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HEADINGTON ACTION
WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEADINGTON

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Minutes of Committee Meeting held on

27 May 2026 at 7.00pm

In JHB 201, Oxford Brookes University

Present: 15

Heather Armitage (HAr)	Friends of Lye Valley (FoLV)
Elsa Bell	St Anne's,Gathorne Road,Rock Edge & Margaret Road Group
Rosemary Belton	Friends of Bury Knowle Park (FoBKP) GREENING -**TRUSTEE**
Patrick Coulter	Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF)
Liz Grosvenor	ADMIN SUPPORT
Neil Holdstock	FINANCIAL DIRECTOR & TREASURER
Sumukh Kaul	WEBSITE AND Connecting Communities
Viv Miles	**CHAIR** - **TRUSTEE**
Chris Mills	Friends of Headington Quarry (FOQ)
Jane Moore	PROJECT LEAD ON CONNECTING COMMUNITIES (CC)
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
Peter West	OBAG Headington

Names in bold denote members of the Executive Committee

Guest speaker: Edward Woodward Tree Service Supervisor at ODS

Apologies: 7

Richard Bradley	Former Chair
Priscilla Goldby	MARKET COORDINATOR
Sheila Hurst	New Headington Residents' Association (NHRA)
Jack Olchawski	Oxford Brookes University Community Engagement
Sonja Roffey	Mileway Gardens RA
Cllr Roz Smith	City (Quarry & Risinghurst) County (Headington & Quarry) and HONORARY SECRETARY
Emma Trundley	Oxford Brookes University Community Engagement

1.	**Welcome and introductions** All participants introduced themselves. The Chair congratulated Cllr Chris Smowton for his re-election in Headington. Richard Bradley, formerly Chair of HA has now resigned from the Committee.	**Action**
2.	**Apologies** As above	
3.	**Items for AOB** Post Office FOLV survey	
4.	**Visiting Speaker** **Edward Woodward** deals with trees in green spaces rather than by the highways. Over the next 6 to 12 months there is likely to be a major change regarding new developments whereby a minimum of one tree has to be planted in either the front of back garden of every new property. Making this mandatory in a Town and County Planning Act amendment, it will provide a positive impact on the environment and enable the trees to host a large range (up to 800 Species) of invertebrates. These could be sycamore, horse chestnut, yew, beech etc. but do not need to be native to this country. In the light of climate change it will be appropriate to introduce trees from the mediterranean as they will now be able to survive in Britain. They are experiencing problems with getting enough water to trees in hot spells of weather and are employing emergency watering to help prevent leaf scorch. The key is to choose **the right tree for the right place.** Even ivy is encouraged – it does not kill trees by climbing but the sheer weight can be a problem. Aesthetics are important in choosing trees and positions but in the light of climate change provision of shade is important. The idea is to link green spaces and community engagement is necessary to make this work. At the moment about 30% of developments are planting trees but the aim is to make this 100% after about 10 years from the legislation being put in place. PW asked if the trees will be listed – there is an ongoing discussion about this. RB asked if ODS could be involved in developing a Community Orchard – this will be well received and having a tangible asset (e.g. fruit for the community) will be very welcome. PC mentioned the Tiny Forests – EW said that there could be a problem of dense habitat with a problem of upkeep and a cost of pollarding. EW was thanked for his very informative talk.	

5.	**Minutes of last Committee Meeting 25 March and Executive Meeting 27 April** • CM advised that the 13 June event as mentioned in AOB of the last Minutes is not now going ahead. • RB asked for the wording of businesses being "unwilling" to help water the planters in Windmill Road be changed to "had difficulty prioritizing" the watering. • CIL funds were being sought for the hanging baskets and the natural tree lights.. • Under 7. Finance EG should be EB. The minutes were then agreed.	
6	**Matters arising** The proposal for Courtside to be nominated for an award has been submitted.	
7.	**Finance** NH advised that the finances are healthy at the moment, partly because funds have been coming in for the Festival from businesses, councillors and charities. The Festival has been budgeted as a break-even event.	
8.	**HA Projects/activities updates** **Market: (PG)** PG was unable to attend this evening but sent the following note which was read out at the meeting: *The market manager's contract was not renewed at the end of March. The market has continued under an interim arrangement and we hope soon to have a new management system in place. This will need approval by the Exec at their next meeting.* **Connecting Communities (JM)** Street parties are being organized by the street contacts. The CC guide is being constantly updated and any further insertions are welcomed. The Activity week in September will be a physical manifestation of the items listed in the Directory with a focus on local businesses. Any ideas will be welcomed.	**ALL**

	PW will liaise with JM to discuss the lack of engagement with local businesses. We want to support them – do they want to take part in our activity week with a stall? Ideas could include board games, a refill shop, or "pay-forward" drinks with businesses reaching out to the community. **Greening (RBe)** Cllr Roz Smith has made a generous donation to provide plants for the Windmill Road planters. We still have the issue of watering and maintenance and RB will contact the helper at the Market who works in Windmill Road to see if he is willing to help with this. EB pointed out that we do need clarification regarding the financing and responsibility for maintenance for these planters that are not HA's. **Festival 2026 – 30/31 May** The weather looks promising! Raffle tickets are being sold and there will be two free films with a bar and pizzas available. The presence in the park on Sunday will be bigger than ever before. **Hanging baskets and CIL bid** RB thanked EB for helping her write the bid for CIL monies (circulated with the papers for this meeting). The bid is for baskets on 25 lampposts and for ODS to put them up and water them. The cost is £3,138.75 and the Committee endorsed this application – GP proposed and HA seconded.	**PW/JM** **RB**
9.	**AOB** The provision of a Post Office is still under discussion. HA thanked us for the support of the survey (circulated with these papers) which took place in the South Fen and North Fen. These surveys are submitted to the Thames Valley Environmental Agency. She drew our attention to the presence of glow worms in July/August – details will be on the FOLV website. For interest, the most common tree to be found in Headington is the Lime – this is flourishing better than the horse chestnut. HA subsequently sent this note: *Herewith (attached) Judy's spring E-Newsletter. Do take a stroll down the Lye Valley to see the Early Purple Orchids, the Yellow Flag irises and the cotton grasses - fabulous!* *By the way, FOLV will have stalls at the Headington Festival (Sunday 31st June, Bury Knowle Park) and at the Oxford Festival of Nature (Saturday 27th June, Oxford University Museum and Parks). Also, Judy will be stationed in the North Fen most of Sunday 5th July from 10am to show*	

	off the flora to interested visitors. Do come and say 'hello' at any of these events if you are attending. *An invitation:* *Tom Bedford is talking on Birds of Lye Valley at Bullingdon Community Centre on Friday 12th June at 1.45p.m. (Attached). It is a talk open to everyone with donations going to Friends of Lye Valley.* *FOLV AGM is on Thursday 6 August at 6.45 at Bullingdon Community Centre. Do come along. All welcome.*	
10.	**DONM** **29 July in Executive Suite at Oxford Brookes at 7pm**	
11.	The meeting closed at 8.15pm	

LG 30/5/26