

Registered Charity No. 1170517

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DRAFT Minutes of Committee Meeting
held on 29 March 2023 at 7.00pm in the Executive Suite
Oxford Brookes University

Present: 19

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| Marion Ackrill | Friends of Headington Hill Park (FoHHP) |
| Heather Armitage (HAr) | Friends of Lye Valley (FoLV) |
| Elsa Bell | HONORARY SECRETARY, VICE CHAIR & TRUSTEE |
| Rosemary Belton (RBe) | Friends of Bury Knowle Park (FoBKP) |
| Richard Bradley (RBr) | Friends of Quarry (FoQ) – TRUSTEE |
| Patrick Coulter | Headington Neighbourhood Forum – ACTING CHAIR & TRUSTEE |
| Priscilla Goldby | Market coordinator |
| Liz Grosvenor | ADMINISTRATOR |
| Neil Holdstock | FINANCE OFFICER |
| Sheila Hurst | New Headington RA |
| Fiona Mckenzie | TREASURER |
| John Nealon | Webmaster |
| Anne Partridge | U3A (for Margaret Samuel) |
| Andrea Siret | Oxford Brookes University |
| Cllr Chris Smowton | Oxford City (Headington) |
| Cllr Roz Smith | Oxfordshire County (Headington & Quarry) |
| | Oxford City (Quarry & Risinghurst) |
| Howard Stanbury | Friends of Old Headington (FoOH) |
| Peter West | Oxford Business Action Group |
| Lesley Williams | Headington Schools Partnership |

Guests: **Leanne Cooper** (Oxford City Council Locality Manager OX3 area)
Rob Bown (Cheney School)

Apologies: 2

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| David Colbeck | Friends of Headington Hill Park |
| Viv Miles | Project Lead on Connected Communities - TRUSTEE |

| | Welcome and introductions and apologies as above. | Action |
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| 1. | <p>Presentation given by Leanne Cooper (Oxford City Council Locality Manager OX3 area)</p> <p>We were treated to a very informative and thought-provoking talk about the work being undertaken in the localities after Covid.</p> <p>Her slide show had these headings:</p> | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Vision – addressing the problems exacerbated by Covid • Try to achieve- collaboration, local services, helping in a crisis (she said that there are 150 community groups) • Timescales • Locality Teams - In OX1, OX2, OX3, OX4 (Cowley and East Oxford) OX4 (Leys) • Team Managers – there are 4 • Case Studies- 4 managers are dealing with 256 cases at present. The areas in most need are Blackbird Leys, Barton, and Wood Farm in that order. • Household Support Fund – this is for anyone in need. There are advice centres in pop-up premises in certain areas. <p>For help, phone 01865 249811 and choose Option 1, which is the Cost of Living line. There is a dedicated webpage here: Help with the cost of living crisis Oxford City Council</p> <p>The whole of Oxford has been given Government funding of £150K for emergency assistance : for 600 residents this works out at £150 per family.</p> <p>The Oxford City Council website explains their work as follows:</p> <p>Oxford’s Localities Team brings together the skills and experience of City Council staff and partners to support residents. respond to local needs. reduce inequalities and build strong. resilient communities. We can help with signposting to local support and helping local communities thrive.</p> <p>Leanne was thanked for her very interesting presentation.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Confirm Minutes of previous Committee Meeting held on 25 January 2023, and Exec Minutes of 27 February & Matters arising</p> <p>The Minutes were confirmed.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>Committee Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Item 3 – purchase of a new PA system for community use is being investigated.</p> <p>Exec Minutes</p> <p>Item 5.4 - Ring-fencing Councillors’ funds – the discussions are in progress with local councillors.</p> | <p>PC</p> <p>PC</p> |
| 3. | <p>Projects update-</p> <p>Festival – 3 & 4 June</p> <p>a) Volunteers are still required. Further details will be distributed in the next few weeks. Volunteers will be required during the hours of 11am to 6pm and an application will be on the website. Cllr CS has kindly agreed to organise the volunteers.</p> <p>b) Finance – we have not been successful in securing Lottery funding this year, and consequently we will be anticipating a loss of c. £3K. We do thank Cllrs. CS, RS (City & County), Glynis Phillips, Chewe Munkonge and the City Council for their contributions. RBr will approach other Councillors in our area for some contribution too. We also thank NH and colleagues for funds from Oxford Round Table.</p> <p>Market</p> <p>We are about to recruit a new market manager. The outgoing manager, Ewan was presented with a framed picture of the Shark with which he was delighted. We will ask the market steward if he would be available to help at the Festival.</p> | <p>RBr</p> <p>PG</p> |

Headington Centre Improvement

Attached is the final report on the Plan to Improve Headington Centre prepared by consultants AR Urbanism for Headington Action. This is an important report which sets out a range of projects for the improvement of the centre. We now have to prioritise these projects and find ways to implement them. It's a fairly substantial report but if your time is limited the list of key projects is in Chapter 11. Let PC know if you have any queries about the report.

