



Registered Charity No. 1170517

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### Minutes of Committee Meeting

held on 24 September 2025 at 7.00pm in the Clerici

Room G06

Oxford Brookes University

#### Present: 17

Heather Armitage (HAr)	Friends of Lye Valley
Elsa Bell	<b>HONORARY SECRETARY, DEPUTY CHAIR &amp; TRUSTEE</b>
Rosemary Belton	Friends of Bury Knowle Park (FoBKP) <b>TRUSTEE</b>
Cllr Liz Brighthouse	County (Churchill & Lye Valley)
Patrick Coulter	Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF)
Liz Grosvenor	<b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>
Neil Holdstock	<b>TREASURER</b>
Sheila Hurst	New Headington Residents' Association (NHRA)
Jane Moore	Connected Communities Lead (CC)
Viv Miles	<b>TRUSTEE</b>
Chris Mills	Friends of Headington Quarry (FOQ)
Jack Olchawski	Oxford Brookes University
Cllr Glynis Phillips	County (Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst) <b>TRUSTEE &amp; CHAIR</b>
Cllr Chris Smowton	City (Headington)
Howard Stanbury	Friends of Old Headington (FOOH)
Cllr James Taylor	City (Headington Hill & Northway)
Lesley Williams	Headington Schools Partnership

#### Apologies: 7

Richard Bradley (RBr)	Former Friends of Quarry (FoQ)
Priscilla Goldby	Market coordinator
Sumukh Kaul	HNF
Fiona McKenzie	Treasurer
John Nealon	Website & HA Publicity
Sonja Roffey	Mileway Gardens RA
Cllr Roz Smith	County (Headington & Quarry) City (Quarry & Risinghurst)

1.	<p><b>Cllr Glynis Phillips in the Chair</b></p> <p><b>The Chair</b> welcomed all to the meeting and all participants introduced themselves.  <b>Apologies as above.</b></p>	Action
2.	<p><b>Minutes of last Committee Meeting 30 July and Executive Meeting 1 September – Agreed</b></p> <p><b>Matters arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments were made about the amount of litter in Headington, mainly fast-food waste and CS will find out if there is routine street cleaning in place. CS reported back with the reply from Street Scene:  <i>"Headington area is visited numerous times per day, both early morning and afternoon as a minimum. We have caged vehicles as well as sweepers attend each morning and then further visits throughout the day.  "The high footfall, commercial and known areas are visited more frequently, and this is ever evolving depending on need, so very much scope to change to meet demand."</i></li> <li>• Section 8 Executive Minutes – correction: Gertie is not currently looking after the directory.</li> <li>• CS was pleased to announce that Roz has agreed to chair the Festival Committee.</li> <li>• CS will provide an update on the city’s position regarding the repair of the Lye Valley walkway.</li> </ul>	CS
3.	<p><b>Fireworks</b></p> <p>NH, on behalf of the Round Table, announced that the Annual Fireworks display in South Park will be taking place on <b>Saturday 8 November</b>.</p> <p>£35K has been spent to lay a tank track to protect the grass.</p> <p>In applying for tickets, up to the end of October only, the code HEADINGTON ACTION will give a 20% discount. In response to adverse comments about noise, there will be a low noise firework display at 6.30, and the normal fireworks will begin at 7.15. Instead of a large bonfire there will be a number of small fires, 1 cubic m in size and placed on ground where a sq. m of grass has been temporarily removed.</p> <p><b>A poster advertising the event is attached.</b></p>	
4.	<p><b>Tatjana’s successor – update</b></p> <p>Owing to pressure of work Tatjana has had to resign from looking after the website and social media.</p>	

	We are pleased to say that Sumukh has agreed to take over the social media element and possibly the website subject to further consultation.	
5.	<p><b>Rotating Chair update – 2026</b></p> <p><b>GP explained the Chair rotation system in place and asked if any members, or anyone that they know, wished to come forward to be Chair in 2026.</b></p> <p>The next meeting on 26 November will be chaired by Neil Holdstock, and the following one on 28 January by Priscilla Goldby.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
6.	<p><b>HA Projects/activities updates</b></p> <p><b>Festival 2026</b></p> <p>With thanks to Roz for agreeing to chair the Festival Committee, the planning for the 2026 Festival can go ahead. Updates on the progress will be relayed to this committee.</p> <p><b>Connected Communities</b></p> <p>We are pleased to announce that we have a new recruit to look after the Directory. Her name is Lynsey and she comes with extensive IT experience; she starts w/c 28 September. The aim is to get the Directory up-to-date by the end of the year.</p> <p>Gertie has been recruiting new street contacts.</p> <p><b>Market:</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Greening</b></p> <p>RBe reported that some trees have died in BKP because of the drought. They include the recently planted cherry trees, but as they are a City Council Parks Department project they will be replaced by them. There are also a number of dead trees in Cherwell Drive.</p> <p>HAr reported that ideas for refurbishing Rock Edge have been requested by Friends of Lye Valley. The site is currently a "Local Nature Reserve" and they wish to transform it into a "Local Wildlife Site" as it is meant to be meadow land. Litter picking has been carried out, wild flower seeds have been scattered, and wild flowers that are totally native introduced. The sign about the quarry needs repairing and updating with information about the geology. Being a meadow, trees are not appropriate. It is the council who look after this site and HAr and CS will liaise to discuss ideas.</p> <p>As reported before, HA are holding funds on behalf of Cllr Roz Smith to replenish the planters in Windmill Road. Autumn and Winter planting is now required and the broken planter replaced.</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>HAr/CS</p>

