



## Iffley Fields Residents Association

### Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 May 2025 at 8PM on Zoom

**Present:** Sue Hale (Chair), Samantha Robertson, Susan Bedford, Thelma Martin, Christine Hogg, Barbara Ashcroft, Margaret Thompson, Ben Pinches, Janet Hall, Simon Fisher, Luke Bolton, , Nick Barnett, Sam Alston, Peter Sidgewick,  
Apologies were received from Cllr Brad Baines, Tom Green

1. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 12 January were accepted as a correct record

2. **Matters arising**

- Orchard on the Recreation Ground: 6 trees had been planted: 2 quince, 3 apples and 1 Pear. There was a watering rota for watering of specific trees. Anyone interested in adopting a tree, please get in touch.
  - Falcon Open Day – Sue reminded everyone that Falcon had an Open Day on 13 June.
  - Meadow Lane Carpark – There was no news about this. Simon felt that IFRA should take further action. Janet agreed to contact Donnington Tenants and Residents Association to see if they were interested in joint action. Christine would follow up with the Councillors
- Open Gardens 2025 – Susan reported that 8 gardens, the allotments and the convent would be open as well as a children's trail. A leaflet for distribution would be produced.
- Susan was concerned that the Guerilla Garden by the Recreation Ground was looking sad and particularly threatened by ivy from a wall in Chester Street. She did not have the capacity to take this on, but hoped there might be a team of volunteers might help maintain it.
- Picnic tables – Sue reported that we had funds for one table with money from Cllr Haywood and would be setting up a crowdfunder for the second table. It was suggested that we consider going ahead with the first picnic table.
- Tow path – The meeting with MP Anneliese Dodds was postponed and we are awaiting a new date.
- Application to become a CIO - The application had been submitted to the Charity Commission and a decision should be received by the end of June.

### **3. Play ground**

The group were undertaking a consultation on the plans and had set up a website and business email address for the duration. Officers had been concerned that this might lead to an overspend but had been reassured that this would not happen. It was agreed that while autonomy of projects should continue, IFRA needed clearer arrangements for oversight of funds raised in its name. Proposals would be put to the next meeting.

Simon was very concerned about the state of some of the equipment which he felt was a priority, in particular the bridge which was cordoned off but children was playing in this area. This was a health and safety issue. She reassured Simon that repairs were not being ignored and that Tom was continually taking up the existing problems with ODS. Sue agreed to talk to Tom.

### **4. Longbridges Renewal Plan 2025** – Samantha reported that the ladders had now been installed and that designated bathing status would be sought.

### **5. Scout Field** - Ben reported a meeting with Stephen Dawson, Oxford Preservation Trust about access to the Scout Field. They were reviewing management about that whole area, including the moorings where an unlicensed boat had encroached. They intend to extend the lease for the Scouts, but were clear that there had to be community access and there was no legal basis for prohibiting the public. He was looking into ownership of the footpath that went behind the allotments but he recognised it needed to be maintained. 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.

The report was welcomed and Ben thanked for his work and perseverance in getting this result.

### **6. The Kidneys**

Margaret reported that since the last meeting the riverside path had been opened up and was greatly appreciated and well used. There had been 2 successful working parties but the last one no one had turned up and she would like to publicise any future working parties more widely. She would like to clear the nettles from the bank. Margaret was congratulated with how much she had achieved and the difference it had made in such a short time.

Christine suggested that the next step might be to look into getting log benches and agreed to look into options with ODS. She also suggested a strimmer would be very useful in maintaining the overgrowth.

## **7. Planning**

Thelma reported that there was nothing locally of immediate concern. She had put in objections to the expansion of an HMO from 6 to 16 places on the Iffley Road (opposed the Wadham building).

## **8. Financial Report**

Sam A presented the annual accounts. The account held £278 for the Waterways Group, £223 for the Playground and £1944 general funds.

## **9. AOB**

Street Connectors - Sue reported that she would arrange a meeting in the autumn for Street Connectors

Local interest Groups continued. A meeting of the history group to look at Iffley Fields history would meet at the end of May with Joanna Innes.

The meeting ended at 8.45

## **Dates of future meetings 2025**

July 14<sup>th</sup> (Falcon), September 8<sup>th</sup> (Zoom), November 10<sup>th</sup> (Falcon)