

Clissold Park User Group ordinary meeting minutes November 2026

Attendees (that signed in)

Officers/Reps: Alexandra Hamit (Chair), Theresa Boden (Co-Chair), Ellie Halliday (Co-Secretary), Chloe Rollscane (Co-Secretary and Cafe Rep), Dikla Cohen (Fundraising Rep), Richard Crawford (Biodiversity Rep), Paul Brennels (Over 60s Rep), Daphne Steele (Dogs Rep), Eleanor Phee (Children and Young People Rep), Emily Robson (Children and Young People Rep), and Amir Dotan (History Rep).

Park users: Theresa Rarer, Charlie Grossman, Cyndi Diamond, Betty Manning, Yvonne Hill, Joe Hauke, Peter O'Garr, Hilde Oord and Shelagh Prosser.

Minutes of previous meeting September 2026: Available online
Minutes circulated through the usual channels. Members to send amendments to the Chair. Thanks extended to new Reps.

Chair's Report
Cafe Access
Group re-discussed a handrail for Clissold House, which requires permission due to its listed status. Access through Finks and the Yellow Room remains inconsistent and does not replace the need for a choice of route or support for people who can use the stairs but may need a rail due to a disability or carrying things holding children's hands, etc. Support from local accessibility campaigners was suggested.
Action: Alexandra to seek councillor support for permission. Theresa to seek advice from conservation contacts on listed-building requirements.

Bikes and Enforcement
Group discussed cycling speed and volume in parks and a possible collective approach to the Council through Hackney Parks Forum. The aim is safer footpaths and coexistence between pedestrians and cyclists.
A recent police operation reportedly seized illegal e-bikes. Group asked about repeat operations and noted possible London-wide developments in enforcement and prosecution powers. Group discussed delivery companies' responsibilities, difficulties identifying riders and enforcing compliance, and possible impacts of the new crossing near Sainsbury's.

Action: Alexandra to update the group through Hackney Parks Forum. Hilde to provide relevant updates from Mayor Forum Islington.

Biodiversity
New River dredging is due to take place at the end of November. Chair and Biodiversity Rep to meet the Council project lead to discuss the process and implications. Group took part in World Cleanup Day 2026 and held a public fungi survey. Approximately eight or nine fungi types were recorded using visual identification and iNaturalist app. Further surveys with wider advanced publicity were suggested. A monthly biodiversity volunteering calendar is being developed to promote involvement and identify practical work. Group agreed stronger links with local councillors would be beneficial.
Action: Alexandra to report back on the Council meeting. Richard and Alexandra to develop the volunteering calendar.

Self-Closing Gates
No update following the unsuccessful trial. Awaiting a response from the Council project manager.
Action: Alexandra to keep the group updated.

Playground Renovations
Final consultation was underway. Ground Control had been awarded the contract; subject to confirmation, works were expected over winter, finishing by early spring. The reported design includes shade and biodiversity features, with a proposed wildflower meadow. Group requested more seating (raised by parents) and clear no-cycling signage in the play area.
Action: Children and Youn Persons Reps to contact the playground project contact about seating and no-cycling signage.

Paddling Pool Area/Splash Pad
User survey published and promoted by poster and QR code, with video responses available, running until 29 November. Members encouraged to respond and informed answers will be sent directly to the Council to help shape the questions asked during the next consultation; thanks extended to Hilde for organizing. Group discussed the paddling pool area's future, possible removal, the reported £150,000 budget and potential biodiversity loss.
Replacement Splash Pad filters had been ordered for winter testing, although the supplier had reportedly ceased trading. A refreshment truck may temporarily replace the kiosk. Group stressed the need for affordable food and drink.
Action: Hilde to update the group on responses to survey and next steps.

Park Depot Renovations and Keepers Lodge
Keepers Lodge is temporarily serving as the depot during renovations, expected to finish by the end of 2026. Council to consider future uses afterwards and is reportedly open to ideas. No formal plans or consultation announced.
Group encouraged to share ideas to put forward to the Council and suggested an educational space, community center or park history museum. Interior footage is available

online; the building was reported as not being available for sale.
Action: Group (all) to send ideas to the Alexandra. Amir to report on the Lodge tour and documented historical features.

