

Minutes of meeting of New Marston (South) Residents' Association committee held at the Up in Arms at 8 pm on Monday 24th June 2024

Present: Adam Wright (Chair), Tessa Hennessy (Secretary), Roy Darke, Helen Burlingham, Barry Burlingham, Mike Charles, Liz Adams, Nigel Berry

Adam welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Crista and Trevor

Minutes of the last meeting: these were agreed.

Matters arising: TH asked whether we had further about the installation of a bollard on the lane to Park Farm. AW has written a letter of support but heard nothing more. He also wrote to Mark Lygo about improved road markings where Edgeway Road crosses the cycle track but has not received a reply.

AW attended the latest Brookes' liaison meeting and reported that they plan to move all their facilities on to the Headington Hill site, once finances permit.

NB raised the issue of summer schools which use Brookes' accommodation on the Clive Booth site. In past years, this has caused disruption for those living in William Street. AW agreed to raise any issues with the community engagement team at Brookes if this happens again.

Report on finances: AW explained that Fiona has now handed over control of the finances to him and transferred the funds of the association (£235). He is happy to act as treasurer on a temporary basis until a new treasurer is found. A new Nat West account has now been set up and this currently contains just over £130. The following expenses have been incurred in setting up a website: Hosting website - £86; Domain name - £18. These are for 3 years.

It was noted that Cllr Al Morris has now resigned so the £200 promised from his community allocation is no longer available. It was suggested that we ask the existing/new councillor whether they would be prepared to help fund the association. Our running expenses are around £100 per year, including the cost of the AGM.

Website: AW has recently set this up and the site is now live. A list of local organisations/links is included, but more suggestions are welcome, as are photos. AW would like to include details of past chairs including Bill Holman and Roy. It was suggested that minutes of meetings be added as well as our constitution. It was agreed that the website is a good resource and the committee thanked AW for his work in setting it up and maintaining it, until a webmaster is found.

Planning/other issues:

- **New Marston Meadows (NMM):** the work which Oxford University Estates are undertaking on the meadows is very encouraging. The guided walk on 5th June was well attended. Plans for the summer included: installing stock fencing on the right hand side of the meadows (before the river) so that cattle can graze this; installation of water pipes to provide water for cattle; wildlife studies (insects, plants, birds); removal of an unsafe ash tree; citizen science projects; pollarding the willows on the track down to the farm

and continuing to provide comms so that local people know what is happening. OU plans another community event later the year at the weekend. It was noted that all the “disruptive” work is being done in conjunction with Natural England. The car parking by contractors on Ferry Lane is a nuisance and we have written to OU estates about this but they say there is nothing they can do as they don’t own the land.

- **Plans for Exeter/Hertford college playing fields:** AW and others on the committee attended the recent consultation event held in the squash courts on Hertford College playing fields. Notice of this was short but a good number of local people attended and there seems to be broad support for the plans, which include installation of padel courts, changes to the squash court building (installing a floor, café and community space for local usage). Issues of concern: height of the new padel courts, light pollution, lack of lighting on existing path and access. It was noted that an e-scooter park is included in the plans. AW said that the association decided not to put in response at this pre-planning stage and will have the option of commenting once the plans are submitted.
- **Oxford Heritage Asset Register:** Roy updated the committee on progress with two applications, one for the New Marston Meadows (submitted in 2019 and still not decided) and more recently for Millham Ford School (MFS), the latter being a joint application with Feilden Grove Residents’ Association. He was told that a meeting would be held earlier this year for the MFS application but has heard nothing further. It was agreed that Roy would chase up both applications, involving Cllr Mary Clarkson if that would help. MC mentioned that the Department of Archaeology at OU is doing some work on ridge and furrows with a view to getting these protected.
- **Local Plan 2040:** Roy said that the Park farm field is no longer included in the Local Plan as a potential site for development. The Plan highlights the need for housing and the public enquiry later this year will look at this issue.
- **Date of AGM:** this is likely to be Wednesday 18th September (to be confirmed) at St Michael and All Angels church. TH asked whether we should invite a speaker and the bursar of Hertford college was suggested as a possibility.
- **AOB:** there was none and the meeting finished at 9.06 pm