

Minutes of the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group Annual General Meeting 30th June 2026 at Shirley House

Present: approximately 34 people.

Apologies: Mark Doel, Howard Fry, Kath Fry, Richard Taylor.

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

1. Ken Lambert (Chair) welcomed everyone and made introductions.

2. Chair's Report : Ken Lambert.

Thanks were expressed to all those involved with maintaining the David Pierce Pocket Park.

Stephen Houfe has left the committee as he no longer lives in Nether Edge but he will continue with the graphic design of EDGE. We are very grateful to Stephen for his work and all agree that he does a wonderful job.

Howard Fry is also standing down from the committee, having been secretary for many years. Howard has been a leading light in organising the Farmers' Market, Open Gardens and the Christmas lights. Very many thanks are offered to Howard for all his work on behalf of NENG.

3. Financial Report: Ken Lambert on behalf of Richard Taylor, treasurer.

There has been an increase of c£600 from subscriptions, plus £300 advertising revenue. Printing costs for EDGE have remained the same. The latest issue has been published on matt paper.

Currently there is £23,000 in the bank but some of this will be going to charities. Last year's festival made a small profit. £500 was collected during the Party in the Park.

4. Our Shared Streets: James Almond and Faith Salih.

This is the newest NENG sub-group, started only last year.

The group has set up a Community Speed Watch in junction with the Police who will offer training. The aim of the group is to collect data which will inform local councillors and the Police. Drivers who exceed the speed limit will be sent warning letters and persistent offenders may be visited by Police. Collected evidence will be destroyed and information will be returned to the group anonymised.

One member of the group is liaising with local councillors to deal with questions sent to the group's inbox.

Cycling UK has provided funding to support a bike bus to the Party in the Park.

Our Shared Streets are seeking evidence of people's experience of moving around Nether Edge.

Their position statement is now on the NENG website.

5. David Pierce Pocket Park: Ruth Bernard.

4-6 volunteers meet regularly to maintain the pocket park, the strip of land outside Sainsbury's and the planters at the shops.

The fund has £6,000 and proposes to use some of it to implement a plan drawn up by Peter Vaughan to plant a tree on the roundabout near Kenwood Bank. A highways licence is necessary but the department has been difficult to contact. Ken will raise the matter with local councillors.

The proposal for a small pocket park part way up Rundle Road is on hold until Amy have done the necessary repairs.

It is hoped that two planters will be placed at the top of Sandford Grove Road at the junction with Archer Lane. The necessary licence is £250 plus the cost of the plants.

6. Farmers' Market: Marion Gerson.

Who do we do it for?

- i. The people of Nether Edge, it makes Nether Edge interesting.
- ii. The traders. Small businesses rely on income from such events.
- iii. Small charities. Last year the market donated £1,200 to each of 8 small charities.

There is a need for both continuity and freshness. New volunteers have recently come forward and new people apply for stalls. The market committee try to have a range of different stall holders, though farmers are always accepted.

Charities who benefit from the market are asked to contribute an article to EDGE, which also gives them more publicity.

7. Festival: Chris Venables.

The festival was started 15 years ago by Maggie Little and Chris Venables to celebrate the farmers' market. It has grown bigger and bigger but has always started with a carnival at Common Ground and ended with the Party in the Park.

Money collected in buckets will be shared by Family Voice at Common Ground and the scouts. The W.I. who provide teas and coffees will donate half of their profits to their charity and half to the scouts.

8. History Group: Chris Venables.

The history group regularly host talks, walks and informal meetings in the Union public house, where anyone can contribute a 10 minute talk on some research they have done. John Baxendale regularly provides very enjoyable articles on the history of Nether Edge for EDGE.

9. EDGE: Kevin Hickey.

Members: Ruth Bernard, Nicky Erlen, Kevin Hickey, Stephen Houfe, Pat Rogers.

EDGE is produced 10 times a year regardless of where the board members might be in the world. The aim of the board is to keep the community engaged and they are pleased to receive stories and opinions from readers.

Grateful thanks were expressed to the sub-groups who submit articles regularly and to the distributors who deliver EDGE. Thanks too, to the crossword compilers.

10. Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood: Howard Trott.

This is the 11th year of the current FoBEW. Work is usually needed on the paths, particularly replacing revetments. Appropriate shrubs are planted and non-native plants removed. One meeting this year had to be cancelled because of high winds.

