

**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021
at 7.00pm**

Via video

Present: 17

Heather Armitage	Friends of Lye Valley
Elsa Bell	HONORARY SECRETARY, <u>VICE CHAIR & TRUSTEE</u>
Rosemary Belton	Friends of Bury Knowle Park
Richard Bradley	Friends of Quarry – CHAIR & TRUSTEE
Patrick Coulter	Headington Neighbourhood Forum – TRUSTEE
Bridget Durning	Community Schools Alliance Trust – TRUSTEE
Liz Grosvenor	ADMIN SUPPORT
Sheila Hurst	New Headington RA
Frank Mckenna	Headington Liveable Streets
Viv Miles	Project Lead on Connected Communities
John Nealon	TREASURER & TRUSTEE
Cllr Glynis Phillips	Oxfordshire County (Barton Sandhills & Risinghurst)
Hilary Seal	St Annes’s, Gathorne, Rock Edge, St Margaret Roads RA
Cllr Chris Smowton	Oxford City (Headington)
Howard Stanbury	Friends of Old Headington
Wendy Vrij	Oxford Brookes
Lesley Williams	Headington Schools Partnership

Apologies: 4

Priscilla Goldby	Market Coordinator
Philippa Logan	Shotover Preservation Society
Anne Partridge	U3A
Cllr Roz Smith	Oxfordshire County (Headington & Quarry) Oxford City (Quarry & Risinghurst)

1.	Welcome and introductions. It was agreed that the new Market Coordinator be admitted to the Executive Committee.	Action
2.	Confirm Minutes of previous meeting held on 29 September Agreed (with an alteration previously submitted that it was Cari and Jason who helped with the move of the Market to Quarry Hollow and not Keith and Theresa Frayn as previously reported)	
3.	Matters Arising including those from the Exec Committee meeting report of 11 October Whilst the Sn106 monies emanating from Brookes were not governed by HA, the figure of c. £30,000 needs to be spent soon. Suggestions have been made for a mural, bike racks, electronic noticeboard etc. but these have not progressed for various reasons, and it has been decided that a number of smaller projects would be more manageable. There is a stipulation that the monies can only be spent in Central Headington/London Road. Suggestions are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trees on Headington Road near Gypsy Lane 2. Shrubs outside Dorset House 3. Planters at the end of Kennett Road 4. Plants for planters in Windmill Road 5. Replacement of bike racks outside St Andrew’s school 	

	<p>6. Improvements to the entrance to Bury Knowle Park</p> <p>GP asked who had organized the planters in Windmill Road and what maintenance was in place. CS reported that Roz had organized them and was currently looking at a maintenance package.</p> <p>Action on the above is with the City Council.</p>	
4.	<p>Update on projects and activities</p> <p>Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going well, and back in London Road. • There will be an extended market on the morning of the Lights switch-on on 4 December and it is hoped that there will be carol singers. • On Wednesday 22 December there will be an extra market. • There will be no further markets until Saturday 8 January. <p>Winter/Christmas lights and 4 December event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the year some strings of lights in the trees have failed and there was insufficient time to address this, so some of the trees have fewer lights than normal. • On 4 December at 4.30 there will be the usual drinks and brownies and mince pies • Santa and his sleigh, courtesy of the round table, are expected to be in attendance, and the Lord Mayor will switch on the lights • WV reported that she is hopeful of getting helpers from Brookes. • Everyone is asked to promote this event. <p>Connected communities</p> <p>VM reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A face to face project group meeting had taken place and the Practice-Care coordinator from the Manor Surgery was a very welcome addition and was fully engaged. We are still seeking the equivalent person from Hedena Health. • Gertrud Pakot, case worker at the City Council based in Barton wishes to be involved. • The launch of CC has been much delayed owing to the pandemic but is now planned for the week of 22 May culminating in the Festival on 28 and 29 May. The subsequent week was considered for CC Week but discounted as many people will be on holiday. • We are seeking a representative of the older community in Headington – maybe someone involved with AgeUK or similar. • We had purchased 20 sets of lights to help light up the streets this year and all sets had been claimed – we were short by 4/5 • Neighbours’ Day was a great success and we received twice the amount of money we had applied for in our bid. • We had been seeking Street Champions and two recruits had withdrawn as the post was too challenging. The role needs reflecting upon and needs to be scaled down. A revised job description will be prepared and we will try to recruit in January. There is c. £8,500 available to fund this. <p>Greening</p> <p>Nothing new to report other than covered elsewhere in these minutes.</p> <p>Headington Centre</p> <p>The vision for this has been produced and discussions have taken place with the City Council which is being very helpful. An urban design consultant is being sought to further this. A CIL application will be prepared to fund this.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>VM</p> <p>PC</p>
5.	<p>Finance</p> <p>CIL application for Spooner Close</p> <p>Councillor Smowton expanded on this application to introduce a dropped curb in this location to aid the elderly, wheelchairs, push chairs, etc (there is someone living close by who uses a wheel chair and</p>	

