

Clissold Park User Group AGM and ordinary meeting minutes July 2025

Attendees (that signed in)
Officers/Reps: Alexandra Hamit (Chair), Theresa Boden (vice chair), Richard Crawford (co – vice chair), Caroline Millar (Tresurer), Amir Dotan (History Rep), Hilde Oord and Yvonne Hill (Fundraising Reps), Margaret Renn (Café Rep),
Park users: Cyndi Diamond, Shelagh Prosser, Cllr Fliss Premru, Cllr Sade Ett, Richard Bryant, Katie Menzies.

AGM

1. Apologies: Paul Brennels (Over 60s Rep), John Hudson (vice chair) and Isabelle Gore (Website Rep) Daphne Steele (Dogs Rep) and Sally Hall (Park Animals Rep)

2. Minutes of previous AGM 2024: Circulated and approved.

3. Chairs Annual Report

Over the last 12 months, Clissold Park has continued to serve as a vital, much loved green space for the local community. CPUG have met regularly throughout the year, and meetings have been well attended and constructive. The User Group has remained an active voice for park users and has continued to liaise closely with Hackney Council on matters such as maintenance, budgets, accessibility, and anti-social behaviour.

CPUG has welcomed new members, reps and volunteers, and had a busy year hosting monthly litter picks, bat walks, bird surveys and ecology sessions, which have helped strengthen community ties and been a huge benefit to the park, along with all that live in and use it. We have created new habitat by installing bird boxes, planting and assisting with deadhedge construction. We've also updated our website, promoted our merchandise, raised funds, improved our email updates and grown our social media following, ensuring timely updates and encouraging two-way dialogue with the public.

The past year has seen several positive developments in Clissold with the new toilet facilities opening, the café contract being awarded, the playground renovation plans getting started and more.

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past 12 months, it's been a pleasure.

Yours
Alexandra

4. Election of Officers:

Alexandra Hamit was re-elected as Chair. Melissa Blaha (Secretary) stood down.
The following officers were re-elected at the meeting: Theresa Boden, John Hudson and Richard Crawford (co-Vice Chairs) and Caroline Millar (Treasurer).

Park User Reps:

The following have agreed to continue:
Isabelle Gore (Website), Richard Crawford (Biodiversity), Amir Dotan (Park History), Daphne Steele (Dogs) Ed Hall (Skatepark), Lucy Carter (Runners), Paul Brenells (Over 60s Rep), Sarah Kissack (Waste Management Rep), Ruth Spencer (Disabilities and Accessibility Rep), David George (Tennis Rep), Emily Robson (Children and Young People) Hilde Oord, Yvonne Hill (Fundraising Reps), Sally Hall, Chris Steele (Park Animals Reps)
The following have agreed to volunteer: Richard Bryant (Cycling Rep) and Maragaret Renn (Café Rep)
The following roles are still vacant: Secretary

5. Accounts:

Treasurer Caroline Millar reported

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP ACCOUNTS 2024/25

Balances as at end Feb 2024

Community Account	3957.23
Business Account	1.02
PayPal	101.73
Cash float (CM holding)	54.00
Payment due - teatowel royalty 2023/4	-200.00
Payment due website hosting	-43.06
Opening Balance	3870.92

Bank Accounts

As at 31/3/25	Income (bank)	Income (Paypal)	Expenditure
Website domain			20.39
Anna Hymas teatowel royalty for 2023/4			200.00
Anna Hymas teatowel royalty for 2024/5			100.00
Poster and print income	105.00	4.72	
Know and Love teatowel donations	300.00		
Printing for event			82.00
Bird boxes and tree ties (Crawford)			78.16
Website hosting 2023/24			43.06
Website hosting 2024/5			43.06
Pollinators/plants (Crawford)			103.91
Total income/expenditure	**405.00**	**4.72**	**670.58**

Overall financial position as at end March 2025 (note this was a 13 month year)

Community Account	3691.65
Business Account	1.02
Paypal account	106.45
Cash float (CM holding)	54.00
Closing Balance at 31/03/2025	**£3,853.12**

Yvonne Hill and group extended thanks to chair, for her work over the past 12 months.

ORDINARY MEETING

Park Keepers Report

House

Cafe update
Works are coming along well and Finks are making good progress. They are eager to open the Rose Garden kiosk as soon as they can and will be
announcing dates shortly. I will be sure to share this update as soon as I
have received it.

Coffee trader update
Radu's last trading day in Clissold Park is on August 2nd. It was made
clear to Radu when they commenced trading that the opportunity would only be a temporary one until the cafe reopened. The Markets & Street Trading Team will be offering support to find Radu with an alternative trading site.

