

DRAFT

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Iffley Fields Residents Association held on Monday 15 March 2021 by Zoom.

Present

Chair – Jon Rees

Treasurer - Ben Pinches

Secretary- Christine Hogg

Committee members- Barbara Ashworth, Janet Hall, Simon Fisher, Thelma Martin, Samantha Robertson, Chris Terry, Luke Bolton, and 41 others, including councillors and observers of whom a list has been retained.

1 MINUTES OF AGM 12 MARCH 2020

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

2 REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Chair reported how impressed he had been about the way the community had pulled together to support each other during Covid and gave particular thanks to those involved in the Oxford Food Hub.

The newsletter that had been circulated outlined the activities over the last year. He announced that the crowdfunding for a bench and for Meadow Lane Rec and an additional bin for the Kidneys. He was delighted that the appeal had already raised £1800. This included £300 from IFRA raised by Open Gardens. There should be enough to cover a bin and a bench. It was agreed that for older and disabled people a bench with arms was essential. It was also suggested that IFRA should approach the Council for more logs around the Rec.

3 OXFORD MUTUAL AID

Jess and Muirann from OMA were welcomed. OMA had been set up in March last year in response to the impact of Covid on many. It is a grassroots community support group and action network offering non means tested, non-judgemental help. Food poverty had been exacerbated by Covid and the Council had stopped food parcels in October. Demand had been steadily increasing since Christmas and the need was likely to continue after the end of the pandemic. In addition to food parcels, OMA produce and deliver cooked meals. Every Sunday there is an introductory Zoom for anyone interested in finding out more about volunteering. Anyone wanting to volunteer to donate can visit www.oxfordmutualaid.org.

4 ACCESS TO WATERWAYS

Eleanor Blyth reported that after the last IFRA AGM, which had focussed on climate change, she had approached IFRA about setting up a sub group looking at how we could improve access and use of the river. The Subgroup had looked at encouraging river swimming which used to be very common all over Oxford but the sites were in urgent need of renovation, in particular access and steps. The Group had also worked closely with Swimmers against Sewage to get designated swimming status for Oxford. A survey had been circulated and over 1200 replies had been received from all over Oxford. The main barriers so far identified to swimming were pollution and access. The survey would stay open until April and the group would produce a report at the end of April. They hoped to hold a river event in June and work with the City Council to renovate old swimming places.

Jon reported that IFRA had been in touch with the Oxford Preservation Trust about the long-standing access local people had had to the Scout Field on Meadow Lane. During the summer there

had been a litter problem and the Scouts had attempted to restrict access to the footpath behind the allotments. He hoped a compromise would be possible to enable this field to be used again.

It was also important to protect the wildlife corridor that ran from the University Sports Complex to Iffley. Several groups were coming together to look at this and anyone interested in joining, should contact IFRA: iffleyfields@gmail.com

5 FRIENDS OF ASTONS EYOT

Ruth Ashcroft explained that the Friends were now also working in the Kidneys and hoped to work closely with the Council. The Friends organised regular working groups and welcomed volunteers. Issues that they were looking at were river corridors, management plans, tree planting to increase diversity and pollination patches. Winter paths with the recent heavy use had become a sea of mud and they were considering what might best be done about it. Denise Cullington was thanked for her efforts in laying down wood chips on some of the paths and her contribution to the border garden on Meadow Lane.

Jon proposed the following motion: IFRA supports the recognition of the Friends of Astons Eyot by the City Council as the lead organisation for consultation on the Kidneys and Astons Eyot. This was agreed.

Jon also proposed the setting up a new Parks subgroup that would look at improving the environment and renovation of the Rec. He also proposed that a budget of £100 might be given to the group for planting. This was agreed.

6 WOODBURNING STOVES

Concerns had been raised by residents about the quality of the air in Iffley Fields and in particular the pollution cause by wood burning stoves. Only smokeless fuel was permitted in the area, except wood burning stoves that were DEFRA approved.

It was agreed that more information was needed about the issue and that IFRA should look further into this.

7 ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Verge by the School

Cars were still able to park on the verge by the School entrance in Bedford Street and that it needed protecting and replanting following damage by builders' vans. It would also help to have a gritted path that children could use which was safer for them. The builders had agreed to remedial work and as a gesture of goodwill had donated £200 to IFRA's bench fund.

Notice to runners to keep their distance.

This had been suggested by IFRA and would cost £100. There was support for this, though others felt that it would not have any effect on the runners who were not respecting social distance and the money might be better spent. On a show of hands, the majority were not in favour of allocating £100 for the sign.

Directory of local services

IFRA had in the past produced a directory of local services, but it was not planned to update this as IFRA's Facebook page enabled residents to ask for recommendations.

8 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that it had been a good year financially for IFRA. The opening Balance was £1,751, including £700 from the Community Wildlife Fund. Expenses were printing and safety equipment for the safe Space event. IFRA had donated £300 from Open Gardens to the bench appeal. The closing balance was £960

9 ELECTIONS

The following officers were elected for a further year

Chair- Jon Rees

Vice Chair – Simon Fisher

Treasurer – Ben Pinches

Secretary – Christine Hogg

Denise Cullington and Sue Hale was elected to join the management Committee.

Existing members are: Barbara Ashworth, Luke Bolton, Janet Hall, Thelma Martin Samantha Robertson

Chris Terry and Mari Girling were standing down and wer thanked for their contriobnution.

The constitution allows for up to 10 members as well as co options and Jon invited any residents who were interested in joining the committee or a sub group to contact IFRA.