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## Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2019 at 7.00pm

Room JHB 128, John Henry Brookes Building, London Road.

### Present: 19

<b>Heather Armitage</b>	Friends of Lye Valley
<b>Elsa Bell</b>	<b>HONORARY SECRETARY, VICE CHAIR &amp; TRUSTEE</b>
<b>Rosemary Belton</b>	Friends of Bury Knowle Park
<b>Richard Bradley</b>	Friends of Quarry – <b>CHAIR &amp; TRUSTEE</b>
<b>Cllr Susan Brown</b>	Oxford City (Churchill)
<b>Patrick Coulter</b>	Headington Neighbourhood Forum – <b>TRUSTEE</b>
<b>Keith Frayn</b>	Ramblers
<b>Cllr Stef Garden</b>	Oxford City (Headington)
<b>Liz Grosvenor</b>	<b>ADMIN SUPPORT</b>
<b>Carolyn Gulliver</b>	London Court Residents'
<b>Sheila Hurst</b>	New Headington Residents' Association
<b>Philippa Logan</b>	Shotover Preservation Society
<b>John Nealon</b>	<b>TREASURER &amp; TRUSTEE</b>
<b>Anne Partridge</b>	U3A Headington
<b>Andrea Siret</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Margaret Simpson</b>	U3A Headington
<b>Cllr Roz Smith</b>	Oxfordshire County (Headington & Quarry) Oxford City (Quarry & Risinghurst)
<b>Howard Stanbury</b>	Friends of Old Headington
<b>Lesley Williams</b>	Headington Schools Partnership

### Apologies: 6

<b>Tony Joyce</b>	Oxford Civic Society
<b>Cllr Altaf-Khan</b>	Oxford City (Headington)
<b>Cllr Mark Lygo</b>	Oxfordshire County (Churchill) Oxford City (Marston & Northway)
<b>Judith Palmer</b>	Ramblers
<b>Cllr Glynis Phillips</b>	Oxfordshire County (Barton Sandhills & Risinghurst)
<b>Mary Ross</b>	Churches Together
<b>Sonja Roffey</b>	Mileway Gardens Residents' Association

With thanks to Oxford Brookes for providing the venue	Action
<b>Apologies, welcome and introductions.</b> Apologies as above <b>A reminder that if you are unable to attend a meeting it is acceptable that you send a representative on your behalf.</b>	
<b>Confirmation of Officers for the coming year</b> In accordance with the new constitution the Trustees have nominated the officers for 2019/2020 as follows: <b>Chair - Richard Bradley</b> <b>Vice Chair and Hon Secretary – Elsa Bell</b> <b>Treasurer – John Nealon</b> <b>Patrick Coulter will remain a Trustee and will represent the Headington Neighbourhood Forum.</b> We now have four Trustees.	

<p><b>The Committee confirmed these officers.</b></p> <p><b>The Chair thanked Keith Frayn and Patrick Coulter for their work for HA over many years, and were each presented with Book Tokens.</b></p> <p>KF, as Market Committee Chair and Trustee has turned round the fortunes of the Market and we are very grateful to him for this success.</p> <p>PC, as Chair has now served for eleven years and has just presided over his 11<sup>th</sup> AGM.</p>	
<p><b>Introduction by the Chair</b></p> <p>Richard Bradley (RBr) set out his vision for the coming years. He sees the existence of HA as being time-limited in the light of the proposed Community Council, but there will be no significant changes to the current set-up of our tried-and-tested formula.</p> <p>His main focus will be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working with PC on the formation of the new Community Council</li> <li>2. Supporting the Community events e.g. facilitating the Loneliness Project</li> <li>3. Addressing the problem of resources for projects that need volunteers to run them. This will include finding a replacement for the Market Chair, and providing a reciprocal trustee to represent the Community Association which has funds available for us to use for community projects. Also EB would like to relinquish her role as Hon. Sec. if we could find a volunteer.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>1. Minutes of the last meeting</b> held on 30 January were amended as follows:</p> <p>Margaret Simpson should have been designated as U3A Headington (not Oxford) and Heather Armitage should be Friends of Lye Valley rather than Town Furze allotments.</p> <p>These were amended and will be on the website shortly.</p> <p>Subject to the above the Minutes were agreed.</p>	
<p><b>2. Matters Arising</b> not elsewhere on the Agenda (including Executive Minutes of 27 February 2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have received a grant application from Friends of Headington Hill Park (HHP) for £10 - £12K for the maintenance of the path and creating a view through the wall facing the church. We have asked them to re-submit to clarify some of the requests.</li> </ul> <p>PC asked the Councillors if funds are short for park maintenance in particular the maintenance of paths and trees. It was confirmed that such basic maintenance should be undertaken by the Council rather than the Friends groups but this will be checked out by Cllr.SB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fairtrade have been approached regarding membership – they have a new manager and a decision is pending.</li> <li>• Science Oxford will be approached soon – Stansfeld Park opens soon. There will be a talk at Stansfeld on 13 May.</li> <li>• The HA response to the SODC Local Plan consultation (in particular the policy for land North of Bayswater Brook) has already been circulated, as has the response to the Oxford Local Plan. We have been requested to be present at the examinations in public of both Plans to present evidence in support of our submissions.</li> <li>• The process of spending CIL money is being modified. The application comes to the monitoring sub-committee and if approved is submitted to the HA committee and then to the City Council. The amended process will be distributed before the next meeting for approval.</li> <li>• The request from the BBC Oxford for HA to participate in a magazine programme is still being considered.</li> </ul>	<span style="font-size: small;">SB</span>  <span style="font-size: small;">RBr</span>

