

Minutes of meeting of New Marston (South) Residents' Association committee held at 8 pm on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at OCIS

Present: Adam Wright (Chair), Tessa Hennessy (Secretary), Roy Darke, Liz Adams, Nigel Berry

Adam welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Charles, Helen and Mike.

Minutes of AGM: these were agreed.

Matters arising: AW has received lengthy emails from some of the Ferry Road residents who attended the AGM with concerns about the SSSI status of the field behind Ferry Road (which remains uncut by the tenant). Residents have written to the owner of the field, Trinity College, about their concerns that the field is not being managed in accordance with Natural England guidelines. Mary Clarkson has also written to Trinity. It was agreed that we should wait and see what happens before taking any action.

Report from chair/finances: AW was pleased with how the AGM went, and Judy Webb's talk. Some people have said the timing of the meeting meant they could not attend because of being away in September. It was suggested that we review the timing for 2025. The AGM cost £65 to put on, including printing costs, and £48 was received in donations. The balance in the bank account currently stands at £115.

Planning/other issues:

- **Illegal bikes/e-scooters on cycle track:** AW has written to Thames Valley Police and Mary Clarkson about this issue. TVP say that they are aware of the issue and have confiscated 40 illegal e-bikes in the city. It was felt that installing signage would not make any difference and that better monitoring of the cycle path is needed. CPSOs used to patrol the track but no one has seen any for some years now.
- **Parking on Ferry Lane:** TH reported that the county council has finally replied to Mary Clarkson's email sent in August, suggesting a meeting to discuss the parking situation, which they say is "complicated". In the meantime, practical solutions are being explored and it is proposed that planters are installed at the side of lane (where the cars are parked) to prevent parking. The cost of this is being explored. Both local city councillors have said they would be willing to use their community grants towards the cost of planters.
- **Plans for Exeter/Hertford college playing fields:** nothing further has been heard about the plans. RD queried whether a lockable bollard on the track down to Park farm was still needed, given that the car parking situation at the farm has been resolved (by installing planters).
- **Oxford Heritage Asset Register:** RD has made a formal complaint to the council about the lack of progress with the application re Millham Ford School which he considers is

“heritage washing”. The application was submitted to the council two years ago. The meeting promised in early in 2024 to discuss this did not take place. RD will also chase up the application regarding New Marston Meadows (once he has located the paperwork), though this is less pressing now the University is managing the meadows.

- **Local Plan 2040:** RD said that the Planning Inspectorate has rejected the latest plan on the grounds that it was not robust and did not follow formal Department of Environment rules for determining housing need. The council will now need to draw up a new plan and go through the process again. In the meantime, there is no blueprint against which planning decisions are decided.

Date of next meeting: March 2025, date to be confirmed.

AOB:

- AW attended the latest Brookes’ liaison meeting and raised the issue of the lack of landscaping work at the Clive Booth site. He was told that the work has been delayed until the building work is completed.
- Local residents are unhappy with the bus service from Marston into Oxford. AW has written to Mary Clarkson about this. She has said that until the bus gates are activated the service is unlikely to improve.
- The council did not remove grass cuttings from the verges when they cut them in late summer. This defeats the object of cutting the grass once a year to improve biodiversity. Mary Clarkson has taken this up with ODS.
- TH reported that a resident on William Street has raised the issue of light pollution from the new student accommodation blocks. It was agreed that the association would raise this with OBU at their next residents’ liaison meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm.