

MINUTES OF THE CLOUD 2022 AGM

Wednesday 26th October – Rowley Court, Lancaster

Attendance (18)

Committee: Tony Blendall, Mary Breakell, Tony Breakell, Rosemary Hindley, Mark Salisbury, Sally Salisbury, Barbara Walker, Heather Willes.

Members: Susan Aspinall, Jill Bundy, Peter Cheason, Helene Cooper-Clark, Roy Cooper-Clark, Helena Dixon, Roger Frankland, Dina Lew, Val Purnell, Sara Taylor.

Apologies (12): Robert Fildes, David Ford, Christiana Gravenberg, Cherith Hurst, Raymond Hurst, Robin Jackson, Sally Maddocks, Averil McClelland, Abi Mills, Joyce Pollard, Margaret Simpson, Tom Wilkinson.

Introduction and welcome

Barbara Walker, Management Committee member, noted that Tom Wilkinson, current Chair, was away on business. She had agreed to chair the meeting in his absence. She welcomed all those present to CLOUD's sixth AGM (the first one to be held in person since 2019).

1) Minutes of 2021 AGM

The minutes of the last AGM, held on 20th October 2021, had been issued to all members with the agenda on 30th September 2022. No notifications of any proposed amendments had been received and they were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

The minutes of a General Meeting, held on 8th March 2022, had been issued to all members on 31st March 2022 and were also available on the CLOUD website. These minutes were also accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

2) Report by the Chair

Mary and Tony Breakell provided a brief report on CLOUD's activities over the last year.

A planning application for 115 houses on Highland Brow in Galgate had been rejected by the City Council's Planning Committee thanks to a very large number of objections and successful grass roots campaign by local residents, supported by CLOUD. Objections were now being made to an application from Hollins Homes to build 45 houses on the Conder flood plain next to Main Road in Galgate. The developers had invited the flood group, Environment Agency and Ellel city councillor (Sally Maddocks) to a meeting on 17th October. The Environment Agency had modelled the site and predicted further flooding but was expecting the developers to take mitigation action (e.g. attenuation basins) as it could not afford to. The Gladman Developments application for 680 houses between Bailrigg and Hala, originally submitted in November 2019, had been amended slightly (644 houses and a community hall), many further objections have been submitted, and a date for its consideration by the Planning Committee is awaited. Members were encouraged to keep sending objections to the City Council, which would be considered up to a day before the meeting.

CLOUD had submitted a written response to the Climate Emergency Review of the Lancaster Local Plan. It was acknowledged that there were some positive features but it ignored the huge carbon footprint of Bailrigg Garden Village. The Planning Inspector had held public hearings into the Climate Emergency Review in September and October, but it was not known when her response would be published.

The City Council planning officers had held a number of informal engagement events with key stakeholders about the Lancaster South Area Action Plan. Invitations to attend had been very selective, including Parish Councils but not CLOUD. There were no minutes of meetings. CLOUD welcomed the initiative but had reservations about the way it had been established. Further meetings are due to be held next year.

Lancashire County Council's 'Transforming Lancaster Travel' initiative has been ongoing, with archaeological surveys and trial borings, and these activities are expected to continue next year.

The CLOUD Management Committee had submitted a wide range of Freedom of Information requests to Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council and Network Rail, to try to find out more about planning and funding for Bailrigg Garden Village and the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). A summary of these requests will be included in a future CLOUD Newsbrief. Many responses had been vague and evasive. The Committee had contacted the Office of the Information Commissioner (IOC) about the lack of response from Lancashire County Council to a request for clarification of the origin of the figure of 9,185 houses for the HIF bid for the M6 link road. This had been considered a breach of the Freedom of Information Act and the County Council had been given until 4th November to provide a substantive response by the IOC.

A CLOUD member noted that Lancashire County Council was not responding to many FOI requests and suggested sending questions directly to the Chief Executive, and also the MP Cat Smith, to reinforce the appeal to the Information Commissioner. The Management Committee agreed that this advice could help to obtain answers for future FOI requests. However, they felt that it was essential to continue with the current approach to the Information Commissioner for a response on the source of the figure of 9,185 houses.

A FOI request to Network Rail had revealed that the underpass for the West Coast mainline for Bailrigg Garden Village was only at the feasibility study stage (the very first stage in the process). Further FOI requests will follow next year.

SLICE (South Lancaster in Climate Emergency) had held its inaugural AGM on 9th February and, following the CLOUD General Meeting on 8th March which had agreed to establish close collaboration with SLICE, Tony and Mary Breakell were on the Steering Group and Barbara Walker was on the Communications Group. The expertise on sustainability in SLICE, and the new ideas and energy which had been generated by this cooperation, had been welcomed.

Two City Council by-elections had been held in south Lancaster; Scotforth Rural and University and Ellel. CLOUD had approached all candidates to request their observations on BGV and its associated infrastructure, and made their statements available to all members.

Thanks were expressed to Mary and Tony Breakell for presenting the Chair's report, which was accepted.

3) Report by the Treasurer

Tony Breakell reported zero income and expenditure this year. The bank account balance of £488.04 which was carried forward from last year has remained the same. Statements are available from Cumberland Building Society.

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 2023

One nomination had been received for each post. All of the outgoing Management Committee members were willing to stand for the forthcoming year. No further nominations had been received but any offers of assistance with campaigns are always welcome.

Nominations in full; Chair – Tom Wilkinson, Secretary - Rosemary Hindley, Treasurer - Tony Breakell, Communications - Mary Breakell, and other Committee Members – Tony Blendall, Mark Salisbury, Sally Salisbury, Barbara Walker and Heather Willes.

The election of these management committee members was approved for the year to October 2023.

5) Next Steps

Heather Willes presented three main themes to form the basis of an Action Plan for 2022/23:

- Bailrigg Garden Village, including the Lancaster South Area Action Plan (full public consultation due in Spring 2023), HIF award, and West Coast Mainline underpass.
- Other housing developments in south Lancaster, including planning applications such as Gladman at Bailrigg, Story Homes site north of Pinewood Close (A588), Hollins Homes development on Main Road, Galgate, and the WVC Ashton Road site.
- Campaigns and communications, including production and distribution of flyers, continuation of campaign work with SLICE, lodging petitions to City Council and County Council, City Council elections, and further FOI requests (e.g. sewerage).

It was noted that additional funds might need to be raised for further leaflet drops and also volunteers will be needed to help with deliveries. Members suggested putting posters and banners around the local area (e.g. Booths, Pointer roundabout, A6 end of Hazelrigg Lane, M6 junction 33 roundabout). It was agreed that it was very important to get young people involved in our campaigns, as they are increasingly concerned about climate change, and that CLOUD could invite local schools to participate in a poster design competition.

These broad objectives were agreed. The Management Committee will produce an Action Plan for the year and continue to inform members of developments via Newsbriefs.

Under AOB, it was suggested that an advert about CLOUD could be submitted to Galgate's 'Rhubarb City News'. Roy and Helene Cooper-Clark agreed to write the advert.

Mark Salisbury noted that the new Filter House student accommodation on the A6 was now occupied and that students crossing the busy main road at night presented a real risk of injuries or fatalities from accidents as there was no lighting or safety measures in place.

6) Date of Next AGM

October 2023 – date to be notified nearer the time (in person but also by Zoom, if possible).

One or more General Meetings might be arranged before then, depending on events and developments over the next few months. Details will be notified in a CLOUD Newsbrief.

All members were asked to keep a close eye on planning developments around Bailrigg Garden Village and its road infrastructure, and alert the Management Committee about any relevant issues or requirements for a General Meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the 2022 AGM closed and thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.