

DRAFT

Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of a meeting held on 13 May 2024 on Zoom

Present: Sue Hale (Chair), Luke Bolton, Peter Sidgewick, Tom Green, Janet Hall, Christine Hogg, Samantha Robertson, Sam Alston, Ben Pinches, Susan Bedford, Ned Wells, Simon Fisher, Mark, Denise Cullington, Debbie Hunter, Margaret Thompson, Rosemary Southworth, Deb Wyatt, Emma, Margaret, Jane Rogers, Rahul Ravendran, Douglas Igben, Adrien, Barbara Ashcroft
Cllr Damian Haywood, Cllr Emily Kerr, the Chester, Nick Barnett.

Apologies were received from Jon Rees, Thelma Martin

1 Minutes of the meeting on 15th January 2023 were accepted as a correct record.

2 Meadow Lane Car Park

The consultation had closed and the application will go to the Planning Committee, probably in June.

3 Defibrillator

Tom reported that it was now not possible to put the Defibrillator on the Chester and other sites were being sought. A lamp post was not possible and solar charged units were very expensive. One option would be to be hosted by a resident with a separate electricity meter.

4 School traffic

Emily Kerr reported that the scheme started 13 May for a trial month before cameras are installed. So far it is going well. Cars were encouraged to go only one way down Argyle during the pick-up and drop off times but this was not mandatory.

5 Chester Street parking

Damian reported that he had been looking at double yellow lines at the corner of Argyle/Chester which was causing problems. If this was agreed it could be added to changes for the Donnington CPZ. This would enable it to be introduced quite quickly. He would discuss this and any other changes with residents before any action was taken. There was no intention to reduce parking spaces further up the street.

Chester Street had had a meeting about this and felt very strongly that there should be no reduction in parking spaces and pavement parking was not seen as a problem. Damian pointed out that pavement parking was illegal unless the area had exemption. However, this was not enforced and without pavement parking there would be a problem with the bin lorries and emergency vehicles.

It was noted that overgrown hedges and bins were also obstructions on the pavement. It was suggested this should be included in the next newsletter.

6 Ferry Path and river frontage

Representatives of IFRA had met with Council officers on site and explained what we would like to see, especially improving the open area by Donnington Bridge which was in danger of becoming a free carpark. IFRA was asked to produce a note of how we wanted the area developed.

Scout/OPT Field: Ben had met with the Director of OPT who leased the field to the Scouts and OPT were committed to facilitating public access to the river. He had not yet been updated on progress.

7 The playground

The Council had replaced the monkey bars and resurfaced around the swings. Replacement for the wobbly bridge and repairs to the zip wire were still awaited. A group of local residents led by Tom (with support from the council) are planning to transform the unused space at the back into a nature play area with plants, stepping stones, logs, a mural on the back fence etc. Volunteers are welcome to help with ideas and planning the project. A community play event had been successful based on the sandpit. Another play event was planned 10am-12pm 8 June for children and parents.

8 Paths in the Kidneys

IFRA and Friends of Aston's Eyot had written a joint letter to the Council about the state of the paths at the Fairacres end entrance and in the path behind the allotments to the Scout Field. The Council had indicated that they could not do anything until the ground had dried out. Margaret Thompson agreed to draft a follow up letter to see when this work might be done. It was also felt additional logs would be welcome.

9 Longbridges

Tom reported that working parties to clear the site were set for 2 June 10-1 pm, and 22 June 10-1 with Oxford Conservation Volunteers. Volunteers welcome!

10 Financial report

Sam Alston reported that IFRA held funds for projects, but funds for general expenses were limited, At the present income level we could cover our costs with no reserves. We would need to raise more money in 2 years to pay for the costs of maintenance for the defibrillator. Residents who hadn't contributed so far were encouraged to do so.

11 Mural on Meadow Lane

Denise raised the idea of a mural on the passage way wall to the Chester Arms. It was noted that there had been a proposal to paint a mural on the Convent Wall which had been dropped due to opposition from many (but not all) local residents. It had been dropped due to practical and maintenance problems as well as aesthetics.

It was agreed that a mural at the back of the playground would be worth pursuing.

12 Future meetings

The next meeting was at the Gladiator Club on Monday 15 July at 8pm. The Club do not normally open on a Monday and kindly were opening up specially for IFRA. It was agreed to look at moving the meeting to a Tuesday or another evening when the Club was open.

Dates of future meetings, Mondays, 8 pm

15 July, 9 September(Zoom), 11 Nov (tbc)
