
DRAFT

NOTE of a meeting of the Committee of Iffley Fields Residents' Association, held on Monday 10th May 2021 by Zoom

Present: Ben Pinches, in the Chair
Simon Fisher, Jon Rees, Samantha Robertson, Janet Hall, Barbara Ashcroft, Thelma Martin, Luke Bolton, Christine Hogg, Sue Hale, Denise Cullington

Cllr Dick Wolf, Cllr Chris Jarvis, Ruth Ashcroft, Susan Bedford, Richard Mills.

1 Apologies were received from Cllr Damian Haywood

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January were accepted as a correct record.

3 Matters Arising:

Cold calling Zone – Thelma reported that the application had been refused on the grounds that neither the Council or Trading Standards had received sufficient complaints to warrant this. If anyone experienced problems they should report it. A leaflet had been delivered to every household.

4 Waterways Sub group

Access to the river

Ben and Samantha reported that the survey results were being analysed and the data would be circulated. The summary report was now being written. The group had decided to focus on a campaign to renew the Long Bridges swimming area that had been in use for 150 years. The group was working with the campaigns against sewage and for swimming. Richard reported that there was a lot of potential support for this campaign and he was collecting photos and memories around the river. He agreed to join the sub group. Dick reported that it was not clear who owned the land and this might provide some leverage. Ben to write to the Schouts and Falcon requesting their support.

Access to the river in this side was also being explored, though there were strong reservations from the Scouts and the Falcon. There is an overgrown footpath beside Ferry House that led to the old ferry to Long Bridges that closed in the 1960s. Thelma reported that this was shown on the 1890 maps but was no longer shown as a footpath. It was agreed that it was important to ensure this access was not lost. Jon suggested that a ferry to Long Bridges might be reinstated.

It was noted that there was a bridge over the Cherwell from Christchurch Meadow that was generally locked but if it was open it would be possible to walk from the University Sports Complex into town off roads. It was agreed that this was worth looking into further.

Jon agreed to organise a walk around the area for our new councillors and others.

River Art Project

Eleanor Blyth was also organising a River Art Project.

5 Parks subgroup

New benches and bins

Following the success of the crowdfunding, 2 new benches (one a memorial bench) and 2 new bins would be installed (one in the Bedford Street entrance to the Kidneys and one in the Rec). It had been necessary to purchase and install these through the Council who had put the price up.

Meadow Lane Rec

Denise, Adam and Ruth had produced terms of reference for the group, which was called the Friends of Meadow Lane Rec. These were agreed. A plan for planting trees and a wildflower area in the Recreation ground had been produced. It was also agreed that the money retained by IFRA from the Wildlife Project might be used for planting and promoting diversity.

The group had a meeting arranged with the Council officers to discuss their proposals. It was noted that it was very important to involve the councillors and make officers aware that they supported the proposals and were actively involved.

While the 'Friends' were concerned with the planting and wildlife it was noted that there had been discussions about a five a side football pitch, a basketball hoop, an outdoor gym and a fenced off play area for young children. These proposals would need to be taken into account in any plans. Jon hoped that another group might want to take these issues forward.

Children's playground:

Susan raised the problem of flooding in the playground, which made it sometimes unusable. It was noted that Richard Tarver had been discussing this problem with the Council and the new councillors were asked if they could take over pursuing this from Richard.

6 Planning Sub Group.

HMO and anti-social behaviour:

Thelma reported that she had attended a planning meeting where the application to change the problem house to an HMO retrospectively was being considered. This had been agreed and there were very limited grounds on which to object. There had been no problem recently with the house and the tenants had apologised.

Iffley Village Fields Development

Dick reported that an ecological survey was being commissioned and this provided the only possible limitation to the housing development as the Horse Field already had outline planning permission.

7 Air Quality Group

Janet reported that a first meeting had been held and information collected. Terms of reference would be drawn up. Friends of the Earth were starting a project providing monitoring devices to communities and the group would be looking further into this. Luke offered the loan of a monitor.

8 Street Connectors - Reports

Plant sale for Charity outside 68 Argyle Street, Saturday May 15 from 10-12 am. Christine agreed to circulate to Street Connectors for WhatsApp groups

Coordination of WhatsApp groups, Luke agreed to find out what groups existed and how they might be coordinated.

Poster – Christine, Susan and Samantha agreed to produce a poster for the notice board, giving names and contact details for the street connectors.

9 Financial procedures

The draft procedures were welcomed. The problem was that the Bank would only allow for one signatory for online banking and at the moment IFRA required 2. It was agreed to move towards online banking and Ben would find out more about setting this up and any safeguards that might be introduced.

10 IFRA Website

Christine asked for any comments and contributions as this was still a work in progress. She also asked if anyone knew about an Iffley Fields Blog which came up prominently in internet searches but had not been used since 2006. If IFRA was to have a blog on the website, this might be confusing.

11 Privacy policy and Data Protection

IFRA planned to have a distribution list on email and it seemed good practice to have a privacy policy, as recommended by the Information Commissioner. This was agreed.

12 Jumble Trail

Sue proposed that the trail arranged for last year now be rearranged for Sunday 27 June 2-4PM. This proposal was welcomed.

Dates for meetings 2021:

Monday July 12th

Monday September 13th

Monday December 13th