

Registered Charity No. 1170517

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DRAFT Minutes of Committee Meeting

held on 31 January 2024 at 7.00pm in the Room CLC G.07

Oxford Brookes University

Present: 15

Heather Armitage (HAr)	Friends of Lye Valley (FoLV)
Elsa Bell	HONORARY SECRETARY, VICE CHAIR_& TRUSTEE
Richard Bradley (RBr)	Friends of Quarry (FoQ) – TRUSTEE
Patrick Coulter	Headington Neighbourhood Forum – TRUSTEE
Priscilla Goldby	Market coordinator
Liz Grosvenor	ADMINISTRATOR
Frank Mckenna	Headington Liveable Streets
Viv Miles	Project Lead on Connected Communities – TRUSTEE
Cllr Glynis Phillips	Oxfordshire County (Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst
Hilary Seal	St Anne’s Road, Gathorne Road, Rock Edge, Margaret Road
Andrea Siret	Oxford Brookes University
Cllr Chris Smowton	Oxford City (Headington)
Howard Stanbury	Friends of Old Headington
Peter West	Oxford Business Action Group
Lesley Williams	Headington Schools Partnership

Apologies: 9

Marion Ackrill	Friends of Headington Hill Park (FoHHP)
Rosemary Belton (RBe)	Friends of Bury Knowle Park (FoBKP)
Cllr Susan Brown	Oxford City (Churchill)
Neil Holdstock	FINANCE OFFICER
Sheila Hurst (SHu)	New Headington Residents’ Association
Fiona Mckenzie	TREASURER
Sonja Roffey	Mileway gardens Residents’ Association
Cllr Roz Smith	Oxford City (Quarry & Rosinghurst) County (Headington & Quarry)
Jim Woods	Shotover Preservation Society

1.	<p>Elsa Bell in the Chair</p> <p>Welcome and introductions to all members</p> <p>Apologies as above.</p>	Action
2.	<p>Presentation by Patrick Coulter</p> <p>Workshop to determine the project priorities for the central Headington shopping area.</p>	

Papers pertaining to this exercise had been sent out prior to this meeting.
The City Council are already on board to take this vision forward and the 11 projects are already included in the Local Plan.

The meeting attendees discussed the lists in order to ascertain the top 3 and bottom 3 priorities regardless of cost, although they will be dependent on the availability of funds to carry them out. As such each will be subject to a feasibility study and a costing exercise.

It has been difficult to engage local businesses but once the priorities have been sorted out then they will be approached again to participate and help to take this forward.

These will then be incorporated into the next version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

VM commented that it is difficult to prioritise some of the projects when in some cases it is a choice between the aesthetic and the community.

HA drew attention to the necessity to keep the Lye Valley wet and is concerned that Thames Water are directing excess road water direct into the stream rather than allowing it to seep into the ground and thus nurture the planting. She urges that any road improvements ensure that the drains are kept clear to necessitate this natural drainage.

Here are the results of the prioritisation:

HEADINGTON CENTRE IMPROVEMENT PLAN Attendees voted for top three (green votes) and bottom three (red votes)

PRIORITISATION OF PROJECTS – TOP 3 AND BOTTOM 3

PROJECT	COST	COMPLEXITY	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
1. Headington Centre Gateway Areas	Medium	High	Short	9 votes
2. Place Making Elements	Low	Low	Short	
3 Walking and Accessibility Improvements	Low to High	Low to Medium	Short to Medium	11 votes
4 Osler Road Corner Pocket Plaza	Medium	Low to Medium	Medium	
5.Kennet Road Pocket Plaza	Medium	Medium	Medium	
6. Windmill Road Public Realm	Medium to High	Low to Medium	Medium	8 votes
7. Hub for Community and Institutions	High	Low to High	Short to Long	5 votes
8. Saturday Market Expansion	???	Low	Medium	
9. Shop Front and Façade Improvements	Medium	Low	Medium	10 votes
10. London Road Long Term Vision	High	High	Long	
11. New Public Toilets	Medium to High	High	Medium	8 votes

