

# MINUTES OF THE CLOUD 2023 AGM

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Cobbler’s Suite, Boot & Shoe, Lancaster**

## **Attendance (16)**

Committee: Mary Breakell, Tony Breakell, Rosemary Hindley, Belinda Nixie, Mark Salisbury, Sally Salisbury, Barbara Walker, Tom Wilkinson, Heather Willes.

Members: Jill Bundy, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Keith Johnsun, Annie Lewis, Sophie Maddocks, John Mosey, Paul Stubbins.

**Apologies (5):** Robert Fildes, Sally Maddocks, Abi Mills, Val Purnell, Sara Taylor.

## **Introduction and welcome**

Tom Wilkinson, Chairperson, welcomed all those present to CLOUD’s seventh AGM.

### **1) Minutes of 2022 AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM, held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022, had been issued to all members with the agenda on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. They were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

### **2) Report by the Chairperson**

Tom Wilkinson presented a brief report on some of CLOUD’s activities over the last year, which had been included in regular Newsbriefs, available on the CLOUD website.

The main item was the announcement of suspension of the M6 to south Lancaster link road by Lancashire County Council on 17<sup>th</sup> June. There had not been much explanation of the reasons behind this decision apart from a reference to cost escalation. The impact on CLOUD and further action would be discussed in agenda item 5 (Next Steps).

The Chairperson thanked Mary and Tony Breakell in particular for all their continued hard work during the year on behalf of CLOUD. Their determination and dedication in dealing with so many planning issues at City and County level was much appreciated by the Committee.

Thanks were expressed to Tom Wilkinson for the Chairperson’s report, which was accepted.

### **3) Report by the Treasurer**

Tony Breakell reported expenditure of only £30 this year (room hire for last year’s AGM), with a current bank account balance of £458. The printing of flyers for circulation around Hala and Bailrigg on the proposed Gladman development cost £80 and will appear in next year’s accounts. There was no need to raise further funds at present.

Thanks were expressed to Tony Breakell for the Treasurer’s report, which was accepted.

#### **4) Election of the new Management Committee for the Year to October 2024**

A block nomination had been received from each of the outgoing Management Committee members. No further nominations had been received.

Nominations in full; Chairperson – Tom Wilkinson, Secretary - Rosemary Hindley, Treasurer - Tony Breakell, and other Committee Members – Mary Breakell (IT, Web & Communications), Mark Salisbury (Burrow representative), Heather Willes, Barbara Walker, Belinda Nixie (Biodiversity Champion), Tony Blendall, Sally Salisbury.

The election of these Management Committee members was approved for the year to October 2024. Best wishes were expressed to Steve Constantine (first Chair of CLOUD from 2017 to 2021) and Tony Blendall (Committee member), both of whom were seriously ill.

#### **5) Next Steps**

It was noted that, following the suspension of the link road, the City Council Cabinet had decided to undertake a full review of the Local Plan at a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This was agreed by a meeting of Full Council on 28 September 2023. The target date for submission to the Planning Inspector was mid-2025.

The current status of Bailrigg Garden Village was not known. Tony Breakell noted that Lancashire County Council issued letters in November 2021 to residents in a broad area of south Lancaster requiring them to complete a land interest questionnaire. This was the first step towards the possible compulsory purchase of properties to clear the way for the M6 link road and Bailrigg garden village. No compulsory purchase notices have been issued, but neither have the questionnaires been abandoned or rescinded. Lancashire County Council said that it would re-consider the provision of transport infrastructure after the City Council had determined the location of new housing through the Local Plan review.

Members of the Committee noted that after six years CLOUD was no longer in direct opposition to the City Council and welcomed the opportunity for genuine dialogue with it. A recent Committee meeting had agreed to contact councillors for Ellel and South Lancaster wards to seek their advice on how CLOUD could best pursue its aim of challenging unnecessary development and represent the interests of its members.

The Committee was asked for its thoughts on appropriate infrastructure for housing development in south Lancaster, e.g. sustainable transport. Committee members noted that they had not yet had an opportunity to take stock and reflect on recent achievements before moving forward in the new context but agreed to discuss some feasible ideas at a meeting.

The existing Local Plan would be used to decide on planning applications from developers until it is replaced, and it was noted that Lancaster had never had a 5 Year Land Supply for housing. It was feared that this would make it easier for developers to gain approval for piecemeal developments.

It was noted that the Public Enquiry for the Wain Homes appeal against the City Council's refusal of planning permission for development in Highland Brow, Galgate, was due to start on 15<sup>th</sup> November at Morecambe Town Hall and it would be an important test case. Barbara Walker agreed to keep the Committee updated on plans for attendance by the local community, and Mark Salisbury agreed to attend the Planning Inspector hearings with her on behalf of the CLOUD Management Committee.

It was agreed to continue CLOUD's loose alliance with SLICE, and to follow up outstanding Freedom of Information requests, including Homes England (due to be referred to the Information Commissioner soon).

Following various questions and comments from the floor, these broad objectives for the year were agreed. Members will continue to be informed of developments via Newsbriefs.

#### **6) Any Other Business**

It was noted that the deadline for objections to the Gladman proposed development between Bailrigg and Hala (planning application ref: 19/01135/OUT) was 31<sup>st</sup> October and members were encouraged to submit their views again, following the latest revisions. Another objection from CLOUD would be submitted, following the one from 2019, but CLOUD would not be able to speak as an organisation at the Planning Committee meeting, likely to be in November or December.

It was agreed that a Newsbrief should be circulated to ask for volunteers interested in speaking on Gladman at the Planning Committee. Each speaker is allowed three minutes and there should be one on each issue. It was agreed to produce a clear plan in advance of the meeting to indicate speakers and topics to avoid repetition and ensure coverage of all points.

#### **7) Date of Next Meeting**

October 2024 – date to be notified nearer the time.

With no further business to discuss, the Chairperson declared the 2023 AGM closed and thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.