

# **IFRA**

## **Iffley Fields Residents Association**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Iffley Fields Residents Association held on Monday 14 March 2022 by Zoom.**

#### **Present**

Ben Pinches (in the Chair)

Christine Hogg, Barbara Ashcroft, Janet Hall, Simon Fisher, Thelma Martin, Sue Hale, Emily Kerr, Samantha Robertson, Luke Bolton, Ruth Ashcroft, Denise Cullington, Susan Bedford, Peter Sidgewick, Nick Eyre, David Merrill, Margaret Keeping, Cllr Chris Jarvis, Jessica, Melissa, Janey Carline, Danielle Balligetti, Kay Millar, Maira, Nick Barnett, Mark Cannon, Maria, Jo,

Apologies: Jon Rees, David Morris, Cllr Damian Haywood, Jane Fisher

#### **1 MINUTES OF AGM 15 MARCH 2021**

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

#### **2 Making Oxford – a zero carbon city**

Professor Nick Eyre, researcher at the Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University and adviser to the City Council, reported Oxford City Council hopes to get to net zero emissions by 2040. A Zero Carbon Partnership has been set up to co-ordinate the strategy. There is an excellent opportunity in Oxford to take a lead in reducing emissions and in the long term make Oxford a pleasanter and better city. Following a discussion Nick was thanked for his contribution and was asked to keep IFRA informed so that we could help push the agenda.

PowerPoint from the presentation is available from [iffleyfields@gmail.com](mailto:iffleyfields@gmail.com)

#### **3 REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

Ben Pinches reported on an active year for IFRA, since the last AGM IFRA had set up a website, produced 2 newsletters and sub groups on Longbridges and Meadow Lane had achieved significant improvements. IF Car, the car sharing scheme, had been piloted and established. The additional benches and bins had been installed with thanks to residents' contributions.

The committee was open to comment and suggestions about the direction IFRA was going and welcomed residents getting involved.

#### **4 ACCESS TO WATERWAYS**

The Waterways group had been set up following last years' AGM. It was focusing on renewing Longbridges swimming area. Some funding had been received and the council were promising additional benches and better maintenance. There had been two working parties and special thanks were due to the Falcon for their support.

There were also plans for improving the old ferry path, including cutting back the brambles, laying a new path and placing a bench. Nick Barnett from the Falcon reported that the club building adjoining would be fenced off but the wooded area would be open to the public with bulbs and planting. Jon Rees was leading on this and an application for funding had been made.

#### **5 MEADOW LANE REC**

Since the last AGM the group had received a grant and conducted a user survey. It found that most people, liked the open space and opportunity for informal sports. They supported more benches, some trees and planting as long as it did not interfere with activities. The Group was acting on these results with additional benches and bulb planting. 2 small clumps of trees would be planted by ODS in the autumn.

Peter Sidgwick reported that they had raised £500 towards a table tennis table from the University Community Fund, he hoped additional would be available from the Councillors Grant. Cllr Chris Jarvis reported that decisions on funding would be made by the end of the week. An estimate for upgrading the football pitch had been sought but it would cost £100,000 and was not affordable.

#### **6 IFCAR AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

Emily Kerr reported the car sharing scheme was now operating and that as a pilot she would have an EV for 2 months to share. The purpose of this was to see if it was viable to lease an EV for community sharing,

News was awaited on the funding from the County Council for traffic management around school drop offs. In April she would be looking for volunteers to help discourage parents from driving down Bedford Street to drop off and pick up their children.

## **7 AIR QUALITY**

Janet reported that the group was looking at installing external monitors to identify the extent of the problem in particular hotspots. Luke Bolton had installed a monitor and would report the results to the May IFRA meeting.

## **8 PLANNING**

Thelma report that the group continued to monitor applications and comment on wider issues affecting IF. There was particular concern about the number of retrospective applications for HMO status, once the adaptations had been done.

## **9 BROADBAND IN IFFLEY FIELDS**

Luke reported that many residents were frustrated by the poor quality of broadband and lack of options other than Virgin. There was planning permission to upgrade the connection in 2012. The box was on the pavement outside 242 Iffley Road and the owner of the property had objected and so the upgrade never happened. It was agreed to form a sub group through WhatsApp to look at the possibilities and coordinate actions.

It was noted that the University IT group that was also looking at broadband deficiencies in Oxford.

## **10 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ben, as Treasurer, reported that it had been a good year financially for IFRA. This has been partially due to the generosity of those who gave for our crowdfunding appeal and partially due to our successful application for grants such as the National Lottery Fund. The opening balance was £1,190.98, £8534.61 was paid in and £5,150.14 paid out. The closing balance was £4575.45

Ben reported that he would like to pass over the role of Treasurer, if anyone with accountancy skills was available.

## **11 ELECTIONS**

The following officers were elected for the following year

Co-Chair- Jon Rees

Co-Chair - Sue Hale

Treasurer - Ben Pinches

Secretary - Christine Hogg

Thelma Martin and Janet Hall were re-elected for a further 3 years.

Emily Kerr and Peter Sidgewick were elected for the first time for a 3-year term.

Simon Fisher stood down as Vice Chair and was elected a member.

Appreciation was expressed for all Simon's work as Vice Chair.

## **12 AOB - OPEN GARDENS**

Susan Bedford reported that she was trying to organise this with Barbara. However, so far, the response was slow and no date could be agreed until at least 6 residents were willing to open up their gardens. Some present agreed to encourage neighbours and it was suggested that the convent, the allotment and the Guerrilla Garden could all be included in the programme.