Capital projects

Fountains and water features
The memorial fountain has been repaired but we are monitoring this for further issues, as a new valve may be required.

Repair works
Path resurfacing has taken place in numerous places. There has been re-welding of inserts in the boundary fencing in a number of places and fences and gates have been checked.

Play area
Design work will commence in the autumn once a contractor is appointed. The play area is one of three we are looking to refurbish along with London Fields North and Millfields. The Project Manager will be in touch after the AGM with the new CPUG reps to start discussions about the play area to discuss how it could be improved.

Park Depot Update
A contractor has just been appointed to refurbish the Clissold Park Depot along with the parks depots in Hackney Downs and London Fields.
The park depot facilities at Clissold Park are in a very poor condition and do not meet the needs of the Operations Team. The works will help to decarbonise the Parks Service, with heating and hot water provided by an air source heat pump (ASHP) and energy generated on site by solar panels. The works will also include improved purpose built secure storage and electric vehicle charge points.
The single storey building is approximately the same size as the existing building and will be very similar in character to the Millfields Park Depot which was refurbished a couple of years ago. Timing and duration of the works needs to be discussed with the contractor.

Memorials
A number of memorial benches and trees have been installed in recent months.

On-going maintenance and planting

Summer months As usual, we have extra Euro bins and keepers during the summer months to cope better with the influx of park users and the litter which accumulates.

Deadhedge creation in the woodland area near the ponds to improve soil, protect tree roots and improve understorey plants.Encouraging speedwell and other food sources for Andrena labiata. Creation of sandy micro-habitats and logs for solitary bees

Work Update

Planting of aquatic plants. New hedgerow along Green Lanes is taking well and this will be expanded in Autumn.

Crime and anti-social behaviour

Banners
New banners have been placed around the park to encourage good behaviours/ use of the Park over the summer months

Bench under house canopy
The bench under the house canopy was heavily damaged by vandalism and is likely beyond repair, however we are getting quotes to get a full picture on this.

Fire warning
We are in the middle of an extremely dry period and the park is very vulnerable to fires. Please call the fire brigade if any fires are spotted in the Park. Emergency contact numbers and useful numbers are displayed in the
park's display boards. General enquiries can also be made to the Council's call centre on 0208 356 3000 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

Animals
Some structure repairs have taken place to the deer enclosure and aviary.

Other

Staffing
There is currently no dedicated Manager for Clissold Park, instead the Parks Development Officer for the North, Georgie Brown, is our main point of contact but is not a dedicated resource to just Clissold Park.

Defibrillator
The Parks Team are in support of the groups wish for a defib within the Park. Discussions have been taking place internally around the possible location for this. Feedback from the Conservation Officer has meant the
listed building is not a suitable location for it and the advice is to locate away from the building totally or in the building basement which is not practical. Following further discussions, we are proposing a location of the Tennis Pavilion and Hackney Tennis have kindly agreed to this suggestion. We can install information on the location of the

defib in noticeboards around the Park, so to ensure everyone knows where it can be found. There is also a person in attendance at the Pavillion, so this again helps with the risks of vandalism and disturbance. I hope this is good news for the group and I look forward to discussing further in due course.

Chairs Report

Café

Group heard statement from Mat and Jess and Fink's regarding the opening of the Rose Garden kiosk soon.
Action: Margaret to arrange meeting with Fink's to discuss menu and pass on user concerns re pricing.

Cycling Day of Action/Speed Roundels

Event application sent to Hackney council and Dr Bike contacted. Officers to discuss costs once we have a quote. Safety leaflet to be designed once dates confirmed. Attendees discussed safety concerns over e-bike use in Hackney parks, bylaws being outdated and expressed a desire to have these looked at, aswell as restrictions or an outright ban of electric vehicles in Hackney parks.
Group heard that speed roundels were painted at busiest entrances only, taking cost into consideration.
Action: **Fliss to contact police to arrange bike marking session, to run concurrently with cycle repair and awareness day. Alexandra to liaise with Cycling Rep Richard on leaflets and hosting the event.**

Biodiversity

Last batwalk was a successful event. Eco volunteering sign-up sheet circulated. 28 breeding species of birds where spotted during the last survey, with 2 of the usual breeding species not being spotted.
Action: Richard to contact eco volunteers and arrange sessions.

Self Closing Gates

Brought up in meeting with Bruce Irvine with regard to the design for the new playground. Bruce to raise delay and need for self closing gates in other areas in the park, with park management.
Action: Alexandra to liaise with Bruce.

