



**Minutes of meeting of Clifton Village Residents Association Wednesday 14th January 2026
at 10 Nethergate Clifton Village**

Those present

Ed Peterson (EP), Pat Rice (PR), Graeme Barker (GB), Helen Huffer (HH), Hugh Evans (HE) (part), Phil Bull (PB), John Woodall (JW), Jonathan Blacknell (JB) – (part), Julie Reid (JRd), James Royston (JR).

Apologies: Christine Dalby (CD)

Actions

1 Previous minutes

Two minor edits were requested. Meeting for Gravel Pit was 16th not 17th – and was not held at County Hall but at Oak House. GB to revise for website issue.

Action: GB

The minutes were then approved by JW and seconded by JR.

2 Matters arising

2.1 *None noted not covered elsewhere in minutes / agenda*

Action:

3 Website Design

Presentation by Hugh Evans – It was agreed that the website is in need of a significant review. HE noted has reviewed the existing site and highlighted that the site now needs to be optimised for phone browsing and other media in mind, as over 50% of web traffic is in this format. An overview with some suggested features and core structure were presented by HE and it was agreed that committee members would look at this and feedback any initial comments. The site can be found at www.cvra.superzap.co.uk

Action: all

Questions raised during the review for members to feedback initial thoughts on included what is the purpose of the site and who is it aimed at? Introductory notes were circulated during the meeting – a copy is attached in Appendices to these minutes to aid discussion.

Action: all

It was agreed that an editorial committee would be formed comprising Jonathan Blacknell Pat Rice and Phil Bull.

Note

It was agreed that the committee members would put forward suggestions for a focus group that would offer feedback and guidance on the site

developments from a user perspective. It was highlighted that a wide range of people would be best and should be profiled to match typical expected users.

Action: all

Existing site - this does need to be looked at. Committee members are to review the existing website and Village hall content before the next meeting. What needs to be updated, what is out of date, and what is not there but should be included?

Action: all

GB to talk to the CVHSHT Trustees about content and updates that are required for the Village Hall Website and contact Hugh separately on this.

Action: GB

3 Chairpersons Report

Presented by PR.

Note

Social Activities: It was noted how successful the wine tasting wine tasting evening had been, with over 50 people attending. A big thank-you was expressed to Ed for organising and leading the evening, and to the wider CVRA team for organisation and leadership on the evening.

Remembrance Day: This was well-attended and led by Rev Esther Hutchinson. Refreshments were laid on at the village hall afterwards.

Christmas Tree: was a good size and worked well, with many thanks to Francis for use of power, and JRd for sourcing. Carol Singing – well attended as ever. Thanks to all for chestnuts, mulled wine, and mince pies. Jill B provided music with vocal leadership by James Royston – thanks to all.

Christmas Party: Shopping was split between Makro with perishables closer to the day. Catering team included Karen and Dan Garnon, Patrick and Julie, Graeme and Jill, Helen Huffer and others from the CVRA team. Many thanks to James Royston for managing and organising the bar. Thanks to the wider committee group for all support with set up and take down. 60 tickets sold.

New Years Eve – A new village event led separately by David Idoine with co-ordinated help from Ed Peterson, notably on the Pantomime article. David has now booked the hall for many years to come!

Gravel Pit – Planning Committee meeting was hosted at Oak House, but despite the isolated location there was excellent attendance by local residents, with allotted time for speaking. Lark Hill and Barton in Fabis residents spoke to object about the application. Planning was rejected despite being recommended for approval by a majority of 7-4. We are now braced to expect an applicant appeal.

Grit Bin – Following the recent period of cold, it was noted that there were a large number of icy spots, particularly pavements that have made movement dangerous. It was also noted that a car had lost control exiting the village, damaging bollards. NCC have advised that we are a 2nd tier gritting route, meaning we will not be gritted with any regularity, but from discussion with the Council there may be funding available from them for further bins. This is

Action: PR

to be pursued, but it was noted that repairs to bollards to secure the green, and additional lighting to routes alongside the green and to connect Gervase Gardens with Nethergate should be prioritised.

Potholes – markings are noted and should be filled in during the spring before the end of the financial year.

- 4 Treasurers Report** – HH presented the Treasurers Report – Full details of the periodic accounts and event finance are in the appendix.

Call my Bluff

Ticket Sales: £580.00. Bar Takings £0. Outgoings Wine £258.29 and Food £103.01.

A surplus of £218.60 was reported overall on the event.

Christmas Party

Ticket Sales: £600.00. Bar Takings £66.85 – total income - £662.85

Outgoings Wine £276.99 and Food £609.01. Bar Licence £21.00. total outgoings: £907.09

A shortfall of £244.24 was reported on the event.

Other significant Payments in the last reporting period:

Newsletter £139.44

Village Website Renewal - 5 years £431.28

The small shortfall on the Christmas party was discussed. JR noted that the bar had been significantly re-stocked though the Christmas purchases and could explain some of the shortfall. Surplus food was noted after the event but it was acknowledged that there are challenges judging catering for fluctuating numbers and unpredictable tastes. It was noted that between the autumn event and Christmas that incoming and outcomings had been balanced, though this was countered by concerns regarding whether surplus generated from positive events should be used to cross fund other social events.

