

Minutes of the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group Annual General Meeting 24th July 2025 at Shirley House

Present: approximately 32 people.

Apologies: James Almond, Kate Carruthers Thomas, Kath Fry,

Reports from the Chair, Treasurer and all the sub-groups had been published in the June issue of EDGE.

1. Ken Lambert (Chair) welcomed everyone and made introductions.
2. Unfortunately, Ibby Ullah, one of our local councillors, who had been due to speak, was unable to attend so Ken had devised a quiz instead.
3. Minutes of the previous AGM. These were noted. At the last AGM a number of issues were discussed, including the problem of traffic in Nether Edge. From this has emerged the sub-group Our Safer Streets.
4. Chair's Report: Ken Lambert

NENG is a small organisation run entirely by volunteers. Ken thanked all those involved with the David Pierce pocket park, especially Peter Vaughan, Sandra Laja and John and Enid Scholey, whose very generous donation allowed the pocket park to come into being. The opening, attended by local councillors and our MP was well attended. The hope is that we can replicate or help others with similar projects.

New members have joined the committee recently. These are Sue Chantler, Chris Hill, James Almond, Faith Salih and Fran Kime. It is a vibrant committee with good links to other organisations, including NESST (Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation).

Great thanks to Stephen Houfe who has transformed EDGE and to those involved with the Festival, the market and to everyone mentioned in the reports

5. Tresurer's Report: Richard Taylor.

Richard oversees the accounts which are kept by our bookkeeper, Terry Scully. Draft accounts have been sent to the accountant and will then be submitted to Companies House and the Charities Commission.

£10,000 is held as a reserve.

More than £110,000, profit from the markets, has been donated to local charities.

6. David Pierce Pocket Park: Ruth Bernard

The opening last November, which was attended by our local MP and councillors, was a great success and there have been lots of favourable comments about the planting. Volunteers now also look after the bed outside Sainsbury's and some surrounding trees. A replacement coping stone was made and replaced by Peter Vaughan.

There remains c£4000 which it is hoped will be used to create a garden area at the junction of Rundle Road and Kenbourne Road. Nicola Smith is overseeing this. Hopefully there will be two planters for the top of Ashland Road at a cost of c£800 and there is to be a trellis against the house at the end of Violet Bank Road with climbing hydrangeas in

planters, though work cannot go ahead until the house roof has been repaired. Costs here c£1,500.

Sadly the notice board in the pocket park has been vandalised. Peter Vaughan is considering how to improve it.

7. Farmers' Market: Howard Fry

Each market has 10%-15% new stalls.

There are concerns about new requirements to safeguard against terrorism.

Howard has recently completed and submitted a very detailed document to SCC. It might be the case that we need to employ someone to oversee a mass evacuation of the market. We already arrange for vehicles to be placed at the market exits to avoid ramming.

Good links have been formed with the Sharrow Vale Market.

As ever, more volunteers, particularly to help with the administration would be very welcome.

8. Festival: Mark Doel

The website goes live week beginning 28:07:25. - 70 events over 9 days. The programme will be available from mid-August. 3,500 copies will be left in key places. 1/3 of the events will be new.

Some people have suggested changing the date of the festival but last year Kate Carruthers Thomas did a detailed survey which showed overwhelming support for a mid September festival. The festival committee has taken a more systematic approach to its organisation. E.g. an appeal for help with a new crazy golf installation has drawn 12 new volunteers. Volunteers are still needed for the Party in the Park and social media will be used to make an appeal.

Abtisam Mohamed M.P. will open the festival at Common Ground.

9. Our Shared Streets: Faith Salih

The group evolved from a meeting in the Bowling Club following the reopening of Archer Lane. The group aims to avoid being a single issue group but aims to think about the purpose and priorities of safety for those walking, cycling and driving in Nether Edge as opposed to those who are passing through. Work is being done on an interactive map. C£500 is required for equipment for a survey on speed. Most of Nether Edge is due to be a 20 MPH zone. Pavement parking and dangerous parking are issues which are worse in certain areas.

10. History Sub-group: Chris Venables

Recent reprint of "Aspects of Nether Edge." The group have been given a lot of old photographs which need to be sorted. The group have several events as part of the Festival.

John Baxendale posts information on Facebook. As ever, volunteers to join the group are most welcome.

11. EDGE: Kevin Hickey

As mentioned, the whole look of the newsletter has changed since Stephen Houfe became involved. Topics recently covered include climbers, the miners' strike and open gardens.

The board is responsible for producing 10 copies per year but there are occasional guest editors.

Great thanks go to Ken Lambert as membership secretary who keeps the lists which change every month.

The board have been trying to broaden community contact and extend email copies.

Newcomers to Nether Edge receive a welcome pack.

Great thanks goes to the distributors who deliver EDGE.

Any ideas for articles or to express views please send them via email to the editorial board.

nengeditorialboard@gmail.com

12. Friends of Brincliffe Edge Woods: Ken Phillip

The group is flourishing and often receive compliments about their work. Ash dieback has caused problems and a tree fell recently. SCC have cleared it but left a mess. Ken sends 150 emails to people and usually 15 turn up.

NENG is to finance the installation of a bench dedicated to Ernest Shoebridge who was instrumental in reviving the Friends' group.

Another member of the public has offered to buy a bench which will be placed near the fernery - the top entrance to the woods.

13. Friends of Chelsea Park: Sue Chantler

Thanks to NESST for their planting in the park, which is looking splendid.

SCC respond quickly to repair equipment in the playground but the Friends would like to have more equipment plus some which is suitable for older children and an improvement to the benches. One possibility is to develop the area where the Chelsea Owl used to be, which is where children currently climb trees. All of this requires funding. SCC has resurfaced the path from Brincliffe Edge Road and Community Payback personnel are to refresh the basketball area.

The group would welcome ideas and volunteers.

14. Frog Walk Pocket Park: Mark Doel

A group of volunteers meets in the morning of the first Sunday of the month. Two or three people have joined this year.

The railing surrounding the park was damaged earlier in the year but Peter Vaughan found a manufacturer to make a replacement which he installed. It will be painted in the autumn.

15. Open Gardens: Howard Fry

An excellent year with very many visitors. Approximately £3000 was raised for various charities.

Councillor Ullah visited and sent his thanks.

16. Art Club Richard Taylor

The group meets every Tuesday afternoon and this summer has spent a lot of time outdoors. Lynne Chapman taught urban sketching and there was life drawing one time at the bowling club.

There is to be an art trail with 10 venues to visit during the festival.

17. There are now 11 NENG sub-groups, which cover a wide diversity of interests. We applaud all those who are part of these groups and who make NENG what it is. Great thanks is offered to all who work so hard for the Nether Edge Community.

18. Election of Officers

Chair: Ken Lambert

Secretary: Chris Hill

Treasurer: Richard Taylor

Vice-chair: Sue Chantler

Many thanks to Ruth Bernard, retiring vice-chair who has done a fantastic job.

Trustees:

Howard Fry resigns.

Appointed: Ken Lambert, Richard Taylor, Marion Gerson, Fran Kime.

19. Ken's quiz relating to Nether Edge was much enjoyed.

20. The meeting closed with thanks to all who attended.