<p><b>3. REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>Festival 2019 – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning meetings have been taken place.</li> <li>• We require volunteers for the market stall advertising the Festival – please contact MS – a form was circulated during the meeting for signing-up. We also need volunteers for the Festival itself.</li> <li>• The film was deemed to be a success last year – requests have been made to show it earlier but there are implications about light on the screen and we await costings for mitigating this.</li> <li>• We have received a lottery grant already, and other requests are in the pipeline.</li> <li>• Oxford University has given a lower grant this year.</li> <li>• We have a continuing problem with prices from Direct Services e.g. with refuse collection. Their prices have increased and again raised questions about whether going with a commercial firm would be more financially viable. We argued in the meeting with Bob Price last year that as a charity we should not have to pay the same rate as profit-making organisations. He said he would forward our suggestion of a sliding scale of prices to Direct Services. The evidence of the recent process suggests there has been no change. Cllr SB will investigate this, but points out that Direct Services is a commercial activity and that Council prefers to fund charitable activities through its grant making system rather than through pricing policies. She reminded us of the Council's current financial position that there are fewer funds to give. We did point out again that, according to the newspaper report quoting the then Leader, the Council subsidises the Cowley Carnival through services provided as well as by a much greater grant.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Market</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cornfield Bakery have told us that they find the market well-run and that their sales are up. They are pleased to see that the market is advertised via social media.</li> <li>• The fish stall describes the market as “vibrant”</li> <li>• The market Committee consists of KF, EB, JN and 3 others. With Charlie as Market manager. The market is now on both sides of the road, and we have an alcohol licence. We now need new blood to continue the good work – in the interim KF’s duties are being shared out amongst the committee, but we really need one manager to oversee the operation.</li> <li>• There have been disputes between two of the stall holders, but these have been resolved,</li> <li>• The other problem has been the windy conditions, with gazebos falling over, where a request to finish early had to be granted.</li> <li>• HA plans to have a stall more frequently, although this may be shared with other community groups who have a stall occasionally for free - the police are regulars.</li> </ul> <p><b>Headington Neighbourhood Plan and Community Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PC reported that there are 60 projects in the Plan and they have been prioritised with some already underway. We would like to engage Oxford Brookes’ staff and students to utilise their expertise and a meeting with the VC Prof Alastair Fitt is being planned.</li> <li>• There are six people on the Planning Group to scrutinise planning policies and protect the Plan requirements. This group needs to be revived and more people are being sought – we would particularly like some professional help. Heather Armitage endorsed the benefits of HA paying for specialist support on planning matters as for example in the response to the Oxford Local Plan consultation.</li> <li>• The City Council community governance review has commenced and a consultation of the people and organisations in Headington will be carried out. Cllr Tanner, amongst others at the council meeting, was very supportive of the proposal. The consultation will take place in April/May with pamphlets being delivered to all households and businesses by the Council and we will deliver our pamphlet separately. The determination of this consultation is expected to take place in October, and if successful election of CC councillors will take place in May 2020 to coincide with the local elections.</li> <li>• The number of councillors and the establishment of the wards is still to be determined.</li> <li>• We will have a stall at the market to promote the consultation.</li> <li>• A Community Council can raise its own precept (as well as having access to CIL money) – there will be no business precept. This will mean a big change to the governance of Headington.