Note: all

After discussion it was resolved that ticket prices would be kept at £10.00 as there was a relatively small overspend and that there are elements that can be reviewed when catering is considered next year.

Action: GB tickets / catering group

Beyond this specific discussion it was re-confirmed by the committee that contributions from special events and raffles at CVRA events are to be ringfenced for the Dovecote.

Note: all

Please see appendix for further details of accounts

Summary of account movement since last meeting:

Money In - £1901.63

Money Out - £1721.45

Account Balance - £3167.46

The Treasurers report was proposed by EP, and seconded by GB.

Note

5 Secretaries Report

GB highlighted that memberships would become due in spring. It was resolved by the committee to leave membership fees unchanged a £5 per household with a reduction to £2.50 for single person households.

Action: GB

Newsletter – it was agreed that a Newsletter would be published in February to publicise spring events and memberships for the coming year.

Action: GB

6 Topics for Discussion

6.1 *Dovecote* –EP – Proposed that a separate working group be established to drive and co-ordinate fund raising for the village hall. It was highlighted by EP that £8,000 would be needed to start investigations into renovation of the building. It has been agreed that raffles for CVRA events going forward would be contributed to this specific fund. It was re-iterated that there should be an active use for the finished building.

Action: HH

It was agreed that PB and JRd would form a working group with EP. It was also resolved to invite other non-committee members to take part. Committee members are to think about suitable candidates.

Action:All

Trees – Milldale to Village Road – Large trees on cut through between Milldale to Village Road are causing significant issues for adjacent residents and damage to property. Local Councillors are supportive of action being taken but are encouraging the village to write, including via the CVRA as community body to support the case. It was agreed that a letter would be submitted. GB to draft for PR agreement and signature.

Action: GB and PR

Bollards and Village Green – Damage to Village Green and gap in bollard protection from car skidding on ice was discussed. It is understood that the damage will be rectified shortly (Post meeting: this is now complete). The drop-down bollard however has still not been resolved. PR to raise this again with Local Councillors to see what action is being taken.

Action: PR

7 Social Events

7.1 *Further events – Spring Event. Date confirmed* as: – 21st March – 7.30pm. Speaker and Bangers and Mash / Quiz Evening. Local speaker proposed by EP. Concerns about the breadth of appeal of a speaker were noted, and this is to

Action: all/EP

be reviewed before publicity prepared. Booking for speaker is being co-ordinated by EP. If music is required then Jonathan B will have to be asked.

- 7.2 *Further events – Easter: tbc: De-fibrillator.* JRd - has a date confirmed as 20th April. 7.30pm is proposed - JRd to check with the speaker whether this time will work. It was agreed that this would be financed by the CVRA with donations to the charity on the evening. **Action:** JRd
- 7.3 *Further Event – Autumn – **Date confirmed** as: - 10th October – 7.30pm Caroline Mackie – Spanish themed wine tasting event – with a fixed fee of £50.00 proposed.* Agreed by the committee. EP to book speaker. **Action:** EP
- 7.4 Summer Garden Party – **Date confirmed** 4th July. PR noted that Kath and Glenys have said they are happy to lead on catering provided a wider village team of catering helpers can be drawn together by the CVRA. **Action:** all
- 7.5 *Christmas events – Christmas Tree and Carols 6th December, Christmas Party 13th December.* Details to follow. **Note**
- 8 AOB**
- 8.1 None **Note**

The next meeting date 11th March - 10 Nethergate at 8pm

APPENDIX

CVRA Meeting Wednesday 14th January 2026

Treasurer's Report

Income

Swedish Evening	£587.00
Call My Bluff & Wine Evening	£580.00
Donation	£10.00
Membership 2025/26	£7.50
3 Tickets for Christmas Party by B.A.C.S.	£30.00
Christmas Party Ticket and Bar Takings	£547.13
Proceeds from New Year Party	£140.00

Payments

Chq. to J.Reid - Purchases for Swedish Evening	£20.68
Chq.to H. Huffer - Payment for Autumn Newsletter	£139.44
Chq. to E. Peterson – Wine for Call My Bluff Evening	£258.39
Chq. to G. Barker – Food for Call My Bluff Evening	£103.01
Chq. to H. Huffer - Drinks Licence for Xmas Party	£21.00
Chq. to J. Blacknell - Village Website Renewal (5yrs)	£431.28
Chq. to P. Rice - Party Food & Christmas Lights	£280.15
Chq. to J. Royston - Bar Stock & Xmas Party Food	£276.99
Chq. to G. Barker - Xmas Party Food	£52.22
Chq. to J. Reid - Xmas Part Food	£138.29

Money In £1901.63

Money Out £1721.45

Account Balance £3167.46

CVRA Christmas Party 2025

Tickets

55 @ £10	£ 550.00
4 @ £5	£ 20.00
3 tickets paid by B.A.C.S.	<u>£30.00</u>
	£600.00

Cash £430.00

Cheque £140.00

£570.00

Cash Payments

F. Buck	£29.98
A. Massarella	£13.00
K. Garnon	<u>£46.74</u>
	£89.72

Cash Total £480.28

Bar Takings £66.85

Money Banked £547.13

Cheques

P. Rice	£260.15
G. Barker	£52.22
J. Reid	£138.29
J. Royston	<u>£276.99</u>
	£727.13

Drinks Licence £21.00