The group is very grateful to all the volunteers.

There are plans to address the privet arch.

One volunteer, Toby asked to work in the wood as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award. He did a brilliant job, litter picking, identifying repairs needed and recording his findings.

11. Friends of Chelsea Park: Sue Chantler with Helen Ryall.

The Community Payback scheme, organised by Andy Phillips from the Parks and Countryside Service, has cleaned up some of the older benches around the park.

1. Benches within the play area have been refurbished, funded by NENG
2. Along with representatives from NESST we had a useful walk around the park with Luke Rose from the Parks and Countryside Service and 2 sites for memorial trees were identified and these have now been planted.
3. NESST have added more planting to the area near the Brincliffe Towers wall and have asked to have an area of the grass slopes left unmown so that more wild flowers can be planted to add to the increasing biodiversity within the park.
4. The meadow planted by Marion Tylecote continues to thrive and can be explored by children along the carefully mown paths.
5. Many thanks to the people who completed the small survey that we held for playground users. The findings added to our understanding of what people think of the play area and how this might be developed in the future. The most popular suggestions were that the current play area is good for young children but is beginning to show its age and needs to be renovated in order to slow its decline and extend its life. We are in discussion with the SCC regarding this. Another popular idea was the idea of having some more challenging play equipment for older children in the form of a rope and beam balance trail or a climbing frame both of which would come at considerable cost and require serious fund raising. We are already in negotiation with SCC to have some money made available to renovate the basket ball area. Our focus therefore as a Friends of Group is to raise the funds to maintain and improve the facilities within the park.

6. Very recently and at short notice, the remains of the tree stem of the Chelsea Road Elm tree were placed in Chelsea Park. This wood remains the property of SCC. Ibby Ullah has been approached with ideas and interest regarding what might happened to the wood for example:

Some of the suggestions received include:

- A sculpture in Chelsea Park.
- Benches made from the wood for Chelsea Park, with a plaque telling the story of the tree.
- A bowl made by a local woodturner and displayed in a local museum (e.g. Weston Park Museum).
- Musical instruments (e.g. guitar) made by local craftspeople.
- Planting replacement trees, including a 'twin' tree nearby.
- Planting honeysuckle around the old tree stump.
- Making practical items such as chopping boards, coasters, fruit bowls and wooden spoons from the wood, which could be sold at local markets to raise money for local charities.

Many residents have also said that any memorial should remain local and involve local artists, craftspeople and community groups.

This is obviously a project in its own right and not one for the Friends of CP so we are suggesting that anyone with an interest in following up these ideas and coordinating possible action should in the first instance perhaps let NENG and Ibby know.

12. Open Gardens: KL

19 gardens were open this year and between 40 - 150 visitors came to each. £3,329 was raised for a number of charities. EDGE published some beautiful pictures of the gardens and the whole event was very enjoyable.

13. Art Group: Bev Nelson.

An interesting year. About 20 members. New members welcome.

Activities this year include:

Painting en plein air in members' gardens and Bishops' House.

Urban sketching with Lynne Chapman.

Air brushing, lino cutting, portraits, pottery, montage and life drawing.

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Ken Lambert said the reports illustrate the range of activities that NENG supports and the number of volunteers involved. There was a round of applause for all involved.

14. Appointment of Officers

Ken is to stand down as Chair of NENG and is to be succeeded by Chris Hill.

Ken will take up Chris' former post as Secretary and will remain as Membership Secretary.

Richard Taylor will remain as Treasurer.

Terry Scully, our book keeper, has been abroad but has kept in touch with the finances.

Sue Chantler will remain as acting Vice - Chair until she moves away from Nether Edge later in the year.

Trustees: Ken Lambert, Richard Taylor, Marion Gerson, Chris Hill.

Special Meeting.

Resolution 1

"That this special meeting held on 30 June 2026 agrees that Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group ("NENG" ; Company number 07414080 and Charity registration number: 1139239) should apply to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation."

Resolution 2

"That this special meeting held on 30 June 2026 agrees that the proposed constitution for Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group ("NENG" ; Company number 07414080 and Charity registration number: 1139239) as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation should be adopted."

Both resolutions were adopted nem. con.

A vote of thanks was raised for Ken.

Cakes and posh squash was available for all and the meeting concluded with a light-hearted quiz.