



Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 November 2025 at 8PM at the Falcon Boat Club

Present: Janet Hall (Chair), Susan Bedford, Christine Hogg, Barbara Ashcroft, Simon Fisher, Luke Bolton, Sylvia Eades, Sam Alston
Cllr Brad Baines, Katrina Robinson (FoIV), Nick Barnett (Falcon)

Apologies were received from Margaret Thompson, Sue Hale, Thelma Martin

Ben Pinches has resigned as he has moved out of the area. Everyone expressed their thanks and good wishes; Ben had been involved with IFRA from the start and made an important contribution and will be greatly missed.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September were accepted as a correct record

2. Matters arising

Meadow Lane Carpark – It had been decided that the carpark would return to public use within 6 months. Final details on fees and timings remained to be sorted. There would also be bollards or fencing.

Picnic tables – Two tables had now been ordered and the exact locations would be agreed on a site visit. The shortfall in funding would be met by IFRA general funds. It would also be important to have an additional rubbish bin.

Tow path – The Stakeholder group had met and divided into two groups: river users and tow path users. Nick reported that progress was being made but was slow in persuading landowners to register the land, as registration would mean that they were liable.

Katrina from the Friends of Iffley Village asked if IFRA would be holding a follow up meeting with the MP and County Council. IFRA had no plans at the moment but FoIV might wish to arrange one as there was wide community concern. She also raised the issue of where signage might be placed and the wording chosen. Rumble pathing might also be used to make cycles aware that pedestrians had priority. Brad pointed out that the County Council was restricted in the wording on signs.

Guerilla Garden

Susan and Barbara had done an amazing job in clearing the ground and would welcome donations of plants as well as volunteers to help clearing and planting.

3 Field between the Bridge and the Ferry path

A site visit with Cllr Anna Railton, Rosie Rawle and Brad Baines had taken place. IFRA explained to Council officers the importance of the area as a part of accessing the river. It used to be a great picnic area for families to access the river but had been taken over as a car park and boat yard. It was also

pointed out the importance of the path that went behind the car park and joined the top end of the Ferry Path. This meant pedestrians could avoid walking on Meadow Lane. IFRA were also interested and in particular in bringing the waste area between the Carpark and the path into recreational use. Councillors agreed to check the situation with OARC and their temporary use and as a start to look into how parking might be limited to boat owners.

4 Scout Field

Ben had been dealing with OPT about problems of access to the Scout Field and needed to hand over responsibility for follow up. OPT were clear that there had to be community access to the field and the river and there was no legal basis for prohibiting the public. An OPT representative would be happy to come to an IFRA meeting at an appropriate time and also arrange a meeting with IFRA and the Scouts to discuss how public access might be safely managed. Ben thanked for his work and perseverance in getting this result.

5 Kidneys

The new river path is well used and greatly appreciated. Margaret Thompson had been leading volunteer working groups and needed more volunteers to help keep it clear and free of nettles. A session with Ruth Ashcroft had helped clear the bank and sow grass and flower seeds on the bank.

Simon expressed his thanks and hoped that it might be possible to clear the area further up the bank toward Fritillary Island. Christine reported that she had asked ODS for quotes for large sitting logs for the Kidneys. Possible locations to be decided.

6 Planning-

Christine reported on behalf of Thelma that there was a new application for changes to 270 Iffley Road. The application to expand from a 6 room HMO to 16 had been rejected, but the new one was for 17 rooms. She would object on behalf of IFRA and the Oxford Civic Society was also likely to object.

Notices to neighbours about planning applications were easy to miss or could be removed. Christine offered to inform the relevant Street Connector of any new applications for houses in their street to ensure the neighbours were aware of them. IFRA did not comment on individual applications, such as for rear extensions, unless there was thought to be a wider interest.

7 Financial Report

Sam reported that IFRA was holding £10,440; £269 on behalf of the Waterways group, £3165 on behalf of the Playground and £3035 for the picnic tables. The general fund stood at £3969. It was agreed to keep a reserve of unrestricted funds of 2 years admin costs (currently about £500) and 10% of project funds (currently about £1500). This would ensure continuity and help us avoid any problems were there any inadvertent expenses or overspends. Some of the general funds had been allocated to the picnic tables and £50 to tree cutting at Longbridges. It was agreed that IFRA should not hold general funds above the reserve. At the next meeting we will discuss how to use any remaining general funds above the reserves.

6 Heat loss monitors

Sam reported that about 40 residents want to take up the offer of thermal imaging camera to look at heat loss. The day that it would be undertaken needed to be dry and cold to be most effective and this might determine the day the camera was used.

7 Iffley Village Housing development

Katrina reported that there had been objections from the County Council on the grounds of access and flooding risk. It was likely a more scaled down development might be proposed.

8 New surface on Warwick and Parker Street

Simon expressed his appreciation for the new surfaces. Line marking would be added shortly

9 Gulleys for charging electric cars

Luke reported that though there were grants for a pavement gulley to allow charging for electric cars, this did not cover the costs. To apply for a gulley, you have to get planning permission, take out public liability insurance and annually provide a certificate from an electrician. Given the complexity and the ongoing costs it was doubtful if many would take it up.

CH 13/11/25

2026 12th January (Zoom), 9 March (Falcon), 11 May (Zoom), 13 July (Falcon), 14 September (Zoom), 9 November (Falcon)