



Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 January 2026 on Zoom

Present: Sue Hale (Chair), Janet Hall, Susan Bedford, Christine Hogg, Barbara Ashcroft, Simon Fisher, Luke Bolton, Margaret Thompson, Thelma Martin, Darren Clahane, Peter Sidgewick, Danielle Battigelli, Jon Rees
Cllr Brad Baines, Cllr Emily Kerr, Mark (OARC)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November were accepted as a correct record

2. Matters arising

Meadow Lane Carpark – Emily reported that the decision had been made to turn it into a public carpark. The time scale and details had yet to be decided. It was likely that there would be a half hour or hour free time which would enable school drop offs. She had strongly supported its return to public use.

Recreation Ground

Picnic tables – Sue reported on a site visit with Chris Bell (Green Spaces) and Sophie Hearn (ODS) to decide on the location of the two tables. The agreed locations were in the far corner of the Jackdaw Lane and by the Skate park, avoiding overhanging trees. They should be in place by the end of February.

Trees: The replacement of 2 damaged trees was discussed and the officers agreed to look into replacing them.

The concrete blocks: that had been dumped on the way to Astons Eyot on the edge of the Recreation Ground were discussed. These were nothing to do with the Council and might have been left there by the Scrap Metal Yard. Officers agreed to follow this up.

Cycle racks had now been installed on the Recreation Ground.

Field between the Bridge and the Ferry path

Mark from OARC reported that they were still actively looking for a new site. Meanwhile the City Council was looking at ways of reducing parking for non-boat users so that eventually the field could come back into public recreational use and a path cleared from the field to the Ferry Path, keeping pedestrians off Meadow Lane.

Scout Field

Christine noted that OPT who own the field and were clear that there had to be community access to the field and the river and there was no legal basis for prohibiting the public. It was agreed to invite OPT to the May meeting to discuss how public access might be safely managed and the path behind the allotments maintained

3 AGM

It was agreed to have a report back on the results of the heat loss survey and invite someone from Low Carbon East Oxford. There had been great interest in this and Sam was thanked for all his work in setting up the surveys.

4 Kidneys

Margaret reported that the bank had been seeded with grass, but it was not yet coming through. She felt that extending the river access towards Donnington Bridge would not give much benefit because of the trees in the path.

Christine reported that she had discussed logs for seating with Chris Bell and Sophie Hearn who had said this was straightforward, involving the cost of transport and planing the top and putting in the stakes. Two logs would be the same price as one, three logs might cost more. It was agreed that Christine would discuss locations for four benches with Margaret and Ruth Ashcroft (FoEA) and ask ODS for a quote.

5 Playground

Sue reported that she had shown Chris Bell and Sophie the enormous improvements that Tom and Usha had made with volunteers to clear up the space at the back. They were thanked for their efforts.

6 Planning-

There was a planning application for the Salters Boat Yard by Donnington Bridge (25/03219/VAR and 24/00740/FUL) for change of use from boat repair workshop to mixed use, including small workshops. The hours of operation would be increased. Jon reported that Falcon was working on developing up a new footpath there.

There was also an application for housing behind the school near Cavell Road. Though there were concerns about the density, IFRA had not commented.

7 Astons Eyot

Thelma reported on the current work of the Friends of Aston's Eyot.

Shire Lake Ditch (the cut between the Cherwell and the Thames) was for many years polluted by sewage and it has been very difficult to rid it of contaminants. It was hoped to improve this by removing the build-up of silt to increase the flow and to resite some trees to get light onto the cut.

Tree work

Some ivy would be removed as it was weakening the trees and a further deer proof enclosure was being added to protect younger trees.

Swings: While the Friends didn't want to prevent people enjoying themselves, there are concerns about the long-term impact of the swings on the health of the chestnut tree as well as safety. The swings, particularly when used by adults, can stress the trees and also compact the ground around it affecting the tree's long-term health. They would be putting up a notice saying this was at the users risk. The trees would be regularly monitored.

8 Street connectors

Simon asked how effective the Street Connectors were and how widely the IFRA committee meetings were advertised, and were we making it clear that the IFRA committee meetings were open to anyone. It was agreed that the Street Connectors worked well with their role in welcoming new people to the street and helping them join their Street's WhatsApp, and or making sure they knew all the information from either a paper copy of IFRA Information sheet or looked it up on the IFRA Website so helping newcomers develop a sense of community. IFRA Committee Meetings are

advertised on all the IFRA street WhatsApp , Facebook and an email list as well as the Biannual IFRA newsletter in September and March.

Future meetings

2026), 9 March (Falcon), 11 May (Zoom), 13 July (Falcon), 14 September (Zoom), 9 November (Falcon)

9 Electric Charging points

At the last meeting the high capital and ongoing costs of getting a gulley for an electric car had been discussed. Simon was concerned that this in effect meant that parking for other residents was restricted.

Emily reported that this was a County Council decision but did need to be cost free to the County Council. It was not fair for other council tax payers to subsidise a private arrangement which was cheaper for owners than public charging points. She too was concerned that public space was being taken up by restricting other car users.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm

Dates of future meetings 2026 9 March (AGM Falcon), 11 May (Zoom), 13 July (Falcon), 14 September (Zoom), 9 November (Falcon)

7 Iffley Village Housing development

Katrina reported that there had been objections from the County Council on the grounds of access and flooding risk. It was likely a more scaled down development might be proposed.

8 New surface on Warwick and Parker Street

Simon expressed his appreciation for the new surfaces. Line marking would be added shortly

9 Gulleys for charging electric cars

Luke reported that though there were grants for a pavement gulley to allow charging for electric cars, this did not cover the costs. To apply for a gulley, you have to get planning permission, take out public liability insurance and annually provide a certificate from an electrician. Given the complexity and the ongoing costs it was doubtful if many would take it up.

CH 13/11/25

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