

**CLAPHAM COMMON MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(CCMAC)**

MINUTES OF ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

Thursday 1st February 2018 at 7pm

Omnibus, 1 Clapham Common Northside, SW4 0QW

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Simon Millson (Chair) welcomed everyone to the Annual Open Meeting (AOM).

44 people were present. The names of those who signed the register are available from the Chair.

Committee members introduced themselves: Simon Millson (Chair), Helen O'Malley (Deputy Chair), Tim Bennett (Secretary), Adrian Darley (Treasurer), David Beldon, Cllr. Linda Bray, David Dandridge, Cllr. Nigel Haselden, Jeremy Keates, Alex Nickson, Martin Read, Patrick Spencer and Andrew Summers (representing the Clapham Society).

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bernard Gentry, Cllr Tim Briggs, January Carmalt (Friends of Clapham Common representative) and Shirley Cosgrave.

2. Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 2nd February 2017

The minutes were passed.

3. Treasurer's Report

Adrian Darley presented CCMAC's accounts. There was a change to income flows in 2017, with expenditure reclaimed from Lambeth Council rather than a grant given upfront. The year closed year with cash in the bank and three receivables. Two of these receivables have since been paid and the outstanding one is expected shortly.

The largest costs for the year were for website development and organising the Bandstand Concerts.

4. Proposed amendment to the constitution

Diana Linskey (Bandstand Beds Treasurer) proposed an amendment to CCMAC's constitution to alter the Committee's membership. The amendment stated that the Committee will consist of:

(to be inserted) Community representative of Bandstand Beds Association chosen by that Association

Since being established in 2013 Bandstand Beds has grown to about 100 members. The Association provides a means for people to engage in food growing and has contributed to the Common more widely, for example in organising Common People and working with The Spinney on projects in the Common.

The motion passed with 42 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

5. Chair's Report

Simon Millson (SM) noted the Committee's recognition of Fred Uhde, who sadly passed away during the year. A tree would be planted in his honour from CCMAC, to mark his many years of voluntary contribution to the Common.

SM reviewed the year. Notable achievements were an enthusiastic new committee, improved relationships with Council officials, a tighter focus on priorities, the writing of a Management Plan which is critical to the Common's Green Flag submission, and a successful series of bandstand concerts over the summer. For the latter, Peter Jefferson-Smith was thanked for his work in arranging the programme.

Issues relating to the Common which have not been positive are ongoing budget cuts and restructuring of the Parks team which makes delivery more difficult, the slow speed of execution by Lambeth Council, and an Events Strategy which could be improved (for example, in defining more consistently what qualifies as a major event).

The Common's Green Flag submission has been made and judging is expected in May to June this year. If Green Flag status is secured, it will help unlock more grant applications.

The Common's Masterplan was written ten years ago and has had an impact in guiding the Common's development since. It also highlights areas which remain to be tackled, including refurbishment of playgrounds and derelict buildings. It is noticeable that Brockwell Park has secured significantly more investment than Clapham Common.

SM and David Beldon introduced the 'Colour Your Common' project which will see the creation of a wildflower haven. £10k has been awarded from the Mayor of London's Greener City fund. Further funding is needed, along with volunteers for planting.

Projects in 2018 include redevelopment of The Spinney, which is with the Secretary of State for approval, and the deep air raid shelter being turned into a café by TfL.

Following the demolition of the old Polygon toilet block, it is likely that it will be replaced through a mix of hard and soft landscaping. The new design may have to go through planning but the Committee hopes this will be expeditious given the need to address the current eyesore.

The Quietways programme is providing new routes for off-road cycling. Quietway 5 will run Waterloo to Croydon via Clapham Common. It will involve the partial closure of Windmill Drive, a narrowing of Rookery Rd and the restoration of some paths. The route has been decided but the detailed design of the scheme will soon go out to consultation.

Events on the Common pay a Parks Investment Levy (PIL). Money from this has been used for a new storage container for sports and an accessible path in the first stage of the Bandstand Beds community garden.

The Committee's priorities for 2018 are the Green Flag award, investment projects (including playgrounds and sports facilities), reviewing the Events Strategy, building on the success of Bandstand Concerts with an even bigger and more diverse programme, and continuing to improve relationships with Council officers.

6. Election of new Community Representative

Alex Nickson retired from the Committee. Simon Millson noted the Committee's thanks for his work.

Gary Clark, Director of Football for Clapham Rangers, had nominated for the vacant community representative position. He introduced himself and was elected with 44 votes in favour and none against.

7. Lambeth Council report

Kevin Crook from Lambeth Council gave an overview of the management of parks and open spaces across the borough, and of priorities for Clapham Common.

The litter situation is not as good as it should be but plans are in place to improve litter picking. From April to September the plan is to have five staff from Monday to Friday and eight on Saturdays and Sundays. There will also be new and more bulk bins, moving to a standard square hooded design. The first recycling bin will be put in place near the paddling pool, with a flag banner to advertise it. It is planned to add further recycling bins. In addition, Community Payback is used every Tuesday for litter picking.

There will be a change to the grass cutting regime, with more areas left long and only cut in the autumn. This will be reviewed if there are complaints.

Lambeth is trying to reinvigorate its Parks Investment Plan. There is an estimated £3m worth of projects identified for the Common, though only about £0.5m of funding has been earmarked so far. The team is making a bid for funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy pot. Once sufficient funds are in place a project manager will be for capital works.

Byelaw enforcement is being reviewed and may involve a professional patrol service with the power to issue fixed penalty notices.

In 2018, the Lambeth is aiming to secure a Green Flag award for Clapham Common and win Gold in London In Bloom, following the 2017's Silver Gilt for Common of the Year.

8. Questions to CCMAC Officers and Lambeth Council

During the Q&A session, the following issues were raised:

- Jim Robinson of the Clapham Model Yacht Club spoke of the threat its future existence from Lambeth Council's proposed rent increase and that he was sceptical about whether plans to replace the existing boathouse with a new café/ boathouse would leave the Club with sufficient room. George Owen (Chair of Omnibus) said that the Club's treatment by Lambeth Council has been appalling. Cllr Haselden said he believed a way forward could be found between the Club and Council.
- Cllr Bray asked about plans for the woodlands. Kevin Crook said the Council is looking to retain the woodlands but add in areas which can be wet in winter, as a means of helping with drainage on the Common.
- Adrian Darley questioned why only one recycling bin is being installed to start with.
- There were several points from the floor about litter, including how frequently bins are emptied. Kevin Crook (KC) reiterated plans for additional staffing and said the team will be reviewing fleet routes to ensure efficient bin emptying. KC says they'll be looking at fleet efficiency etc. In answer to Andrew Summers' concern about the effectiveness of litter pickers, KC said there may have been issues with staff leave and sickness. Lara Mifsud-Bonici, from Lambeth Council, said there have been incidents in which local businesses and residents inappropriately use the bins on the Common.

- A statement from Cllr Tim Briggs encouraged residents to take part in the forthcoming consultation on Quietway 5 and to continue to put forward views on events to Lambeth
- Bob Robinson from Friends of Clapham Common pressed for drinking fountains to be in good working order.
- There was a call for the Temperance Fountain to be restored
- The toilet building on the South Side may be brought into commercial use as a café with toilets. A decision may be made later this year.
- Funding is being sought to convert the redgra pitches into astroturf and to build new sports changing rooms.
- Alex Nickson asked about diesel-fuelled ice cream vans. KC said that a grant application has been made to Defra to install electric points for plug-in vans.

9. AOB

There was no AOB.

10. Date of next AOM

The date of the next meeting is 7th February 2019, 7pm at Omnibus.