



IFRA

Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Iffley Fields Residents Association held on Monday 9 March 2026 at the Falcon Boat Club.

Present

Sue Hale (in the Chair), Christine Hogg, , Susan Bedford, Janet Hall, Thelma Martin, Sam Alston, Virginia Hodgson, Rosemay Southworth, Danielle Battigelli, Brad Baines, Diana Porteus, Margaret Thompson, James Rogers, Polly Woolstone, Jo Burch, Andy Bastalle, Peta Sandison, Susan Alexander, David Cooper, Jeremy Arden, Rebecca Abrahams, Katrina Davis, Rob Salguero- Gomet,

Apologies: Jane Fisher, Barbara Ashcroft, Jean and Lawrence Burrell, Emily Kerr, Sylvia Eades

Part 1 Thermal imaging and heat loss in Iffley Fields

At the first half of the meeting Sam Alston reported on the survey he had done with Peta and John in November, 45 houses were photographed and the images shared in the meeting. They showed very wide variation in insulation and the photos identified spots of heat loss that might be addressed,

Paul Gaida from Proguard Exteriors (<https://www.proguardexteriors.co.uk>) outlined ways that heat loss can be reduced in older houses, such as exterior and interior cladding and external spray to waterproof the exterior. There were limitations on what could be achieved in some older houses, without changing the exterior look. If anyone wanted to follow up with him, if they mention IFRA they will receive a 10% discount.

Low Carbon East Oxford had loaned IFRA the thermal camera, but unfortunately were unable to attend. Low Carbon East Oxford (<https://www.lowcarbonhub.org/>) are a small community group running initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of East Oxford. They are able to advise

on more low cost options such as draught proofing. Looking at the photos, most lost heat mainly through the doors and windows.

Part 2 IFRA AGM

Sue reported the sad news about the death of Simon Fisher. He had been a long standing member of IFRA and made an enormous contribution to Iffley Fields, Details of the funeral would be shared on the Street WhatsApp groups.

1 Minutes of the AGM 10 March 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

2 Chairs report

Sue reported on the past year and how much she appreciated the strength and support of the community, with so many people involved in projects, as members of the community, as street connectors or committee members.

The Kidneys: Sue thanked Margaret Thompson for her hard work and perseverance in getting the path resurfaced and, with volunteers, opening up and maintaining the riverside path. The new logs should be delivered and installed for the Spring. Thanks to everyone's generosity and Brad Baines, IFRA has funds to pay for them.

Planning: Thelma was thanked for her work on monitoring planning applications. She had sent in further comments about the overdevelopment of 270 Iffley Road which was being converted from a single house into an HMO with 17 rooms and had encouraged the Oxford Civic Society to also object. She had also submitted comments on the Oxford City Plan, including concerns about the housing development on the Horse Field in Iffley.

Cllr Brad Baines reported on concerns about the closure of Donnington Bridge which already had a weight limit and the 46 bus no longer came over it. He was pressing for the reinstatement of the service with smaller buses. The work needed on the bridge included the replacement of tensioning cables. It was estimated that this might cost around £4 million and take 2 years. He had set up a petition at Change.org and urged people to sign it.

<https://c.org/kK9GvnHF7P>

Field by Donnington Bridge: It was hoped this could be returned to community use rather than a car park and boat yard. IFRA would follow this up this year.

The Picnic tables had now been installed and were being well used. Sue was thanked for raising the funds for this and everyone who contributed to the crowdfunder. Family and friends of Sam Robertson raised the money for one of the picnic tables and there will be a commemorative plaque attached to it.

The Playground: Sue reported that she had lived in the area for 62 years and never seen it in such good shape, thanks to Usha and Tom and all the volunteers. The back area by the fence had been opened up and logs would be donated by the Council from Shotover, using the same transport as the logs for the Kidneys.

Open Gardens and the guerilla gardens along Meadow Lane: Susan Bedford was thanked for all her work in organising Open Gardens and maintaining the Gardens. She and Barbara Ashcroft would appreciate help in maintaining the beds, donations of plants were always welcome and also funds to buy long lasting shrubs.

Local interest groups and social activities: Thanks to the local residents who organised the street party, the quizzes and the advent calendar and the carol singing. She had been approached by a long-term resident who felt there were not opportunities to meet other residents. She proposed setting up a monthly lunch club for people over 60 at the Chester on the first Monday of each month, More details would follow.

She also suggested that, with so many people working from home, there might be interest in a similar monthly lunch for sole workers. If you are interested, she asked them to contact her sue_hale@btinternet.com. Any other ideas would also be welcome.

3 Constitution

Christine reported that IFRA had been refused its second application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Some of our activities are not charitable (e.g. social and community events) and so we do not meet the strict legal requirements. To meet their strict criteria, we would need to unduly change the way we operate.

However, the Charity Commission suggested that IFRA might be eligible for gift aid without being a registered charity and we will apply for this. IFRA had reverted to the previous Constitution and it was agreed that the Constitution should be amended to include the Objectives that were included in the draft CIO Constitution, which had been agreed at a special general meeting, namely:

- 1 to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment, i.e. the river and the Kidneys and Astons Eyot nature reserves
- 2 to preserve and promote the public amenities in Iffley Fields that benefit residents of East Oxford, namely safe access to the river, the Children's Playground and the Meadow Lane Recreation Ground by raising funds for improvements to community assets as listed above in association with the local authorities,
- 3 The promotion of civic responsibility and building community capacity by:
 - Bringing people together to work towards improving public assets and amenities
 - the promotion of volunteering in the nature reserves, the Playground, the river bank and Longbridges Pool and local charities working with marginalised groups in East Oxford

4 Treasurers report

Sam thanked everyone for their donations to IFRA which had enabled us to build up our reserves and fund projects such as the logs for the Kidneys. The annual financial statement would be available after the end of the financial year in April. It was agreed in future to hold the AGM, historically always held in March, in May so that the annual accounts could be presented at the AGM.

It was agreed to open a new bank account that is designed to meet the needs of small community groups. The current bank account was not suitable for a community group and this caused many difficulties. However, we would keep this account open to receive existing standing orders. Experience of other organisations is that many people do not transfer their standing orders if an account is closed.

5 Elections

The following were elected, uncontested

Chair: Sue Hale nominated by Polly Woolstone and seconded by Thelma Martin

Vice Chair: Janet Hall nominated by Sam Alston and seconded by Rosemay Southworth

Secretary - Christine Hogg, nominated by Polly and seconded by Janet

Treasurer Sam Alston, nominated by Janet, seconded by Polly

Committee member: Barbara Ashcroft was re-elected for a further term, nominated by Susan Bedford and seconded by Christine Hogg.

Sue reported that in the last year IFRA had lost 3 active and long standing committee members - Sam Robertson, Ben Pinches and Simon Fisher. IFRA would welcome anyone to join us. Christine reported that she did not wish to cease her involvement with IFRA but would appreciate it if anyone was interested in taking over some or all of the role of Secretary.

6 AOB

Street WhatsApp - it was noted that these were really useful but still some residents seemed unaware of them, In Eyot Place a leaflet had been distributed to encourage people to join that had been successful.

The meeting finished at 21.22