	<p>currently has an arduous journey to cross the road). This is a County responsibility but there are no funds available for the work. Councillor Smith is prepared to fund 50% of the cost from her community budget and the request submitted is for the remaining 50%. Each party will incur costs of c.£1300. We are aware that there will be other parts of Headington that need the same treatment and CS will investigate as to whether it would be cheaper to do more at once, but he believes that it is costed at piece rate. Building low kerbs is a mandatory requirement that will bring it “up to code”. As we have CIL monies available we probably need to look at where else they are needed. It should be noted that whilst this is a more long-term project the immediate need could be addressed by requesting CIL monies now. However this should not be seen as creating a precedent for funding future work.</p> <p>PC pointed out that this supports Active Travel, and is aware that there are low kerbs missing in Barton Park.</p> <p>CS has agreed to contact SSE about their road works in Barton Road/play area where they have not re-instated a dropped kerb.</p> <p>It was agreed that we support this CIL application. JN to inform the City Council.</p> <p>CIL application for BK Park A previous CIL application approved by this committee was for the purchase of 10 mature cherry trees with single blossom to encourage bees, for BKP. The application was for £5,500 which includes purchase, planting, staking and maintenance. A previous grant of £250 which cannot now be used for the purchase of a silver birch will be added to this sum. It was noted that the CIL application does not have to include VAT as the council will reclaim VAT.</p> <p>Accordingly, the original CIL application for £5,500 is upheld and agreed. JN to inform the City Council.</p> <p>CIL process review The current process allows for applications to be scrutinized by a small committee and invitations to be issued 3 times a year. There is a fast track process for small sums of money, which has been applied in the past. We note that the Clive Booth village development is likely to generate a very large CIL element. One consequence of this is that the CIL application process needs to be reviewed.</p> <p>It is important that any applications and scrutiny by the small committee are scrupulously minuted so that the whole process is transparent to the committee which comprises local councillors and representatives of local organisations.</p> <p>It was clarified that Sn106 monies from Brookes are destined for central Headington only, but CIL monies are available for projects throughout the HNP area.</p> <p>Finance update The Christmas tree and lights cost c. £2,000 and has been funded by CIL money. The market is doing well and we have recently purchased some new gazebos for £1300.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>JN</p> <p>JN</p> <p>Chair/JN/PC</p>
6.	<p>Open discussion and AOB</p> <p>Warren crescent Heather Armitage, representing the Friends of Lye Valley, raised serious concerns about the proposed Council development of 10 houses on Warren Meadow, adjacent to Warren Crescent and above the Lye Valley SSSI fen. She highlighted the parallels between the circumstances which triggered the Aberfan disaster and the factors affecting the proposed development site. Aberfan’s slag heap was saturated by rainfall, was not anchored by vegetation and was undermined by streams flowing beneath, resulting in catastrophe.</p> <p>Similarly, Warren Meadow comprises unstable builders’ rubble and rubbish, mixed with clay which liquefies when deluged by torrential rain. According to the Met Office May 2021 had the 5th heaviest May rainfall since records began. More torrential rain with greater frequency is predicted given Global Warming. In addition a soakaway is planned next to the Meadow edge, into which ALL the rainwater from the 10 houses’ roofs and paving will be directed. The Meadow drops down to a precipitously steep slope into the Lye Valley, with the unstable ‘made ground’ extending right down to the Lye Brook. In addition, springs seep out all along the embankment base, feeding the Lye Valley fen. The trees currently</p>	

	<p>holding the bank together will be cut down as their leaves would foul the soakaway and shade the houses. The tree roots will then die, no longer holding the mix of rubble, rubbish and clay together.</p> <p>So the factors in common with Aberfan are: unstable ground; rain water and springs flowing beneath.</p> <p>A landslide has already occurred some time in the past.</p> <p>Meticulous reading of the technical reports by Dr Judy Webb reveals their deficiencies e.g. a gross under-estimate of the extent of the unstable ‘made ground’; an under-representation of the steepness of the slope into the valley; the absence of any mention of the spring emerging below the bank; no evidence of bore holes having been sunk. Her view is that the technical reports are inadequate and misrepresent the true situation.</p> <p>FoLV understand that the Council is not compelled to build on unsuitable land nor should it ignore important factors that were not known when planning permission was granted in 2016. Large developments to the north, east and south of the city must surely relieve the pressure on the Council to build on unsuitable public green spaces such as Warren Meadow.</p> <p>Agreed that this committee is not expert enough to judge the relative merits of the surveyor’s or Dr Judy Webb’s report but that they have prompted our serious concern over this development. We shall send a copy of these Minutes to the Head of Planning for his comment.</p> <p>In addition, we note that the Oxford Geological Trust has been to look at it and are concerned.</p> <p>In answer to a question from Councillor Smowton, HA reported that the buildings currently there were constructed before the area between the building and the bank edge became a dumping ground for extraneous materials. It is clear from earlier maps that the surrounding ‘ground’ has expanded considerably since the flats were constructed.</p> <p>EScooters The County is undertaking a consultation on e-scooters following the trial. People can have their say by visiting https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/e-scooter-trial-your-views-2021 and filling in the survey, which runs until midnight on 15 December.</p> <p>Coop development There was an exhibition at St Andrews School <u>on Cantay Estates’</u> plan for the Co-op building. The Chair suggested those who could not attend the exhibition might like to see the plans online. See https://www.newheadingtonhotel.info/ Responses can be submitted using the ‘contact us’ facility. We understand that the Post Office will be relocated elsewhere during the works and that it is highly likely this this will be a condition of the planning approval. FM voiced many peoples’ views in saying that any building there, being an entrance to Headington and then Oxford must not have a detrimental effect and should be a beautiful iconic building with high architectural quality.</p> <p>The Chair then wished everyone a Happy Christmas, reminded the meeting about the 4 December switch-on and advised that the next meeting will be in January (see below).</p>	Chair
7.	<p>Dates of the next Committee meetings during 2022</p> <p>26 January via Zoom 30 March via Zoom 25 May 27 July 28 September 30 November</p>	
8.	The meeting closed at 8.28pm	