare for a Public Meeting to be held in Clifton Church Hall, where it would be possible to lobby, challenge and question the perspective candidates who had put up for election. The public meeting was arranged for Tuesday 19th April 2011 and was duly advertised by the secretary. Invitations to attend the meeting were extended to every candidate, with acceptances from Rita Drinkwater, Richard Wenham and Douglas Landman. The meeting was chaired in an excellent manner by Dr David Lincoln and the event prompted very positive comment from the audience and prospective councillors. Following the suggestion made by Mr Philip Dawes, details of planning applications submitted for Clifton are now recorded in the Clifton Chronicles.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave his report and distributed copies of the accounts showing the previous balance and receipts of £1099.85, expenditure of £430.38, leaving a balance of £669.47

Chairman's Report

Dr David Lincoln thanked the members of the committee for their support over the past year. He reported on his meeting with Mr Richard Daniels who had wished to discuss the proposed development in New Road. No commitments were made on behalf of the Society. Dr Lincoln offered his thanks and appreciation to Mr John and Mrs Jean Taylor for their generous hospitality in hosting the Society's Wine & Cheese evening at their home on Thursday 9th August 2012. The event was extremely popular, 75 people attended, raising a total of £190.12 towards society funds.

Planning Consultant's Report

Mr John Taylor QC gave his report and declared that he was personally quite pessimistic about the future of the village with respect to its rural appearance and character. A new development strategy for Central Bedfordshire in relation to small, medium and large builds did not appear to favour low level housing; they appeared to favour the 20,000 level. He believed little value was being attached to conservation and gave an example of 28, Grange Street. He was concerned that open spaces were being filled in the areas of Clifton, Langford, Henlow, Arlesey and Stotfold. The problem was exacerbated by Councils not listening to or acting upon the concerns being expressed and issues of conservation being ignored.

Comments from members

Mr Bob Smith reported on the fact that the Council's Health and Welfare budgets were under serious pressure.

Mr Peter Ames expressed concerns about the future of Pedley Farm, which is an 18th Century house and was probably in danger of being demolished.

Mr Brian Padgett commented on the subject of sustainable development, with all the increased building he questioned where the jobs and employment would be created to satisfy demand.

Election of Officers and Committee:

The election of officers took place as follows:

Dr David Lincoln was elected Chairman.

Proposed by Mr John Taylor & seconded by Mrs Dorothy Brown.

Mr James Peacock was elected Secretary.

Proposed by Mrs Dorothy Brown & seconded by Mr Peter Ames.

Mr John Whitbread was elected Treasurer.

Proposed by Mr Donald Killick & seconded by Mrs Jane Pavey.

Committee:

Mr Peter Ames – Proposed by Mr John Whitbread & seconded by Dr David Lincoln.

Mr D Killick – Proposed by Mr Peter Ames & seconded by Mrs Dorothy Brown.

Miss Tracey Moynihan – Proposed by John Whitbread & seconded by Mr Peter Ames.

Planning Consultant:

Mr John Taylor was reappointed as Planning Consultant

Proposed by Dr David Lincoln & seconded by Mr John Whitbread.

Society Events

After the very popular Wine and Cheese evenings in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, it was decided to hold another one on the evening of Thursday 9th August 2012 and Mr Taylor once again, very kindly offered his Orangery and garden as the venue.

Any Other Business

Mr Peter Ames commented on the excellent restoration work that had been carried out on the Blacksmith's Barn by the owners of 22, Grange Street, Clifton. There was some discussion and total agreement that the Committee be authorized, after discussion with the said owner, to purchase a plaque to acknowledge the Society's appreciation of their hard work and expense.

Mrs Dorothy Brown agreed to contact the Clifton Speed Watch organisation and try to establish whether Grange Street and Pedley Lane were being used as a 'Rat Run' or short cut for heavy vehicles following, what appeared to be, a large increase in traffic.

Dr Lincoln thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:

Date: 17th April 2013

Dr David Lincoln
Chairman