

Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of a meeting held on 10 July 2023 at Greyfriars Hall

Present: Sue Hale (Chair), Barbara Ashcroft, Denise Cullington, Ben Pinches, Ruth Ashcroft, Richard Norman, James Fletcher, Rosemary Southworth, Calum Pinches, Tom Green, Thelma Martin, Jon Rees, Janet Hall, Christine Hogg, Sam Alston
Cllr Damian Haywood, Cllr Chris Jarvis

Apologies were received from Peter Sidgewick, Samantha Robertson, Susan Bedford, Cllr Emily Kerr, Simon Fisher

1 Minutes of the meeting on 8th May were accepted as a correct record

2 Matters arising:

Meadow Lane Car Park

The decision had been made but not yet made public.

Action: IFRA to write to Cllr Nigel Chapman to ask when the decision would be made public.

Playground renovation:

Tom reported that the seesaw had been replaced, but there was no further update on when the Wibbly Wobbly Bridge and other removed items would be replaced. £1500 had been received from the councillors' funds for new equipment.

Action:

- Tom agreed to look at options for new equipment as a basis for consultation with users.
- IFRA to write to ODS to ask when the Bridge is likely to be replaced.

Defibrillator

98% of the funding needed was likely to be received from Cllr Jarvis' fund. The ideal location was at the Chester. There had been no response from the Landlord. Alternative sites were the wall by the garages or the electricity station on Meadow Lane.

Action Cllr Jarvis agreed to pursue this with the Chester.

Basketball on the recreation ground

There was enthusiasm for this, though it would be expensive. Residents were keen to set up crowdfunding. A meeting with the City Council was being arranged to discuss possible locations and funding estimates.

3 Reduced access to the river:

Ferry Path

Horticultural waste had been placed blocking access to the river. ODS had agreed to maintain this path at the meeting with IFRA earlier this year.

Action IFRA to write to Laura (ODS) to report this and ask for the path to be maintained.

Scout/OPT Field

Until covid there had been public access to swim there but this was now being stopped again by the Scouts who leased the field from the Oxford Preservation Trust. Jon was setting up a meeting with OPT to raise concerns about this.

4 Waterways Group

Tom reported that working parties to clear up the area around Longbridges were continuing. New guidelines from DEFRA require applications for bathing place status to have over 100 swimmers a day over the peak period (achievable), public toilets (with 500 meters) and access to car parking. It was agreed that a compost loo might be considered – which would only be required May to September. The benefit of bathing water status was that it would help put pressure on Thames Water to stop polluting the river.

Ben reported that IFRA Waterway Group would receive £250 from the Museum of Oxford for its assistance with the consultation carried out on bathing places in Oxford.

5 Meadow Lane

The new trees

Denise reported that there had been concerns about the new trees during the hot weather and ODS had increased the watering.

Traffic Calming in Meadow Lane

Damian reported that Meadow Lane was a registered footpath and the access road to Eyot Place unadopted. The City Council owned the land and ODS was responsible for maintaining footpaths.

This led to difficulties in signage and enforcement as it did not come under Highways.

It was agreed that there were risks of accidents with cars, cyclists and children from the school and playground. Better signage, traffic calming and rising bollards were all options to consider.

Action: Damian agreed to discuss possibilities with ODS.

6 Planning

Thelma reported that nothing outstanding had come up since the last meeting but discuss that residents should be aware that there were plans to pull down the George Street Odeon and replace it with a 6-storey building. She pointed to the excellent work of the Oxford Civic Society and encouraged people to join www.oxcivicsoc.org.uk

7 Interest groups

Sue reported that the bridge group was looking for more members, if anyone was interested.

8 Honorary Treasurer

Sam Alston was appointed as Honorary Treasurer and become the signatory for the account. Ben was thanked for all his work as treasurer.

9 Financial report

Ben reported that thanks to standing orders and donations, IFRA now had a regular income. However, the £420 VAT owed to ODS could not yet be paid from unrestricted funds. No VAT was charged for installing the Table tennis Table because it was done by Green Spaces who do not charge VAT. However, the trees were planted by ODS who do charge VAT and IFRA had no option but to pay this. Until it was paid ODS would not install the new benches, including the memorial bench for Pam St Clair. The Waterways group agreed to loan this money to IFRA which aimed to repay it by the end of the year. It was noted that the bi-annual newsletter was also due in September and it was agreed that this should go ahead.

James suggested that distributing envelopes for donations had been very successful in another area. A QR code for donations could also be put on the noticeboard/ website/ newsletter.

Action

- Sue H would write to Tom about the terms of the loan.
- Ben agreed to look into fundraising envelopes with a view to distributing with the September newsletter.

10 School traffic

Damian reported that funding had been received to expand the “School Streets” programme to Iffley Fields. It was hoped that this would start in September. It would include improved signage and road markings.

11 IFRA Media and communications

Calun Pinches suggested that a new approach using Linked In and other media might help IFRA raise its profile and assist in campaigning. He was willing to help with this. This offer was gratefully accepted!

12 Reports from Street Connectors

- **Parking at the end of the Fairacres Road:** Barbara reported that regular parking in the turning dangerous to pedestrians and cyclist. Improved line markings on the road would help. Damian agreed to look into this.
- **Weeds on pavements:** This had been raised as a problem by a resident. It was agreed to take this up with the City Council on <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Dates of future meetings, 8pm

11 September Zoom

13 November in person

Actions arising from the meeting

IFRA officers

- write to Cllr Nigel Chapman to ask when the decision would be made public about the Car park.
- write to Laura (ODS) to report blockage of the Ferry path and ask for the path to be maintained.
- write to ODS to ask when the wibbly wobbly bridge is likely to be replaced.
- **Ben** to look into fundraising envelopes with a view to distributing with the September newsletter.
- Sue H to write to Tom about the terms of the loan.

Damian

to discuss possible traffic calming measure on Meadow Lane with ODS.

Chris

to pursue possible location of defibrillator with the Chester.

Tom

to look at options for new equipment for the playground as a basis for consultation with users.