	<p><b>Importantly, there needs to be a maintenance plan in place to keep the planters looking fresh – this is not an HA project, but we do support it.</b> CS will report back on progress.</p> <p><b>Winter lights update</b></p> <p>RBe has done extensive research to find a remedy to the removal of the lights in the trees. The options are very expensive and we do not have a budget to cover replacing the lighting in all the trees.</p> <p>We can still have the <b>Christmas tree and lights with the switch-on on 6 December</b>. JO announced that Brookes will provide two student wardens again to help with the food and drinks for which we are very grateful.</p> <p>We have about 2 weeks from now (i.e to about 8 October) if we are going to employ the lighting company to put the lights back in the 6 trees we have been illuminating, and which the council tree officer had required us to remove.</p> <p>NH is contacting Finders Keepers to see if they will help fund us again, and we will ask the council if we can use CIL monies – previously this has only been allowed for maintenance, not erecting the lights. Headington Community Association have also helped us in the past and perhaps our local councillors can help with funds.</p> <p>Other suggestions have included up-lighting and flood lighting but time and funding is against us.</p> <p><b>The bottom line is that we may only be able to fund the Christmas tree and one of the other trees.</b></p>	<p>CS</p> <p>RBe/NH</p>
7.	<p><b>Planning applications</b></p> <p>The communication from Jerry Woods at Brookes, about the <b>Clive Booth village</b> plans, had been circulated with the papers for this meeting.</p> <p>There is also a planning application pending for development on <b>Ruskin Fields</b>. This area is outside the current Local Plan area. A meeting is planned for November to include FOOH, HA and HNP to discuss the plans to make a least damaging development, and Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) and Oxford Civic Society (OCS) have been invited too. The plans are for 130 dwellings and the wetland will be preserved. They have pledged to retain the Tiny Forest.</p> <p>FOOH have always been opposed to any plans for Ruskin Fields as it is an important green area, and HA constitutionally has to remain neutral as we represent many organisations with differing views.</p>	

	<p>JT pointed out that, whilst the development is in Headington, it is Northway that will be impacted most owing to the access.</p> <p>Ruskin College are convening a meeting in October to which OCS have been invited together with OPT.</p> <p>VM has agreed to represent HA at the meeting in November.</p>	
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JM advised that Older Peoples' Day will be held in the Town hall on 1 October.</li> <li>2. Permits for the temporary congestion charge (starting on 29 October) are now available – see attachment.</li> <li>3. HAr thanked HA for the grant to FOLV to survey of invertebrates – they found 400. They are currently surveying snails, and will be looking at spiders next.</li> <li>4. HAr had planted cowslips at the Barton underpass and was very disappointed to see that the council had mown them down and then dug up the resulting seed pods.</li> <li>5. A planning application for the Co-op site is being submitted, possibly in November, and a site for the Post Office in one of the businesses in Headington is still being sought. Waitrose had been approached and they said no, but we understand that there is a new Manager in place so we will contact him/her.</li> <li>6. A planning application is in to move the helipad at the JR from its current site to the roof of an adjacent building. The new flight paths are being looked at by interested parties.</li> <li>7. CM advised that a series of successful social events have been taking place in Quarry. The next one is in January and details of these will be circulated with papers for our future meetings.</li> <li>8. LB advised that there is a new History of Wood Farm being shown at the Education Centre at Oxford Castle and is well worth a visit. Progress is being pursued over the development/retention of the Crown &amp; Thistle pub.</li> </ol>	<p>CS</p> <p>CM</p>
11.	<p><b>DONM</b></p> <p><b>26 November Committee Meeting at 7pm in Executive Suite at Brookes chaired by Neil Holdstock.</b></p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 8.25pm</p>	

LG 25/9/25