



## Clissold Park User Group meeting minutes May 2025

**Attendees** (that signed in)

**Officers/Reps:** Alexandra Hamit (Chair), Theresa (vice chair), Daphne Steele (dogs rep), Sally Hall (Park Animals Rep), Richard Crawford (Biodiversity Rep) Lucy Carter (Running Rep) Yvonne Hill (Fundraising Reps), Isabelle Gore (Website Rep) and Bob Hancock

**Park users:** Betty Manning, Sophie Verhagen, Julie Ibbott, Cyndi Diamond, Shelagh Prosser and Jeremy Stickings

**Dial in:** Cllr Floss Premru

**1. Apologies:** Amir Dotan (History Rep), Paul Brennells (Over 60s Rep), Melissa Blaha (Secretary), Cllr Sade Etti, Hilde Oord (Fundraising rep), Mat and Jess (Fink's)

**2. Minutes of previous meeting:** Circulated and approved.

### 3. Chairs Report and Representative Reports

#### Café

Café due to open at the end of August. Noted that Macchiato Mood coffee truck received a complaint regarding amplified music, and that signs dissuading this are no longer in the park or at park gates.

**Action:** Alexandra to arrange a meeting to discuss CPUG merchandise area. Alexandra to ask signs be reinstated.

#### Cycling Day of Action/Speed Roundels

Dr Bike booking form filled out and sent, waiting to hear back back.

**Action:** Floss to align with Alexandra on contact with Hackney Cycling.

#### Biodiversity

33 attendees at the latest bat walk. Angela Clare has offered to host one per month during the time bats are active. Bird survey to be arranged. 2 Heron nests on ponds. Water lilies have been placed on the New River. Hackney Arboricultural officer Oliver Hayes, is now Head of Parks Development, and would like CPUG to recruit eco volunteers, to help build up dry hedges in wooded area and loosen trampled soil.

**Action:** Richard to arrange dates for bird and bat walks. Alexandra and Richard to liaise and advertise for eco volunteers.

#### Tennis Courts

No update.

#### Self Closing Gates

Cllr Safe Etti received a reply to her email, and was told no design could be found that fit with the existing fencing, so this idea has been dropped by the parks department. Call to keep it on the agenda. Member reported catching finger in

faulty lock on gate at dog-free area. Gates to dog free area at the house always left open, meaning signs are not visible.

**Action:** Alexandra to report faulty gate to park management and enquire on whether dog free area signs can be raised and visibility improved.

#### Park Animals

Park Animals Rep Sally called for a ideas and a poll on future animal and none animal uses of the goat enclosure, after Gromits death. Concerns that false claims on social media, may sway public opinion. Call to arrange separate meeting to discuss. Suggestion to sell a limited daily amount of appropriate park animal food in the café, to help users feel engaged, but avoid animals being fed too much/the wrong things.

**Action:** Alexandra to connect Sally Hall with Quinten and to ask parks plans, expectations and budget projections for goat enclosure.

#### History Boards

History boards have been installed in the café. No further action required.

#### Meeting with Hackney Venues and use of Clissold House for CPUG fundraising

After requests to secure two free-of-charge evenings in Clissold House per year were declined by Hackney Venues, Fundraising Reps Hilde and Yvonne wrote to Mayor Caroline Woodley. Caroline has responded granting us permission to use the house, providing CPUG pay for security at events where necessary. Hilde and Yvonne have drawn up a Fundraising Plan for 2025. Defibrillator talks continued.

**Action:** Theresa to get details on the defib located in Finsbury Park. Hilde and Yvonne to have meeting with Hackney Venues to finalise details.

#### Paths/Planned Resurfacing

Park paths in the borough are assessed every summer and dealt with in a traffic light system until the budget runs out. The red areas identified in Clissold have been resurfaced along with the basketball court, and there is no further work expected in the park this year. No further action is required.

#### Playground Renovations

Awaiting Hackney Council's public consultation.

#### Toilet renovations

Facilities opened at the beginning of April. No further action is required.

### One o'clock Club

Questions on whether the facility is a drop in service and whether it is a private or council run facility.

**Action: Children and Young Persons rep Emily to update at next meeting.**

### Paddling Pool Area

Area readded to regular park maintenance list. No further action is required.

### Rose Garden

Broken and sharp edges on fencing a safety hazard. Group divided on the need for the fencing.

**Action: Alexandra to raise safety concerns with park management. Group to discuss need for fencing further.**

### Rats

Heron seen eating a rat. Suggestion to reinstate signs for bird feeding practices that do not encourage rats. Group spoke against using poisons, due to the possible implications on pets, wildlife and the environment.

**Action: Alexandra to enquire about signs.**

### X/Twitter

Alexandra looks after the account, is keen to stay out of political connections with the recent boycott, voiced concerns over the lack of engagement predicted on BlueSky, and the time it would take to build a following, given the amount of social media platforms she is already looking after for CPUG. Alexandra pointed out that key parks connections such as Mayor Caroline Woodley and Hackney Council, still use the platform. Members suggested we revisit the subject if further matters arise. No further action is required.

### Ducklings and Ponds

Ramps agreed by group and boat due at Clissold to install them on the islands. Suggestion for branches to also be placed in water for ease of access/exit.

### Regular litter picking

First pick of the year which was advertised to subscribers via email, on CPUG social media and in the park on posters, garnered 3 volunteers. More volunteers needed to make it a viable monthly event. Suggestion for local community groups to host their own litter picks in the park, or attend CPUG dates.

**Action: Runners Rep Lucy Carter to enquire with local fitness group.**

### Chicken coop

No update.

**Action: Alexandra to liaise with park management on possibility of relocating composting unit to park depot.**

### Tree pruning and felling

No further action.

### Eurobins

We were informed that they are in the park before Easter, every year. No further action required.

### Water leak near Keepers Lodge

Members concerned that water in area is caused by a leak.

**Action: Alexandra to raise with park management.**

### Maps

Agreed Anna Hymas and Amir Dotan should wait to complete the new map design until the decision has been made what to do with the goat enclosure.

**Action: Alexandra to add History Rep Amir to the emails with artist Anna Hymas.**

## **4. Key dates**

### **Birdwalk and Survey**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 7am

Meet at Queen Elizabeth's Walk gate

### **Clissold Park Monthly Litter Pick**

Saturday 31st May 10am - 11.30am

Meet in Rose Garden

### **CPUG Meeting Dates 2025**

AGM Saturday 12th July

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](mailto: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](mailto:venuehire@hackney.gov.uk) or call 020 8356 5505

### **Head of Leisure and Green Spaces:**

[lan.Holland@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:lan.Holland@hackney.gov.uk)

### **Hackney Council Cabinet Member for Parks**

[caroline.woodley@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.woodley@hackney.gov.uk)

### **Police**

020 8721 2923 or 07879 603 106

[Clissold.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:Clissold.snt@met.police.uk)

### **Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team**

020 8721 2923

## **To join Clissold Park Users Group**

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