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**NOTE of a meeting of the Committee of Iffley Fields Residents' Association, held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 via Zoom**

Present: Thelma Martin (Chair), Christine Hogg, Sarah Wild, Ben Pinches. Samantha Robertson, Simon Fisher, Janet Hall, Luke Bolton, Mari Girling, Eleanor Blyth

**Apologies:** Barbara Ashcroft, Cllr Richard Tarver, Cllr Steve Curran,

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January** were accepted as a correct record.

2. **Matters Arising:**

Meadow Lane Football Pitch- Thelma agreed to find out from Jon what was happening. (Update: the Council has not supported the investment in the Meadow Lane Rec, so Jon has put forward a compromise option that the Council approve the chalking out a training pitch of a reasonable size that fits the Meadow Lane Rec space for the 3 months during the Summer (July-Aug-Sep), which is the period in which almost all other football pitches are rested by the Council, and that this should be done for the IFRA budget of £300. He has not yet heard back from the Council.

3 **Election of Officer**

The following officers were elected unanimously

Chair- Thelma Martin

Secretary – Christine Hogg

Treasurer – Ben Pinches

It was noted that there was provision in the constitution for a Vice Chair. It was agreed to ask Jon Rees if he would be willing to take this on. Simon was willing to be Vice Chair, if Jon was not able to do so.

4 **Lockdown in Iffley Fields**

Most streets had arrangements to track and support vulnerable people and for linking with the Oxford Hub. Appreciation was expressed for the work it was doing. It was hoped that it would be possible to keep the connections that had been made after the lockdown is lifted.

5 **Making better use of the waterways**

Eleanor Blyth was welcomed to the meeting. Inspired by the AGM, she had approached IFRA to suggest a subcommittee might be formed to look at this. With more frequent hot summers, wildlife was suffering and people needed access to pockets of nature near where they live. There needs to be a strategy to benefit both humans and wildlife.

Oxford City Council had launched *Oxford Waterways: A Shared Vision* in 2019 and the purpose of the subcommittee was to link in with this initiative and work with other groups and the Council on this.

Sarah and Mari pointed out how much had already been done by IFRA in the past and there was a Community Nature Plan, which had been circulated. The CNP started in 1998, with the initial work from 1999-2002, and was occasionally active up to 2010. Consultations and surveys had been undertaken in developing the Plan, but the City Council lost interest and it had run out of steam. Sarah was concerned that increasing human access to the river might affect wildlife and that without the active engagement of the Council, nothing could be achieved. Simon felt it was important that wild areas remained for wildlife.

It was agreed to set up a new subcommittee on access to the rivers and waterways under the umbrella of IFRA and Eleanor offered to convene this. Further details and membership

would be considered later. It was important that its work respected the Community Nature Plan. Mari agreed to look at how the wider aspects of the plan might be revived. It was agreed to look at how the Community Nature Plan might be revived and Mari agreed to look at this. It was also agreed to set up a sub group under the umbrella of IFRA looking and Eleanor agreed to convene this. It was important that its work built on the Community Nature Plan and the enormous amount of work that Mari and Sarah had done. Further details and membership would be considered later.

## **6 The Fields**

Mari offered to produce a special Lockdown issue of the Fields and asked to send contributions within a week.

### **Dates of future meetings**

July 13th

September 14th

November 9th

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