

Record of Meeting

DATE OF MEETING	Monday 9 th March 2020	DATE ISSUED	Friday 13 th March 2020
PURPOSE OF MEETING	Annual General Meeting	PLACE OF MEETING	Rosslyn Court

DISTRIBUTION

Simon Bell	Helen Pitman
Jeremy Richardson	Judi McCartney
Stephen Darrer	Jodie Nesling
Peter Davis	Tony Ward
Betty Ward	Morag Butler

ITEM		ACTION
1.0	APOLOGIES FOR ABSCENCE	
1.1	The following people sent their apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lana Vanzetta – Margate Pod Garden 	
2.0	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM	
2.1	Documented minutes were made available and members of the existing GRASS committee confirmed their accuracy by a show of hands.	
3.0	CHAIR'S REPORT	
3.1	Current secretary Stephen Darrer welcomed attendees to the GRASS AGM and then handed over to Simon Bell to chair the meeting. The following is copy of the Chairperson's report that was read out at the AGM.	
3.2	<p>GRASS Chair Report 2019-20</p> <p>It's hard to believe that I took over as GRASS Chairperson two years ago. I originally thought it would take a few days a month, but it wasn't long before I realised that it would take up practically all my free time. The thing is though, it's really not hard work at all, as it's a proper laugh working on GRASS events. It really is a pleasure to work with the fantastic GRASS team and I appreciate all the support and hard work that everyone puts in throughout the year.</p> <p>Over the past 12 months we raised just under £9,000 in grants and donations, which is a slight decrease on the previous year, however we did also carry over £12,000 from 2018, so we have been able to invest a huge part our budget on much needed equipment for our events.</p> <p>The events GRASS has organised during 2019 have included Cliftonville in Bloom, Cliftonville Games, and the GRASS Children's Christmas Party, and of course, this year we also introduced the Cliftonville Outdoor Cinema at the Oval Bandstand. The huge success of our events goes to show what wonderful community spirit there is here in Cliftonville.</p> <p>We received loads of positive feedback for all of the GRASS events, so a massive thank you to all the committee members and volunteers who gave up their time for free to make them so successful. A special thank you to Helen Pitman for running the Dog Show at the Cliftonville Games and to Margate WI for delivering the Bake-Off competition in spite of the adverse weather.</p>	

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Speaking of which, we were devastated to cancel the Games in July, but, like a phoenix from the flames, and with the support of stallholders, volunteers, and the Cliftonville residents, we were finally able to deliver a wonderful event at the end August. In 2020 we are hoping to bring you even more events here in Cliftonville, as we are applying to take on the management of the Oval Bandstand and Gardens through a community asset transfer. This is a hugely exciting opportunity for GRASS, and for Cliftonville, as we will be able to create a truly unique community hub to benefit all residents and visitors.

We are already well underway with planning our 2020 events calendar, so please do let us know if you would like to get involved as we are always looking for new volunteers to assist on our event sub-committees.

We would like to thank our local Thanet councillors for all their support and also to thank Kent county councillor Lesley Game for her generous grant towards the Cliftonville Games.

Thank you to all Cliftonville residents for supporting our events and thank you once again to all our volunteers for a wonderful year, we really couldn't do this without you.

4.0 **ELECTION OF THE GRASS COMMITTEE FOR 2020-21**

4.1 Simon Bell oversaw the election of the Committee for the forthcoming year.

4.2 The result of the election for GRASS committee members is as follows:

Role	Nominee	Proposed By	Seconded By
Chairperson	Simon Bell	Betty	Jerry
Vice-Chairperson	Jeremy Richardson	Simon	Tony
Treasurer	Betty Ward	Simon	Tony / Jerry
Secretary	Stephen Darrer	Betty	Jerry
Membership Secretary	Morag Butler	Stephen	Simon
Membership Secretary	Peter Davis	Stephen	Simon
Committee Members	Tony Ward Jodie Nesling	Simon Stephen	Jodie Peter
Co-opted Committee Members	Judi McCartney Helen Pitman	Stephen Stephen	Simon Simon

4.3 Post Meeting Note: committee meetings for 2020 will be held quarterly on the first Thursday of the month at 18:30, with proposed dates as follows; 7th May 2020, 6th August 2020, 5th November 2020, 4th February 2021.

All Committee Members

5.0 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

5.1 Simon Bell, the stand-in Treasurer following Lisa's resignation, presented details of the GRASS financial statement for 2019-20.

5.2 The current year end financial statement was reported as follows:

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GRASS END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019-20

Income and Expenditure 01/03/2019 - 29/02/2020

EVENTS & PROJECTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET TOTALS
Cliftonville Games 2019	£5,763.40	-£7,590.77	-£1,827.37
Cliftonville Outdoor Cinema 2019	£2,998.03	-£3,127.44	£75.32
Cliftonville in Bloom 2019	£32.50	-£468.77	-£436.27
GRASS Children's Christmas Party 2019	£0.00	-£653.87	-£653.87
Christmas Post Box / Little Library	£0.00	-£402.02	-£402.02
EVENTS & PROJECTS TOTAL			-£3,244.21
INCOME			
Balance carried over from 2018-19	£12,244.68	£0.00	£12,244.68
Grants	£7,770.37	£0.00	£7,770.37
Donations (private, gofundme, charity buckets, etc)	£650.51	£0.00	£650.51
Thanet Lotto	£442.50	£0.00	£442.50
Easy Fundraising	£91.52	£0.00	£91.52
INCOME TOTAL			£21,199.58
EXPENDITURE			
Equipment (gazebos, food cart, etc)	£86.28	-£11,047.91	-£10,961.63
Office & Admin (rent, advertising, etc)	£0.00	-£2,710.51	-£2,710.51
Training	£0.00	-£86.34	-£86.34
Insurance	£0.00	-£338.69	-£338.69
EXPENDITURE TOTAL			-£14,097.17
GRASS BANK ACCOUNT (29.02.20)			£2,317.78
PETTY CASH (29.02.20)			£178.22
GRASS PAYPAL (29.02.2020)			£439.79
TOTAL CASH IN HAND (29.02.2020)			£2,935.79

5.3

Stephen Darrer remains primary fundraiser for GRASS, however additional support from the GRASS committee would be welcome.

