

Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of a meeting held on 15 July 2024 at the Gladiators Club

Present: Sue Hale (Chair), Denise Cullington, Damian Haywood, Samantha Robertson, Sandra Burrige, Margaret Thorogood, Ben Slater, Jo Burch, Virginia Hodgson, Benedict Pinches, Simon Fisher, Jon Rees, Caroline Scotter-Mainprize, Susan Bedford

1 Apologies were received from Thelma Martin, Christine Hogg, Ruth Ashcroft, Emily Kerr, Tom Green, Chris Jarvis

2 Minutes of the meeting on 13th May 2024 were accepted as a correct record.

3 Matters Arising

3a Meadow Lane Carpark

No report received from Emily, although it is known that a final decision has not yet been made on whether the planning application will go through City Planning, or when it will. It was noted that all 5 relevant councillors are supportive of the IFRA position of returning the car park to public use.

Action: Letter from the Committee to be written to the Council stating the concern attached to the length of time taken to make a decision on this.

Action: Email to be written to Emily Kerr asking her when the proposal is expected to be presented at the Planning Committee.

3b Playground event and renovations

The next community play mornings will be Saturday 20th July (Teddy Bears' Picnic), and Saturday 10th August (Water play). In addition there will be a "Working party and pizza" evening on Wednesday 14th August to focus more on clearing rubbish and tidying up the space. Please come along and help make our playground a better place.

3c Defibrillator location

Unfortunately IFRA have been let down by the Chester who are now not willing to site it on the pub, enquiries with the Seventh Day Adventist Church have also yielded no response and Tom's investigations have concluded that IFRA are not allowed to situate it on a lamp post, unlike in other areas of the country as the defibrillator needs to be connected to a power supply with a small plug for the 60W heater that it will need in winter. IFRA will pay installation and usage costs (<£20 a year).

If you are a resident on Stratford Street, Argyle Street or Eyot Place with rear access onto Meadow Lane, please get in touch with IFRA if you might be willing to site our community defibrillator on a rear wall of your property. Please let us know if you can help!

3d School traffic update

No report received.

3e Meadow Lane

ODS have committed to a speed bump being installed some time prior to April 2025.

3f Green Gym

No report received.

4 Car vigilantes & vandals

Noted that this was a problem that was more widespread than just Fairacres Road. There have been reports of wing mirrors being broken, tyres slashed etc.

Those present condemned the vandalism.

Action: The community are asked to report any incidents and check CCTV footage from any devices that they may own.

5 Access to the River

A proposal from Oxford Rowing Club has been submitted to the Planning Committee. Apparently this proposal includes the siting of bollards to ensure cars are unable to park on the grass verge. The Club are looking for support for their scheme, but IFRA are unable to give this without seeing the actual proposal which is not yet on the Council website.

Action: Investigate what the Local Plan says about access to the river.

Action: IFRA to ask OARC for sight of their plans so that they are able to pass comment.

Ferry Path

This was cut back by ODS last year but they have not followed up in 2024 and the path is overgrown.

Action: Damian and Emily to look into having it cleared again and check whether Falcon Rowing club have intruded on land that they do not own.

CPT/Scout Field

No report received.

6 Badger Disruption

Benedict and Caroline shared the problems that they have been experiencing for the past few years with the badger sett that has evolved at the back of the garden of 192 Iffley Road. They explained that it would only be possible to move the set to a sustainable location with full community support, and that a plan would have to be developed to build a new set near the current location (c. 100 yards or less).

All those present expressed an intent to support a community-driven plan that relocated the badgers into a permanent sett nearby.

7 Sub Groups Update

Waterways

There has been a very successful work party at Longbridges with OCV clearing much of the Himalayan Balsam. IFRA are now looking for someone else to take over from Tom to organise work parties for the site - please let us know if you could help.

Friends of Meadow Lane Rec

Denise was warmly thanked for her great work on the much loved Guerilla Garden. There is pruning to do and more details can be found on the Guerrilla Garden Facebook site.

Action: Denise to do a job list for the Newsletter so that support can be gained, and a plan of what plants have already been planted.

Planning

No report received.