Noticeboard and Defibrillator Signage
Defibrillator location signage and acknowledgements of fundraising supporters installed on the noticeboard. Further noticeboard improvements planned.
No further action.

Hackney Mosaic
No further progress on mosaic designs. Involving local schools remains a suggestion; the location is still to be agreed.
Action: Group (all) to bring design ideas and suggestions for progressing the project. Alexandra to consider a focused meeting at the appropriate stage.

CPUG Cycling Representative
Cycling Rep vacancy advertised, with no expressions of interest. Chair has asked Hackney Cycling Campaign to circulate the opportunity.
Action: Position to continue to be advertised.

Clissold Councillors and User Group Protocol
Group discussed the requirement for a Council representative to attend three user group meetings annually. Council agreed to review the protocol, including whether local councillors could fulfil this role.
Action: Alexandra to update the group on the protocol review and councillor attendance.

Duck Ramps
Duck ramps expected nearer spring, when the boat is available, to limit weather damage. Group noted early nesting may require earlier installation and suggested longer ramps in future. Rat traps on the island were also suggested. Suggestion to get the code for the gate lock to allow swans safely back into the lakes.
Action: Richard and Alexandra to discuss ramp timing and rat-control options with the Council biodiversity team. Alexandra to obtain lock code/ask for new lock.

One O'Clock Club
Group advised that the club has always been intended for Hackney residents, although enforcement was inconsistent. Walk-in access continues, but the accompanying adult must be a Hackney resident.
Action: Alexandra to confirm required residency evidence with Hackney Children's Services.

Fundraising and Merchandise
CPUG stall held at Finks' Autumn Fair and further stalls planned for St Mary's Winter Fair on 28 November and Stoke Newington History Talks on 30 November. Two members volunteered; further help requested, particularly for the six-hour St Mary's event.
Quotes still being gathered for a new park map, including from a local artist. Group discussed an artistic, adaptable design for postcards, tea towels, tote bags, clothing and other merchandise. Brief and budget to be clarified before commissioning.
Finks expected to provide dedicated merchandise space, with proceeds to CPUG. Christmas cards designed for sale alongside existing stock.
Action: Hilde and Chloe to support the St Mary's stall support. Chloe to discuss merchandise space and Christmas market card sales with Finks.

Police Stop and Advise Cycling Events
No response received from the local policing contact following a repeat email. Five
Action: Alexandra to seek an update from the local policing team and report back.

AOB
CPUG 40th Anniversary
Updated website includes CPUG's history. The earliest document dates the first group to 1987, making 2027 its 40th anniversary. Group discussed commemorating the anniversary next year, including through merchandise.
Action: Group (all) to consider ideas for commemorating CPUG's 40th anniversary in 2027.
New River Vegetation Management
Annual pond vegetation cutting expected before the next meeting. Group suggested that the whole pond not be cut at once, to reduce biodiversity impacts.
Action: Richard and Alexandra to discuss the approach with the biodiversity team.
Rainwater harvesting system
Group heard about rainwater harvesting in other European parks to water plants and trees during dry summers. Local councillors responded positively and indicated possible grant funding. An initial proposal covers standalone systems and options attached to the tennis pavilion.
Action: Chloe to progress councillor discussions and report on feasible options, costs and potential grant funding.
2027 Meeting Dates
Group requested that 2027 meeting dates be agreed and circulated.
Action: Alexandra to circulate 2027 meeting dates.

Key dates for CPUG

CPUG Stall at St Marys Fair
Saturday 28th November
11AM-5PM
St Mary's Church N16

CPUG Stall at Stoke Newington History Talks
Monday 30th November
7:30PM-9:30pm
St Matthias Hall N16

Hackney Council Parks Department
parks@hackney.gov.uk
Café Management
info@finks.co.uk
Clissold House Venues and Events Officer
venuehire@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 5505
Hackney Council Cabinet Member for Parks
jacob.cable@hackney.gov.uk
Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team
07879 603 106 (please call 999 in an emergency)
Clissold@contact.metengage.co.uk