6.0

GRASS EVENTS FOR 2020

The following dates have been proposed:

- Cliftonville in Bloom Launch - Sunday 26th April
- Cliftonville Outdoor Cinema - Saturday 13th June
- Cliftonville in Bloom Judging - Thursday 9th July
- Cliftonville in Bloom Prize Giving - Sunday 12th July
- Cliftonville Outdoor Cinema - Saturday 18th July
- Cliftonville Outdoor Cinema - Saturday 15th August
- Cliftonville Games - Saturday 29th August
- GRASS Halloween Event - Saturday 31st October

All Committee Members

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- Children's Christmas Party - Sunday 13th December

6.1

Cliftonville in Bloom

Simon stated that the ongoing problem for CiB is a lack of volunteers and called for more volunteers.

Simon gave an overview of the categories for 2020 and also showed some photos from last year's competition.

Post meeting note: It is proposed to host the launch event at the Farmer's Market on Sunday 26th April. There will be a sub-committee meeting early April, date TBC.

6.2

Cliftonville Games

Stephen gave an overview of last year's event and asked for volunteers.

6.3

Gordon Road Community Garden Tidy

Post meeting note: this was not discussed as the tidy had already taken place.

6.4

Children's Christmas Party

Stephen gave an overview of last year's event and asked for volunteers.

6.5

Cliftonville Outdoor Cinema

Stephen gave an overview of last year's event and asked for volunteers.

Stephen confirmed that this year we will be asking for a donation when people book a ticket on Eventbrite.

7.0

GRASS PROJECTS

7.1

Christmas Post Box & Little Library

Stephen stated that nearly 80 letters were received and that just over 50 Santa Letters were posted out to children who gave their addresses.

The post box was converted to a Little Library after Christmas and this has been a huge success with lots of people leaving/taking books.

7.2

Oval Lawns & Bandstand

Simon read out a pre-prepared statement about the Oval community asset transfer:

GRASS will improve the Oval through careful heritage renovations and will make the site more accessible for other local groups to use this great outdoor community space for their own events. Our intention is that the site will then become a vibrant community hub for all sorts of activities, such as open-air theatre, a summer season of live music, a food & drink festival, etc. The hugely popular Cliftonville Farmers Market will of course continue to operate at the Oval.

GRASS has delivered many free events at the site over the years, including; Cliftonville Outdoor Cinema, Cliftonville Games, Cliftonville Classrooms and Cliftonville in Bloom. If we successfully take on the day-to-day management of the Oval, it would enable us to grow as a group and offer a broader range of events and activities so that we can engage even more members of our wonderfully diverse community.

A significant part of our initial plan is to open the Oval toilets during the summer months so that bathers, and visitors walking the Cliftonville coastline, will have access to much needed toilet facilities. The site as it currently stands is massively underused, lacking investment and falling into a state of general disrepair. To remedy this dire situation GRASS intends to fix the electrics in the kiosk so that we can serve light refreshments, repaint the bandstand, make vital repairs to the hardstanding & railings,

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install new lighting to the existing lampposts, fit CCTV to deter vandalism, install new benches, etc. etc.

Our detailed business plan shows that by fully utilising the site for community events, and by reopening the kiosk, the Oval Bandstand & Gardens will be financially self-sufficient and will cover all day-to-day running costs for gardening and general maintenance.

To fully fund the heritage renovation works we have already applied for significant long-term grants from various UK funders, and we have received an incredibly positive response thus far.

The closing date for CAT applications for The Oval is 27th March, and we look forward to sharing more details about our fantastic bid once it has been submitted to TDC.

8.0

ANY OTHER BUSINESS / QUESTIONS

- Mary Strachan asked if the CAT was a freehold transfer and Simon confirmed that he believes it is, but that this will be officially confirmed during the due diligence process to ensure GRASS will be suitable guardians for the Oval.
- Mary suggested that if we give away baskets again at the CiB launch then the plants should be larger. Simon agreed that the plants from last year were very small. Stephen confirmed that the hanging baskets were paid for by Ageless Thanet and that no funding has, as yet, been secured for this year's event.
- Franka from St Paul's church asked how big the GRASS lockup is and how much it costs to rent. Simon said it is the size of a standard garage and costs £85 a month. Simon also confirmed that the stated Office & Admin costs include all social media advertising and leaflet printing.
- Franka suggested that the reason the summer concerts at the Oval stopped was because of noise complaints, however Betty confirmed that the reason they stopped was that the funding from TDC stopped. Simon confirmed that a noise analysis was carried out during the cinema events and that no complaints were received from residents.
- Post meeting note: Simon has emailed St Paul's to ask them to support GRASS taking on the management of the Oval.

8.2

Next Committee Meeting

Thursday 7th May, 18:30-20:30, at a Cliftonville venue that is yet to be confirmed.

All Committee Members