Connected Communities

VM has had about 15 applications for the post of P/T Community Activity Researcher and is shortlisting these with RBe. They will liaise with Leanne Cooper (above) as there could be some overlap.

Greening

Courtside already had 33k CIL funding in place (subject to Council consultation) and also funding from other sources but were short of their target. They have now been granted a significant grant from the Levelling Up Fund from the Government to enable them to develop the Tennis Courts, the Pavilion and the Multi-games area, subject to Full Planning Permission. Their consultation elicited 798 responses from the local area and has been published on their website- there was a 91% positive response. See

<https://www.courtsidecic.co.uk/projects/headington>

As planning permission is not required to resurface the tennis courts, work may start on this shortly.

Other projects

- MA (FoHHP) thanked us for funds that enabled planting in the Headington Hill Park. RBe stressed that future planting should consider pollinators.
- HAR subsequently sent us this narrative with a view to securing CIL funding from us. This is an expanded explanation of what was said at the meeting.

Aim of the Project in the Lye Valley for which CIL funds may be sought.

Professional restoration of the 'leaky' dams along the Lye Brook and the creation of further dams designed to take energy out of the water in times of heavy rainfall and flooding which is becoming more frequent with Climate Change (wetter winters and hotter summers.) Work will include shuttering / cladding along banks where required to stabilise the banks and prevent further erosion of peat from the Alkaline fen which supports a very rare M13 plant community. Materials to be sourced on site (from ongoing management tasks) or supplied from other Oxford City Council sites.

The work will be assisted by volunteers drawn from the community.

Why this Restoration is Needed

Heavy rainfall is directed by a large pipe into the little Lye Brook which runs along the bottom of the Lye Valley. The rainfall is drawn from streets in Headington as far as the Ring Road. The effect of this in and after heavy rain, such as we have had recently, is to gouge out the bottom of the Lye Brook. This has two results:

1. It causes flooding in Florence Park which causes immense distress to the local residents. So this is a very cheap 'green' flood alleviation scheme.

2. As the torrential water gouges out the bottom of the brook, it creates a great difference between the Lye Valley fen and the brook bottom. So it drains the fen. A drained fen dries up, its rare flora and fauna die and the tonnes of carbon it stores burn up. This releases CO2 into the atmosphere.

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| 4. | <p>Cheney School Rob Bown attended the meeting and spoke in support of the Cheney School application for CIL funding to green part of the school space. He expanded on the plans (previously distributed) to transform the muddy areas of outside space around Cheney School with planting, use of rubbery woodchip, and fencing, to make a bid to us for CIL funding. The original design needed to be more robust and the picture boards shown demonstrated the current plans. They are seeking £4K from CIL towards a total requirement of c. £71K and the work will be carried out in two phases as funds come in. Parents and children will be used for clearance and students will be responsible for upkeep going forward. Placing seats around trees will help to protect them. HAr asked them to consider plants rich in pollen and nectar, not just robust planting. A quiet green space was an aspiration but there is insufficient space to provide this.</p> <p>Before voting Cllr. CS declared an interest but this was not thought to be relevant. There was one abstention (not sufficient information) but the bid was approved for CIL money (£4K) subject to City Council confirmation. It was pointed out that if the funds come direct from the Council, rather than through HA, then they would not be subject to VAT.</p> <p>Rob has offered to liaise with RBr to provide volunteers for the festival.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Finance Report As for the past three years we are seeking CIL money for 25 hanging baskets in the Headington Centre – this is the last year of a special deal with the City Council, and the details are on the website. The amount requested is £2,752. Details of the CIL application are attached. The Committee agreed to take this forward.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>AOB HS (FOOH) is advising us of the restoration of the redundant telephone box which was purchased by HA and is located next to the Baptist Church. It is intended to turn it in part into a bring-and-borrow library. Unfortunately, a whole crate of books was stolen recently from within the telephone box.</p> <p>They also advise that their Open Gardens coincides with the Headington Festival on 4 June when they will be open from 2.30 to 5pm.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Rotating Chair The highlighted months indicate the Committee meeting dates, and the others are Exec meeting dates</p> <p>April, 31 May (Exec Suite), June – Richard 26 July,(Exec Suite) August, 27 September - Viv October, 29 November, December – Patrick 2024 January, February, March – Elsa</p> | |
| 8. | <p>DONM 31 May Committee Meeting in the Executive Suite at Oxford Brookes at 7pm</p> | |
| | <p>The meeting closed at 8.50pm</p> | |