

Minutes of the meeting of the Iffley Fields Residents Association held on January 9 2023 on Zoom

Present : Ben, Sam, Sue (Chair), Thelma, Christine, Kay, Luke, Barbara, Peter, Susan, Chris J., Denise, Ruth, Simon, Tom, Rosemary, Janet (minutes)

Apologies: Damian, Emily, Jon

Before the meeting started we talked about the fatal bicycle accident near Iffley Lock. There will be a hearing in April.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November were accepted as a correct record.

Matters arising

Car Park

Cllr Lucy Pegg had acknowledged the letter to the Council about IFRA's view that it should be a public carpark, but we have not heard back yet. Nothing yet from Damian about the parking on the grassy picnic area by the bridge. ODS wrote a report for the Council on laying out the three options for consultation with the rowing club and local councillors. Ben pointed out the absurd absence of other stakeholders in this process.

Table tennis table

Sue has written a letter to be sent to Laura Harlock asking that the base be moved further away from the busy Meadow Lane. We feel there has been a lack of proper consultation over this for which we fundraised locally. The concrete was laid suddenly and is far too close to the lane for safety. An alternative would be to erect a barrier, but visually the table would be better further from the corner. We agreed that Sue should send the letter.

Defibrillator -Tom spoke about the exact location for this compact, self contained box to be fixed to a wall. Near the pub and the playing field and play ground is a good central point in Iffley Fields. The Chester landlord hasn't responded yet, and there are other options which Tom will investigate.

We will crowdfund to meet the cost. Chris Jarvis told us that councillors' fund for local initiatives will be open for applications in the next two weeks and that this would be an appropriate thing to apply for.

Basket ball hoop -Christine said she would follow up Catherine about the basket ball hoop.

ODS meeting- Chris J. said he will get a date for us to meet with the director shortly.

Meadow Lane planting

Denise reported that Chris Bell has offered one disease-resistant elm and two cherry trees. The best place for the elm, which will be very large in 30 years time, would be opposite the garage so that it doesn't interfere with the view from Eyot Place. The two other shady trees could go between there and the playground, one to give shade to the further bench. Ruth said the East Oxford cubs have planted bulbs.

Waterways

Tom told us that now the focus for the group is on the neglected island between the two bridges. There are regular work parties happening and the next is on 5th February when the Oxford Conservation volunteers will be joining in. There is a WhatsApp group if you'd like to get involved. Sam said how very helpful Julian Cooper and his apprentice Tom have been.

Planning

Thelma said she was keeping a watching brief on Iffley development. The City Council now intend the houses to all be “affordable”, social and shared ownership (though given the location deposits would be very large). There’s an alternative proposal from Friends of Iffley Fields with leaflets on the Meadow of Gifts (a definition of “Iffley”) and more information at www.iffleywoods.com
The final date for comments on the planning application is 2nd February.

Finance

Ben presented his report. The balance at 1 January 2023 is £3,866.93 but this is allocated for ongoing projects. Up to date about £330 had been received as a result of the fund raising. A further £694 was still needed.

Ben was thanked for all his work on this and he would now like to hand over to a new treasurer if one can be found. We can advertise this post on Facebook.

Guerrilla Garden at the bottom of Fairacres Road

Susan has made a good start on this small area and some people have suggested wild flowers would be specially good here, and she is happy to receive plant donations.

AGM

We will ask representatives of local charities to speak for 10 minutes each. Sam, Sue, Thelma, and Christine will contact Restore, Asylum Welcome, Friends of Aston’s Eyot and Mutual Aid respectively.

Greyfriars is available on 13th March and Thelma will hire the hall from 7.30 to 10.00pm.

Street connectors’ reports

Advent windows: Simon acknowledged that the Advent windows had appeared again and been enjoyed.

Playground: Simon spoke about the playground becoming more rundown and less pleasant to spend time in. Christine suggested making a report with photographs and Chris J. thought this would be excellent and is happy to help.

Interest groups

Details should all be on the website and members are linked using WhatsApp in some groups.

Wildlife

Ruth suggested as there are already many wildlife groups around our’s could be chiefly signposting to these. It meets on Monday.

Book group

Rosemary said the next meeting is on 26th January and the current book is The Warden.

Local history

Meets at the Chester 3.30 to 4.30, 3rd February.

Walking group

Kay said the next walk is planned for 28th January.

Guerrilla gardening

Denise is looking for helpers to work on the garden for one or two hours and then lunch at the Chester.

Next meeting

AGM at Greyfriars at 8.00 on Monday 13th March.