

IFRA

Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Iffley Fields Residents Association held on Monday 10 March 2025 at the Falcon Boat Club.

Present

Sue Hale (in the Chair)

Christine Hogg, Barbara Ashcroft, Susan Bedford, Janet Hall, Simon Fisher, Thelma Martin, Samantha Robertson, Jane Fisher, Larry Sanders, Martin Box-Oliver, Jo Burch, Sam Alston, Virginia Hodgson, Sylvia Eades, Luke Bolton, Usha Waygood, Rob Waygood, Rosemay Southworth, Neil Doig, Stephen Kearsey, Dannielle Battigelli, Cathy Ferreira, Brad Baines, Suzanne Box-Oliver, Tom Green, Diana Porteus, Nick Barnett, Emily Kerr,

Apologies: Jon Rees, Ben Pinches, Margaret Thompson, Jean and Lawrence Burrell

At the first half of the meeting Mark Seal, boatman for LMH, Merton and Longbridges showed historical photos of the towpath and explained how the deterioration had happened. Unless the land was registered, it was not possible to manage moorings, leading to abandoned boats and other problems. He was working with landowners, who included a number of Colleges with a view to registering their land and then the management of the moorings and tow path could be passed on to a trust. He suggested that IFRA might link up with other residents and community groups to tackle aspects of the problem. It was noted that IFRA was concerned about safety on the towpath following local resident, Polly Friedhoff's death. Mark noted that cutting back overhanging greenery and widening the tow path would improve safety. These were the responsibility of the County and City Councils. IFRA would discuss these issues and the recommendations of the Coroner at the Zoom meeting in May.

About 50 people attended. IFRA received apologies from MP Anneliese Dodds, who was concerned about the issue and offered to meet with IFRA.

1 MINUTES OF AGM 11 MARCH 2024

The minutes of the AGM were accepted as a correct record.

2 IFRA'S YEAR

Sue Hale introduced the newsletter that outlined the events of the last year. IFRA had achieved a lot and this was because so many people were prepared to help. She particularly mentioned Tom Green for his extraordinary persistence in getting the defibrillator sited and to the residents who generously allowed us to use their wall. The previous day a very successful working party had cleared access to the river of brambles and discussed other plans for improving the diversity and accessibility of the Kidneys. It was hoped that this would lead to the formation of a 'Friends' group for the Kidneys.

Cllr Emily Kerr reported that fruit trees would be planted on the Recreation Ground the following day, funded by the Community Orchard Fund.

Tom Green reported frustration about the continuing delays from ODS in undertaking repairs and replacing broken pieces of equipment in the children's playground. Usha Waygood and he were working with Nature Effect and the City Council on reshaping the Playground. A Vision of the landscaping can be seen on the IFRA website. This would need fundraising to implement.

3 IFRA as a CIO

Christine reported that the management committee was recommending that IFRA should become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation for 2 reasons.

- IFRA held funds for projects and CIO status would strengthen accountability and governance.
- It would enable IFRA to receive gift aid on donations as well as widen the possible sources of funds for projects such as Longbridges, the Playground and the Recreation Ground.

This would require revisions to the Constitution following the template provided by the Charity Commission and the draft had been circulated. In practice there would be no great changes in the way IFRA worked. IFRA would still be a membership organisation where the members vote for the management committee/trustees, though we would need to keep a formal register. It was not intended to tie membership to an annual subscription because it might exclude some residents and be very time-consuming to administer. The eligibility for membership was supporting IFRA's objectives,

but the management committee/trustees could introduce criteria including residence in our streets or adjoining ones.

There would be an additional burden on the treasurer and the Committee were very appreciative that Sam Alston was willing to take it on. Once the application is made, IFRA should know within 45 days.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously

That Iffley Fields Residents Association apply to the Charity Commission to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Proposed by Thelma Martin and seconded by Emily Kerr

That Iffley Fields Residents Association adopt the new Constitution that complies with becoming a CIO.

Proposed by Rob Waygood and seconded by Larry Sanders

4 TREASURER'S REPORT

Sam Alston reported on the financial situation as outlined in the newsletter. Thanks to the generous donations of residents, we have sufficient unrestricted funds in addition to the funds held for particular projects. IFRA had just received £2035 from the County Council through Cllr Damian Heywood. This was for picnic tables on the Recreation Ground. Sue Hale reported that she would be setting up a crowdfunder for the tables in the Spring.

Damian was thanked for this donation and all the work that he had done for Iffley Fields.

5 ELECTIONS

Emily Kerr took over for this item

The following officers were elected for the following year

Chair - Sue Hale

Vice Chair- Janet Hall

Treasurer - Sam Alston

Secretary - Christine Hogg

Tom Green was elected for the first time and Simon Fisher, Peter Sidgewick were re-elected for a further 3 years. Ben Pinches and Jon Rees had resigned as co-vice-chairs and were elected on to the management committee.

Simon asked if anyone else would be interested in joining the Committee as we always welcomed new people getting involved.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Heat loss monitors

Sam Alston reported that the Low Carbon Hub were making available monitors to check where houses were losing heat. He asked anyone interested to let him know. It needed to be done in colder weather and so wouldn't happen before the Autumn.

Community Action Group

Usha proposed that IFRA should join this group as it provided useful advice to small community groups and a £1000 start-up grant that might be used for the plans for the Playground. This was agreed.

Falcon Boat Club

Nick Barnett was thanked for inviting IFRA to use its rooms. Nick said that the Falcon was a charity and was involved in community outreach and was pleased to work with IFRA and other community groups. IFRA was welcome to use the rooms for meetings. The Falcon would have an Open Day on 13th June from 1pm.

The meeting closed at 21.30

CH