

Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of a meeting held on 11 September 2023 on Zoom

Present: Sue Hale (Chair), Ben Pinches, Luke Bolton, Peter Sidgewick, Calum Pinches, Tom Green, Thelma Martin, Jon Rees, Janet Hall, Christine Hogg, Sam Alston, Simon Fisher, Kelly Jones, Richard Norman, Harriet Batten, Nic Brimblecombe, Darren Clahane

Cllr Damian Haywood, Cllr Emily Kerr

Apologies were received from Barbara Ashcroft, Denise Cullington, Samantha Robertson, Susan Bedford,

1 Minutes of the meeting on 10th July 2023 were accepted as a correct record.

2 Meadow Lane Car Park

The carpark was to be a public again. In October a decision would be made as to whether the whole carpark would be public or whether it would be split between the public and the Falcon. IFRA has put forward the view that the whole carpark should be public.

There would be one hour free in the morning to allow school drop offs. There was concern that some parents might need to use the car park for collection.

Action: Emily to check with the school its view on the need for an afternoon free slot.

3 School traffic

The scheme had now been agreed and would be implemented with APNR in the next few months. Residents would need to register their cars and would not be penalised. Deliveries and parents with disabled children would be exempt.

4 State of roads and CPZ enforcement

Damian reported concerns about the new paperless permit system. Parking control had to type in each car registration as their cameras were not sensitive enough to recognise number plate recognition. The paperless system also meant that residents were not able to identify illegal parking. It was agreed to find out if the number of fines issued had gone down since the system was introduced.

Action: Damian to follow up and report back.

Damian reported that he had undertaken a walk round the streets with a senior safety officer and identified the need to fill in potholes and renew line marking. They had also looked at possible traffic calming measures on Meadow Lane, particularly by the Playground. It was noted that new line markings might discourage parking by the allotments at the bottom of Fairacres.

Action: Damian to follow up and report back.

5 Playground renovation:

Tom reported that he had met with ODS and had a timetable for improving some kit and fencing. There was a plan to put in a new roundabout and there was also money from the Councillors fund for new equipment. It was very important that users and locals were consulted about what equipment might be put in.

Action: Tom agreed to write to ODS stating the importance of involving parents and IFRA in any decisions and set up a QR code to enable users and residents to make give their views.

6 Defibrillator

There had been no success in contacting the landlord of the Chester through Becky. It was agreed to write a letter directly to the landlord asking permission, including information about the dimensions, possible location and examples of other pubs that had defibrillators as well as assurances that it involved no liability or costs to the Pub.

Action Tom to draft a letter for the Landlord

7 Basketball on the recreation ground

The Crowdfunder had so far reached £850 and alternative sources of funding would be needed. Catherine had initially been given an estimate of £16,000 but the Council and ODS seem now to be looking at a more ambitious scheme that would cost £30,000, but would be providing some funding.

Action: Arrange a meeting with the Council/ODS and to identify the options, emphasise the need for consultation and how it might be funded.

8 Reduced access to the river:

Ferry Path

Some of the horticultural waste had cleared but it was still not possible to access river. ODS had been asked to clear this. Jon thought we might need volunteers with strimmers to keep it clear in the summer.

It was noted that the Falcon had fenced off a part of the common land that was not a part of the land they leased. They had also blocked off the wildlife corridor and the frontage to the river. The records held by the Land Registry showed that Falcon did not lease the actual river frontage. There was also an email in 2021 where the Council had made it clear that once the building work was complete access to the river would be opened up. There were also concerns that the area between the carpark and the Ferry Path was taken up by Falcon, even though they had promised that this would be landscaped as a picnic area. The Open Spaces Society provides guidance on taking action on encroachments on common land (see link [here](#)).

Action: IFRA to write to Falcon

9 Scout/OPT Field

Until covid there had been public access to swim there but this was now being stopped again by the Scouts who leased the field from the Oxford Preservation Trust. They have agreed to meet discuss this with IFRA.

Action: Ben agreed to follow this up with OPT.

10 IFRA communications

Calum reported that he had designed a new logo and set up a LinkedIn page linked to Facebook. When there was something worth publicising and campaigning for, Calum should be contacted. It was important that IFRA was clear about what it was wanting to achieve. Calum was thanked for his work and agreed to be the IFRA Communications Officer.

11 Sub groups

Waterways Group

Tom reported that there would be a working party on the 21st October with 40 community Volunteers, clearing up the area, including the Himalayan Balsam. Help was needed.

Friends of Meadow Lane

The new trees were thriving in spite of the heat.!

Planning

Thelma reported that nothing outstanding had come up since the last meeting.

12 Financial report

Arrangements with the bank to allow Sam as a signatory were progressing slowly, but there was a good response to residents to the fundraiser. The £420 VAT owed to ODS had now been paid, and a date was needed for installation of the benches.

Action

- IFRA to ask ODS for a date to install the benches

13 Street Connectors

Sue reported that additional Street Connectors were needed in particular for the top end of Fairacres Road and Stratford Street. She asked everyone to look out for anyone who might be interested.

14 Chester and Argyle Street party

This had been a great success. Particular thanks were recorded for Anthony, Phoebe, Olivia, Toby and Daisy.

15 Cycle hangers

These were important in preventing theft and had been installed in Jericho and other parts of East Oxford. It was agreed to publicise this in the next newsletter and give the website so that people can register their interest.

16 Outdoor exercise equipment

A suggestion from John Lobreglio and family that there should be outside exercise equipment on the Recreation Ground was welcomed. It was agreed that an overall plan was needed for activities on the Rec and there was uncertainty about the location of the basketball net. While IFRA's priority was to get the basketball net, there was no reason not to look at the feasibility, possible costs and the response of the City Council. IFRA saw its role as supporting and facilitating residents in taking forward proposals.

Dates of future meetings, Mondays, 8 pm

2022 13 November

2023 8 Jan, 11 March (AGM), 13 May, 15 July, 9 September, 11 Nov
