



Registered Charity No. 1170517

www.headingtonaction.org

headingtonaction@gmail.com

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on

26 November 2025 at 7.00pm

in the Executive Suite, Oxford Brookes University

Present: 18

Elsa Bell	HONORARY SECRETARY, DEPUTY CHAIR & TRUSTEE
Rosemary Belton	Friends of Bury Knowle Park (FoBKP) TRUSTEE
Richard Bradley	Former Friends of Quarry (FoQ)
Patrick Coulter	Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF)
Taz Greyling	Observer
Liz Grosvenor	ADMINISTRATOR
Lynsey Haire	Connected Communities
Neil Holdstock	STRATEGIC FINANCE OFFICER & CHAIR
Sheila Hurst	New Headington Residents' Association (NHRA)
Sumukh Kaul	Headington Neighborhood Forum
Fiona McKenzie	Treasurer
Jane Moore	Connected Communities Lead (CC)
Chris Mills	Friends of Headington Quarry (FOQ)
Jack Olchawski	Oxford Brookes University
Cllr Glynis Phillips	County (Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst) TRUSTEE
Cllr Chris Smowton	City (Headington)
Howard Stanbury	Friends of Old Headington (FOOH)
Lesley Williams	Headington Schools Partnership

Apologies: 4

Patrick Denby	Friends of Headington Hill Park
Priscilla Goldby	Market coordinator
Sonja Roffey	Mileway Gardens RA
Peter West	OBAG Headington

1.	<p>Nail Holdstock in the Chair</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and all participants introduced themselves.</p> <p>Apologies as above.</p>	Action
----	---	--------

2.	Minutes of last Committee Meeting 24 September and Executive Meeting 27 October – Agreed	
3.	Matters arising: none	
4.	<p>Rotating Chair update – 2026</p> <p>We are pleased that Neil has agreed to be Chair until, and including the AGM in March.</p> <p>EB stressed that we still need a permanent Chair. The recommendations in GP’s report have been actioned and so we now need to perhaps host a social event to see if a new Chair emerges. GP and SH will organize, and this will be taken forward at our next Exec. Meeting.</p>	GP/SH
5.	<p>Winter Lights event</p> <p>The Christmas lights switch-on will take place on Saturday 6 December from 4.30 to 5.30.</p> <p>EB was thanked for all her hard work in organizing the food, drink and events. She will be standing down from this activity after this year and the organization will revert to the Executive.</p> <p>RBe advised that CIL money in the sum of £15K had been received so that we can now light the street trees and the Christmas Tree.</p> <p>NH has now fenced the Christmas Tree which has very kindly been provided by The Round Table at a cost of c. £900. Also, Headington Community Association have donated £250 towards the Christmas lights.</p> <p>We are minded to leave the lights in the street trees until discussions have taken place with the Tree Officer regarding their annual removal. We cannot afford for their removal and reinstatement to happen every year. Any future planning of lights needs to commence in July.</p> <p>RBr was thanked by RBe for his assistance with the admin for the lighting.</p>	
6.	<p>Finance</p> <p>FM will circulate a 2026 draft budget to the Executive for consideration of future expenditure so that it can be discussed at the next Exec. Meeting. Future CIL monies required also need to be considered.</p> <p>JM has agreed to collate a list of grant-givers which will be a useful resource for the future.</p>	FM JM
7.	<p>HA Projects/activities updates</p> <p>Festival 2026 – 30/31 May</p> <p>As reported before, Roz has agreed to Chair the Festival Committee again. Shannon Holdstock has also kindly agreed to project manage.</p>	

	<p>A donation of £500 has already been received from the Headington Community Association for which we are very grateful, and grants have been applied for to fund the Festival.</p> <p>Connected Communities</p> <p>JM introduced Lynsey. She comes with IT and publishing experience and is getting the Directory up-to-date by the end of the year. The Directory is being transferred to a new platform but will be running parallel with the old platform for 2 months to check it is working correctly. The transfer cost £120.</p> <p>The Directory is currently being re-printed and the cover will be changed to reflect Headington pictures (the shark, festival, street parties etc.) These will be taken from the website where permissions have already been granted.</p> <p>Gertie has been recruiting new street contacts and has been distributing reusable lights for the festive season obtaining donations on the way to pay for them. She has also been liaising with local primary schools to set up a snowflake trail for parents and children to follow around Headington.</p> <p>A query was raised as to whether the group should be called "Connected Communities" or "Connecting Communities", and JM will consider this.</p> <p>Market:</p> <p>The Chair read out the Market Report from PG.</p> <p><i>Our Manager Joe says that times are hard for traders and he struggles to line up new stalls, though our regulars are mostly very reliable. He is planning an 'Xmassy' market on 6 Dec (before the Xmas tree lighting up). The last market of 2025 be on 20 Dec, as it will take a break on 27 Dec, to restart on 3 Jan.</i></p> <p><i>The main concern at the moment is to come up with the most lasting and cost-effective solution to the suspension of parking bays for market traders. We are working on this with the Oxon County Council parking team.</i></p> <p>Greening</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	JM
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LG has contacted John Nealon regarding a tutorial for us to better understand Dropbox or Google Drive. • NH announced that a very successful Fireworks Display this year generated c. £45K for local communities. NH was applauded for this fantastic result. • PC updated us on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan which has been funded by CIL monies and Headington Action. Owing to lack of human resources it will not be possible to do a comprehensive 	

	<p>review of the Plan, but it may be possible to develop it into a Parish Plan which is non-statutory, easier to achieve and less bureaucratic. It may also sit more comfortably with the current Local Government reorganization plans. PC will consult with City officers to discuss how to take this forward. SK is the link between the NP and HA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans have been submitted by Ruskin College to build 130 dwellings on adjacent land which would fund the updating of the college itself. 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. It was generally thought that it would have an adverse impact on the local area, particularly with access onto the ring road and Foxwell Drive. Consultations are taking place, but these plans do not appear in any of the Local Plans. It is understood that the plans include 40% social housing. • EB asked if there was any news on the move of the Post Office. Cllr CS advised that there is one potential interest from a current business in central Headington, and one other possible candidate. It is expected that the transition will not be seamless as the admin by the Post Office is rather cumbersome. • CM advertised the Oxford Fiddle Group’s evening of music and dancing on Saturday 6 December see Oxford Fiddle Group – Tight and fun, yet always played with passion... • PC suggested that we ought to stage an exhibition to explain to the local community what Headington Action does – he feels that many people do not know what we are involved with. 	PC
9.	<p>DONM</p> <p>28 January Committee Meeting at 7pm in JHB 201 at Brookes chaired by Neil Holdstock.</p>	
10.	<p>The meeting closed at 8.15pm</p>	

LG 27/11/25