Park Animals

Quinten has advised Animal Reps Sally and Chris to contact Hackney Park Rep Georgie Brown, to discuss future of the goat enclosure. Sally doing some research on suitable goat breeds, shoud park management decide to home some at the park.
One of the lake fountains and an aerator is up and running, with the others waiting for parts. Dead fish in pond flagged with park management.
Action: Sally and Chris to connect with Georgie Brown. Alexandra to follow lake fountain repair works.

Use of Clissold House for CPUG fundraising/CPUG Quiz Night

Quiz Night booked for 11th September 7pm, tickets to go on sale and call for volunteers to help at the quiz, to go out soon. Group to fund security for events at £180 including VAT

Chair extended thanks to Hilde and Yvonne for their perseverance in securing free use of Clissold House for 2 CPUG events per year.
Action: Alexandra to design and send out poster advertising event

Defib

The Hackney Parks Team are in support of the groups wish for a defib within the park. Discussions have been taking place internally around the possible location for this and the council are proposing a location of the Tennis Pavilion, which Hackney Tennis have kindly agreed to. Information on the location of the defib will be available on noticeboards around the park.

Playground Renovations

Group pleased to hear the council has met with chair and Disabilities and Accessibilities Rep Ruth, to discuss the new playground design, share ideas and put across the need for accessible equipment. Public awaiting consultation on the space, and Alexandra will share this with the group once it is made live. No further action needed.

One o'clock Club

Advertising improved. Alexandra mentioned club information being difficult to find online in discussions with Hackney Parks Rep Georgie Brown, who is going to look into it.
Action: Alexandra to liaise with Georgie Brown.

Rose Garden

Broken and sharp edges on fencing a safety hazard. Yvonne Hill suggested low wicker fencing.
Action: Alexandra to raise safety and design concerns with park management.

Rats

Alexandra mentioned the current number of signs on the ponds being up to 4, and expressed a desire to get all of the information on those signs correlated into one, including information on water fowl feeding thst does not encourage rats. Richard Crawford asked if an alternative to zip ties could be used. Cyndi Diamond asked if signs could be produced in eye-catching colours.
Action: Alexandra to enquire about signs.

Ducklings and Ponds

Ramps installed. No further action required.

Chicken coop

No plans for the chicken coop at the moment. Georgie is keen on group suggestion of a outdoor classroom or similar, and would like to revisit the subject at a later date. No further action required.

Water leak near Keepers Lodge

Water tested by Thames water and found not to be drinking water caused by a leak, but where water pools in bad weather due to the incline of the park. No further action needed

Prohibited action signs

Signs erected. Alexandra has raised issues with posters tearing to Hackney Park Rep Georgie Brown, who had already contacted the manufacturer regarding this.
Action: Georgie to feedback to Alexandra once the manufacturer has made contact.

Maps

Caroline Millar expressed a desire to get a new version of the maps designed as soon as possible.
Action: Alexandra to liaise with History Rep Amir and artist Anna Hymas.

AOB

Park keepers house

Margaret Renn informed the group that the occupant had passed away, and that an email had been sent to the council to make enquiries as to whom the house is owned by, and how it will be used, now that it is unoccupied.
Action: Margaret to report back to group.

Key dates

🗑️ **CPUG Litter Pick**
Saturday 26th July at 10am
Meet in Rose Garden

🔧**CPUG Free Cycle Servicing with Dr Bike**
Tuesday 29th July - 3.30pm - 7.30pm
At hard standing area near playground

🦇 **CPUG August Bat Walk**
Friday 22nd July - 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Meet at Queen Elizabeth Walk gate

💡**CPUG Quiz Night and Auction**
Thursday 11th September at 7pm
Clissold House
Book tables of 6 for £120 by emailing: info@clissoldpark.com
Ploughman's dinner and drink included

🗓️ **CPUG Meeting Dates 2025**
Saturday 13th September
Saturday 8th November

Contacts

Park Keepers
020 8356 6834.
This connects to a mobile so please leave a message.
Park Areas Manager: Quinten.geurs@hackney.gov.uk
or call 020 8356 4215
Café Management
New details coming soon
Clissold House Venues and Events Officer
venuehire@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 5505
Head of Leisure and Green Spaces:
Ian.Holland@hackney.gov.uk
Hackney Council Cabinet Member for Parks
caroline.woodley@hackney.gov.uk
Police
020 8721 2923 or 07879 603 106
Clissold.snt@met.police.uk
Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team
020 8721 2923

To join Clissold Park Users Group

Sign up for our latest news and browse the website / join our Facebook Group: Clissold Park User Group / Follow us on Instagram: @clissoldparkusergroup / and come to the meetings!