

Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of a meeting held on 8 May 2023 on Zoom

Present: Sue Hale (Chair), Barbara Ashcroft, Peter Sidgewick, Tom Green, Samantha Robertson, Susan Bedford, Thelma Martin, Luke Bolton, Simon Fisher, Jon Rees, Janet Hall, Christine Hogg, Sam Alston
Cllr Chris Damian Haywood, Cllr Emily Kerr,

Apologies were received from Denise Cullington, Ben Pinches

1 Minutes of the meeting on 9th January were accepted as a correct record

2 Meadow Lane Car Park and the Ferry Path

Though no decision has been announced, it seems likely that some places will be reserved for the Falcon with some public spaces that would be charged. A CPZ would begin in Meadow Lane in June.

Simon reported concerns that the Ferry Path had recently been blocked with branches that looked intentional as well as further encroachment by the Falcon of the land between the carpark and Ferry Path. He had asked Cllr Jarvis to look into this.

There was a longstanding confusion about the ownership of the land along and around Meadow Lane and whose responsibility it was to manage it. This was causing problems in preventing parking in the field by the bridge and along Meadow Lane itself, as well as maintenance of the Ferry Path. Damian reported that it was most likely the City Council's land but this was unclear.

Action: Damian proposed that a group of councillors would investigate this and try to get the legal situation clarified for the whole area.

3 Childrens Playground

The renovations, including the filling in of puddles and replacing the seesaw were welcomed.

4 EV Charging

It was noted that trailing cable for charging electric vehicles across the pavement was not allowed and could be reported to the council. Damian reported that the County Council had received funding for putting in gullies across pavements. When the scheme was established residents would be able to apply for a gully to their house for which there would be some charge.

5 Defibrillator

Tom reported that they were hoping to get agreement from the Chester to place it there. Alternatively, there was a wall by the Recreation Ground that was suitable but its ownership was not clear. If necessary, the Defibrillator could be placed on a post. Once sorted, we would be looking to crowdfund this.

6 Waterways Group

Tom and Samantha reported that it was planned to apply for bathing water status for Longbridges next year. Meanwhile ODS were undertaking some concrete works to replace the banks and the group was aiming to ensure that wildlife would not be unduly disturbed by this work. Further working parties to clear up the area were planned.

7 Planning

Thelma reported that there were still many applications for retrospective HMO status, which she felt required better oversight to ensure registration before family houses became HMOs. Emily pointed out that many of the applications were from established HMOs that had not previously been required to register.

8 Interest groups

Sue reported that the walking, bridge, book and history groups were meeting regularly. Susan reported that the first meeting of the gardening group had been held with 6 active members, starting with sharing gardening knowledge. There would not be an Open Gardens this year, but there was a possibility of a plant sale.

Action: Sue to set up a group to oversee and co-ordinate social events across the streets. Susan had agreed to join this group and she hoped others would join

9 Honorary Treasurer

Sam Alston was welcome to the committee. He had been in discussions with Ben about taking on this role.

Action: Christine to set up a meeting with Sam A, Ben, Sue and Jon to discuss the role and review financial procedures.

10 Financial report

Sue reported that IFRA had received an unexpected invoice for £420 from the Council to cover VAT. At the time that IFRA had commissioned the work, VAT had not been payable but the regulations had changed. Because of the delay by the Council in issuing the invoice and now IFRA was required to pay it.

Jon reported that, from his examination of the accounts, IFRA was in a healthy position to weather this, thanks to the generous donations by residents. However, for the next few months we would need to be cautious about any expenditure we incur.

11 3A bus routes

There was a campaign to try and get the bus companies to reinstate the extension of the bus route to the station, which IFRA fully supported. Damian is working with the other councillors on the route to put pressure on the bus companies. However, they are private companies and they may not be amenable to public pressure.

Maintaining Table Tennis

Jon has been supplying the table with balls, that bought in bulk cost about 12p each. Becky at the Chester had agreed to host the balls and a charge of £1 could be placed in a box he would supply. This money would go to IFRA to fund new balls and bats when necessary. Jon was thanked for doing this.

Actions: Jon to supply the Chester with a payment box and to produce a laminated notice for the table with Susan.

12 Large cars blocking the pavements

Jon reported his concerns about the increasing number of cars that are so wide that they have to park on the pavement, making the pavement impassable, otherwise they would be blocking the road for emergency vehicles.

It was agreed that the trend towards ever bigger cars was unfortunate and they were quite unsuited to these streets. Parking on the pavement was already inevitable as long as we had parking on both sides of the streets.

It was noted that the Council could introduce additional parking fees for wide vehicles and there could be an additional charge for a second car per household.

It was noted that the Chester attracted cars in the evening and many drivers were not aware that parking was illegal.

Action: Suggestions for 'considerate' parking should be included in the next newsletter.

Damian agreed to talk to Becky at the Chester to suggest a notice warning driver on the door.

Dates of future meetings

10 July at Greyfriars

11 September Zoom

13 November in person