

MINUTES OF THE 2019 CLOUD AGM

23rd October 7.30-9pm at Rowley Court, Scotforth

21 members present including local councillors: Erica Lewis, Abi Mills and Tim Hamilton-Cox
Cloud committee: Stephen Constantine, Mary Breakell, Tony Breakell, Rosie Morgan, Mark Salisbury, Sally Salisbury and Tom Wilkinson

Apologies: Peter Quick, Jet Harris, Val Purnell, John Mosey, Anne Windsor, Cliff Windsor, Sue Aspinall and Peter Cheason

1. Minutes of the last AGM held on 30th Oct 2018 were approved.
2. Matters arising. Not specifically from Minutes but general discussion items listed in item 6.
3. Report by Chair on last year's activities. There have been numerous Cloud committee meetings and considerable email traffic between members, experts, supporters and other local groups concerned with planning and flooding.

(a)**Media/ Communication activities** were outlined by Mary Breakell: all Newsbriefs are now on [our website and searchable](#). We have had two articles in the Lancaster Guardian over the year. Facebook is useful for sharing information with local members and residents' groups. Twitter has been useful for sharing ideas and learning from groups in all parts of the country faced with similar issues. Members in the room expressed positive feedback on how well people were kept informed. Leaflets are also used to advertise meetings for those not on social media or email. Steve Williams asked if website could have a discussion forum but this would need constant monitoring and would be subject to spamming so is not desirable.

(b)**The Local Plan public hearings**, chaired by the Planning Inspector Mr Richard McCoy, were held to determine whether the Local Plan is 'sound'. These represent the most significant event reported. Stephen Constantine explained proceedings and illustrated how Cloud committee members spoke on issues such as transport, air pollution, flood risk, environmental impact and housing and jobs. Neil McDonald, our paid consultant, strongly criticised the housing need calculations used by the Council, showing them to have been significantly exaggerated. His evidence and arguments led to an extra day of Hearings. The Planning Inspector's Final Report has not yet been published, though his interim letter led to the consultation on Main Modifications which ended on 9 October 2019. Cloud submitted [a response](#) in September. We now await the full report from Mr McCoy and also details of the South Lancaster Area Action Plan and the results of the HIF bid (Housing Infrastructure Fund) for the J33 changes and the road link across the railway into the garden village site. The impact on the Local Plan of changes in the composition of the city council after the 2019 local elections and the declaration of a climate emergency remain to be seen.

4. **Report by Treasurer, Tony Breakell, on CLOUD's finances.** The accounts are available on our website and copies were distributed at the meeting. The Treasurer reported that virtually all CLOUD's funds has been spent on bringing Neil McDonald, our expert consultant, to the Hearings and considered this to be money very well spent. It was noted that Mr McDonald's fee was actually more than the £2550 paid by CLOUD, because of the extra hearing day. That extra cost was paid by several individuals. Jill Bundy suggested they could be reimbursed when CLOUD acquires more money. The CLOUD committee were extremely grateful for the suggestion but the offer was declined as it was felt that money will be needed for future actions. Steve Williams suggested perhaps we have a membership fee. It had been agreed when CLOUD was established that, rather than a membership fee, contributions should be voluntary and the meeting agreed this should remain the case. Currently CLOUD has 220 members. Abi Mills suggested voluntary standing orders which people could set up if they wished and this was accepted. The Treasurer proposed a new target of £250 for future publicity (flyers etc) and room hire. The meeting agreed to this. (Post meeting note: the collection at the end raised £154 for which the CLOUD committee is enormously grateful).
5. **Election of the new management committee for the year to October 2020.** Thanks expressed for all hard work and time given by current committee. Jet Harris is not standing for re-election and particular thanks to him for his contributions. Also thanks went to Tony Blendall, present at the meeting, for his valuable advice and dedication to attending meetings and the Hearings

Nominations

Chair: Stephen Constantine, proposed by Ann Windsor, seconded by Cliff Windsor. Elected

Secretary: Rosie Morgan, proposed by Abi Mills, seconded by Dina Lew. Elected.

Treasurer: Tony Breakell, proposed by Nigel Cook, seconded by Val Purnell. Elected.

Communications: Mary Breakell, proposed by Val Purnell, seconded by Jill Bundy. Elected.

Committee member: Mark Salisbury, proposed by Joyce Pollard, seconded by Tracy Brind. Elected.

Committee member: Sally Salisbury, proposed by Jean Jeffreys, seconded by Nigel Salisbury. Elected.

Committee member: Tom Wilkinson, proposed by Damien Perry, seconded by Kay Perry. Elected.

Committee member: Steve Williams, proposed by Jill Bundy, seconded by June Constantine. Elected.

Committee member Barbara Walker, proposed by June Constantine, seconded by Sally Salisbury. Elected.

6. AOB: (a) Mary Breakell pointed out that the year had been tiring for those heavily involved. She said that she and other committee members were keen to continue but will need help as South Lancaster Area Action Plan unfolds.

(b) Steve Williams asked the question about the Hearings: 'Where were our elected representatives?' Those committee members present at the Hearings replied that some were present and named Councillors Abi Mills, Tim Hamilton-Cox and Gina Dowding.

7. Date of next meeting to be arranged - once we know the outcome of the Local Plan Hearings.