

Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of a meeting held on 9 September 2024 on Zoom

Present: Sue Hale (Chair), Samantha Robertson, Benedict Pinches, Jon Rees, Susan Bedford, Thelma Martin, Christine Hogg, Ruth Ashcroft, Luke Bolton, Barbara Ashcroft, Rosemary Southworth, Darren Clahane, Sam Alston, Janet Hall, Alan Carter, Charlotte, Amy Swinson, Margaret Thompson.

1 Minutes of the meeting on 15th July 2024 were accepted as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising

2a Meadow Lane Carpark

So far there was no date for a decision on the future of the carpark. The reason for the delay was not known.

Action: Jon to follow this up, expressing IFRA's concern about the continued lack of public access.

2b Playground event and renovations

Play events have been held over the summer. With support from the council, a group of local residents are drawing up plans to transform the playground into a natural play area. Working Party and Pizza evenings are also taking place at the playground to focus on clearing rubbish and tidying up the space, from 5-7pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, kids welcome (next ones are 18 Sept, 2nd and 16th Oct). Please get in touch if you would like to help or be added to our event mailing list.

2c Defibrillator location

A location for the defibrillator is still being sought.

2d School traffic update

No report received.

2e Badger sett

Ben reported that it was important to find a way that Badgers and residents can co-exist in Cities. Unfortunately, the Oxfordshire Badger Group were not interested in finding an accommodation. No progress had been made on the Stratford Street/Iffley Road problem but they appreciated IFRA support.

3 The Kidneys

Margaret Thompson and Ruth Ashcroft had been discussing with ODS improvements to the paths that need to be done before winter. There was support for opening up access to the river. Ruth said that the Friends of Astons Eyot might be willing to organise an initial working party to clear the river bank and see if there was support to set up a working group. Practical local support was important in persuading ODS to take action. It was agreed to advertise on Facebook. If anyone is interested in helping contact iffleyfields@gmail.com.

4 Access to the River

4a OARC Plans for the Field by Donnington Bridge

We are not aware of any planning application submitted for this development.

4b Ferry Path

The path has been unpassable for most of the summer. Jon has been in touch with Donnington councillors to ask them to follow this up with ODS.

Action: Jon to follow up

4c OPT/Scout Field

Action Ben agreed to ask for an update with OPT on opening access to the river.

5 Sub Groups Update

5a Waterways

Samantha reported that ODS had put in a new concrete platform area to replace the broken concrete, and removed the old posts that were submerged in the water. Ladders on both sides of the area are awaited. Adam Parker had taken over organisation of the working parties from Tom.

5b Friends of Meadow Lane Rec

Sue Hale suggested that in Emily's survey young girls in particular wanted picnic tables by the Skate Park around which they could congregate. She agreed to get a costing from ODS for this.

Denise who is leaving IFRA was warmly thanked for her great work on planting on the recreation ground and the much-loved Guerilla Garden.

5c Planning

Thelma reported that there were no planning applications of interest to IFRA. However, she reported the Environmental Agency had vetoed plans by the Council to develop the area behind the Skating Ring as they did not feel the aging infrastructure would be able to cope.

6 Financial Report

Sam Alston reported that we had a balance of £4000 but this was mainly monies held for particular projects. Unrestricted funds were adequate for the newsletter and website but we may run into a shortfall in the following years. It was hoped more residents would donate after the summer. It was agreed to set up an interest account with our current bankers, Nat West.

Action: Sam agreed to investigate this

7 AOB

7a Street Connectors

Sue is planning a meeting in October for Street Connectors.

7 b Cyclists and pedestrians on the tow path

Following the death of Polly Friedhoff, there are concerns about safety on the towpath. Many cyclists expect pedestrians to get out of their way and go at great speed. Increasingly electric scooters were also on the tow path. It was agreed that pedestrians should have priority and there should be greater respect and appreciation of the shared space.

Action: Christine and Jon agreed to follow this up

8 Venue for IFRA meetings

Once the building work started in the Gladiator Club, IFRA would need to find a new venue for in person meetings. Thelma reported that it was possible that Greyfriars Hall would be available again later this year. Barbara suggested the Oxford City Rowing Club and agreed to ask if this might be available. We do not know yet if the next meeting can be held at the Gladiator Club.

Future meetings

2024 Tuesday 12 November 8 pm (Venue to be confirmed)

2025, 8pm second Monday of the month: January 13th, March 10th (AGM), May 12th, July 14th, September 8th, November 10th