3. **Minutes of previous Committee Meeting held on 29 November 2023 – confirmed.
and Exec Minutes of 13 December – confirmed.**

	<p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 7: The incorrect positioning of the basketball hoops in BKP cannot be remedied as it would be too expensive. • Item 5 Exec. Minutes: Attention is drawn to the fact that Patrick will be standing down as Exec member at the AGM in March in order to concentrate on the HNP and the HCIP. 	
4.	<p>HA Projects</p> <p>Festival The fact that there will not be a festival in 2024 has been widely announced to the public, stallholders, suppliers etc. and gone out on social media and was featured in the recent LibDem leaflet.</p> <p>It is hoped that we will be back to normal in 2025 but it will depend on personnel being available to organise it.</p> <p>For 2024 there may well be alternative events, possibly organised by Oxford Round Table, and there has been a suggestion that we could hold a food festival.</p> <p>Winter Lights</p> <p>Annual maintenance and examination of the tree lights costs us c. £2,500, and this year owing to vandalism of the lights in the tree outside Andrews there was further expense to purchase some new lights, but this should be covered by our insurance.</p> <p>Cllr Altaf-Khan has offered some ward monies if we have a project we would like to advance. It has been suggested that some Christmas lights on the lamp posts at the crossroads would be a possibility if we can get someone to organize it. RBr asked if there is a volunteer.</p> <p>Market - No report</p> <p>Connected Communities</p> <p>VM reported that over a one-month period, Emma monitored 156 users of the Directory. Some technical enhancements have also been carried out by Cllr CS.</p> <p>With the distribution of street lights we managed to recruit 34 new street contacts, and last year 33 different streets took part in the lighting-up. It is thought that this could be widely advertised as a potential walking route, to view the lights, on the HA website.</p> <p>Greening RBe is working with Brookes students to improve the number of pollinators in the area.</p>	
5.	<p>Other projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brookes -AS announced the Science fair on Saturday 5 February and encouraged us to attend. - Student volunteer week takes place in February. - A sustainability event is taking place on 20 March – Lye Valley, Headington Hill Park, local Whats App tree groups and Oxclean have already shown an interest in attending. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr CS reported that the Co-op plans for a hotel have been rejected (again) on the basis of mass. - He also reported that the Crown & Thistle pub plans for change of use, on Old Road, has also been turned down. - Only one of three applications for an illuminated BT Hub on the centre of Headington has been approved. This will go outside Medina. - HS reported that the planning wrangles for the property on Old High Street have now been going on for 50 years with the owner showing no inclination to resolve this. 	
6.	<p>Proposed closure of FairTrade shop</p> <p>Is HA in a position to support this to avoid the closure?</p> <p>We gather that shareholders will be meeting on 26 March to discuss the situation and we await the outcome. The correspondence was unclear as to whether a decision has already been taken in principle or whether the meeting would consider alternative proposals. EB to ask for clarification.</p> <p>Questions were raised as to whether it is appropriate to get involved with what is a commercial business and it was thought that Oxford City, as a FairTrade city, should intervene.</p>	EB
7	<p>Finance</p> <p>Following consultation and with no adverse comments, the Courtyard application has now been submitted to the City Council with a recommendation to pay.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Margaret Simpson, a former member of this committee, has been awarded the MBE for services to the elderly, and we have written to congratulate her.</p> <p>The Manor Surgery has taken over the running of the Kennington surgery which was failing. Reports indicate a great improvement and VM, being on the Patient Participation Group, is a conduit to raise any issues that need discussing. Her email address is viv1951@btinternet.com</p> <p>PC announced a concert in All Saints Church Hall on 1st March – this is organised by Highfield Residents' Association and is free but there will be a collection box.</p>	
8.	<p>Rotating Chair</p> <p>The highlighted months indicate the Committee meeting dates, and the others are Exec meeting dates.</p> <p>February, March – Elsa</p>	
8.	<p>DONM</p> <p>27 March Committee Meeting at 7pm in Brookes Executive Suite</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 8.47pm</p>	