</li> </ul>	<p>ALL</p> <p>SB</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Oxford Neighbourhood Plan Alliance has been set up with Summertown (whose plan has just been approved) and Wolvercote. PC suggested that the six monthly Planning Users meeting arranged by the City Council had been very useful but appears to have been discontinued. Cllr SB agreed to this follow up with planning officers to see whether it can be reinstated. She advised that she already chairs the strategic meeting of the Oxford Parish Councils and suggested that representatives from Headington attend as observers.</li> <li>We were advised that a recent planning application was refused on the grounds of it contravening our Neighbourhood Plan. In the light of the pending new Local Plan, our HNP policies will need to be reviewed to ensure that they accord with the new Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hanging Baskets</b></p> <p>EB reported that these will go up in late May and the contract will again be with the City Council. The Council will cover the VAT element and thus we can retain the cost at £100 per basket.</p>	
<p><b>4. Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Loneliness project has engaged a consultant who has been in touch with local organisations to further this – they include the churches, health service, U3a, Archway, etc. We have also looked at outside projects and on 28 March RBr and PC visited Frome in Somerset “the town that cured loneliness”. Their claim to fame has been demonstrated by a marked decrease in hospital admissions as a result of their initiatives on loneliness.</li> </ul> <p>On 7 May we will be facilitating a workshop on Loneliness in Headington at the Bury Knowle Health Centre from 6 – 8 pm by bringing together the stakeholders. These will include two GP practices, the churches, councillors, Brookes and Archway amongst others. We will report the outcome at the next meeting.</p> <p>EB, PC and RB will meet shortly to progress the Greening Project. Rosemary Belton has offered to help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RBr reported that Friends of Quarry are carrying out a project of bulb planting, and subject to Highways approval, planting shrubs on the central reservation on the Ring Road. Roz and Glynis are supportive. This is in line with the Greening Project’s aims to encourage local groups to design and take responsibility for greening their area.</li> <li>Heather thanked us for the grant we gave for a survey in Lye Valley on invertebrates. They discovered that there was a different in species between north and south fen. FoLV would like to join them up but some parts encroach on the bottom of private gardens. Some of these have been adopted, but others remain.</li> </ul> <p>They also used the grant to buy new tools. They meet every Wednesday and feel, apart from maintaining the valley, this also helps to combat loneliness and depression.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We were asked what is happening to the derelict property in Old High Street, and were advised that a council decision is awaited on the pursuance of a compulsory purchase order which the owner has so far managed to circumvent.</li> <li>HS reported that they were campaigning to restore trees to Old High Street and would be keen to have the initiative as part of a greening project in Headington.</li> <li>We have ascertained that the trees removed from the White Horse pub have been removed by Greene King. RBr will write to Greene King to register our unhappiness.</li> <li></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">RBr</p>	
<p><b>5. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A meeting was organised on 26 March by Cllr Pat Kennedy, Oxford City Council's Older People's Champion, to explore the idea of setting up Age-Friendly Oxford – this would be the 34<sup>th</sup> such group in the country – the only other one in Oxfordshire is in Banbury. Presentations were from UK Age-friendly Network [NGO]; City and County Council Officers and from AgeUK's CEO. This is a City Council initiative – and as a result a small steering group was agreed, possible members could be the 3 City Councillors present, plus NPC, AgeUK and MS shall be representing various groups, with advice and support from Age-friendly Network. Pat will be asking other age-related groups if they wish to be</li> </ul>	

represented. The brief is to look at working opportunities, housing, health and attitudes to Ageing. We were advised that Bruges is a dementia- friendly city.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PC advised that there will be a musical event put on by Highfield Residents' Association on Friday 5 April – flyers were distributed at the meeting.</li><li>• On Saturday 30 March there will be a plant stall at Headington Quarry Village Hall from 10 to 3.</li><li>• Our new leaflets were available at the meeting.</li><li>• </li></ul>	
The meeting closed at 8.45	
<b>Date of next meeting for your diary:</b> <b>Wednesday 29 May (in JHB 128)</b>	

LG 29/03/19