8 Financial Report

Due to generous support from local residents, we have been able to recover our financial position from difficulties developed last winter. Currently, our unrestricted funds stand at £539.87 we have a regular monthly income of around £50 from local donations. This is concerningly slightly shrinking This should be sufficient for our needs for the coming year, barring surprises. However, due to our ongoing commitments to, notably the defibrillator project, we may run into a shortfall in the following years. To give context the unrestricted funding only represents less than 10% of account funds this makes us vulnerable to cost overruns.

To continue momentum and support the scale of our ambitions for area we still need to increase our income preferably through regular donations. If you are able to contribute, here are the details. Iffley Fields Residents Association – Account No. 24751634, Sort Code 54-21-23 or visit www.ifra.uk

Funds	Cash balance July 2024	Share of total funds
Waterways fund	£605.66	13.62
General fund	£539.87	12.14%

Defibrillator	£1800	40.49%
Playground	£1500	33.74%

Expected spending

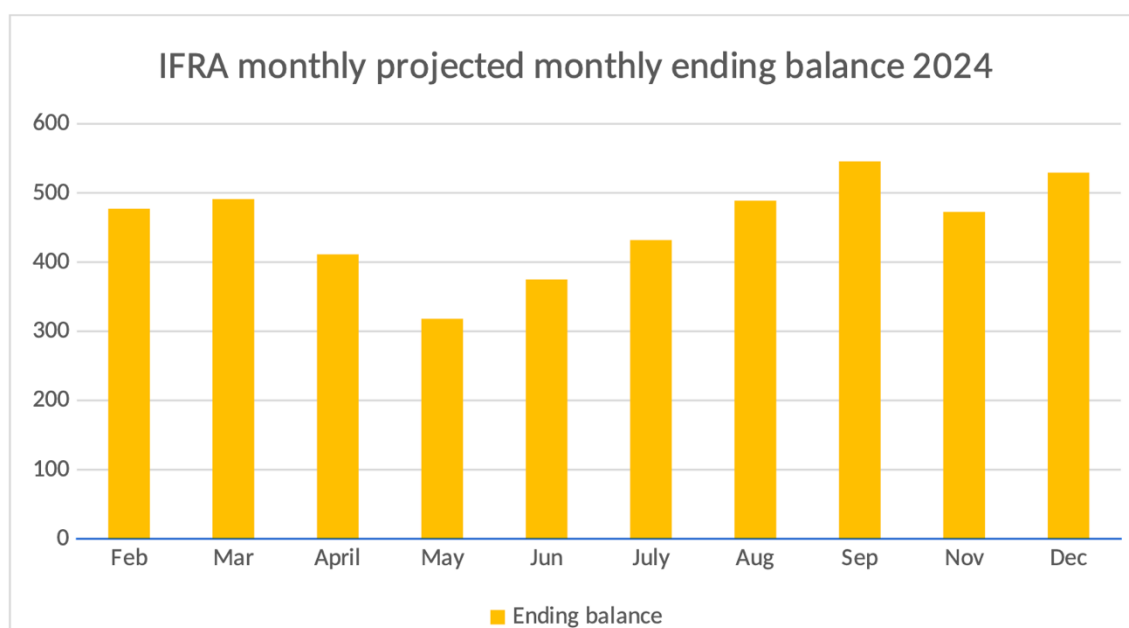
Funds	Committed expenditure 2024	Cash position at end of year	Expected committed expenditure 2025	Cash position at end of year
Waterways fund		605.66		
Meadow Lane group	Flowers £43	£1		
General fund	Website £136.8 Printing £260	£529.5	Website £170 Printing £390 Defibrillator £200	£453.02
Defibrillator	£1800	£0		
Playground	£1500	£1500		

General fund 2024:

Expenditure: £886.79

Income: £1010.79

Projected expenditure:



9 AOB/Street Connectors

The tree outside 192 Iffley Road is diseased and needs replacing.

Argyll & Bedford are experimenting with traffic reduction and IFRA encourage everyone to fill in the survey and put in their own suggestions for traffic reduction. A CCTV camera is being installed. Ben Slater asked whether it might be possible to open the bridge by Christchurch Meadow. Action: Emily to update on her investigations.

Dates of future meetings, Mondays, 8 pm

9 September(Zoom), 11 Nov (tbc)
