

## Minutes of meeting of New Marston (South) Residents' Association committee held at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 on Teams

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

Adam welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.

**Minutes of last meeting:** these were agreed.

**Matters arising:** AW reported that the planning application to build three houses on Ferry Lane has been rejected.

**Report from chair/finances:** There is still £115 in the bank account which should keep NMSRA running for another two years, with donations made at the AGM. Longer term, we will need to find more funds to keep running.

### **Planning/other issues:**

- **Plans for Exeter/Hertford college playing fields:** an email from the bursar of Exeter College to CP and AW has revealed that they are not happy about having to go through more hoops to meet the requirements of statutory consultees/the planning department. The EA has asked for a proper flood assessment; the County Council and Sport England also have concerns. There is a sense that if the application is rejected, the colleges might give up. The planning committee is likely to consider the application in October, which will be after our AGM. RD's view is to wait and see, though without modification from the original plans, he thinks the council is likely to reject them. Cllr Mary Clarkson has been keeping AW up to date with the application.
- **Field behind Ferry Road:** AW has put the spokespersons for the Ferry Road residents in touch with Nigel Fisher of OU Estates. Nigel has suggested a different approach to the issue of managing the SSSI and AW has heard nothing more.
- **Draft Local Plan 2042:** some residents have received a document from the City Council asking for their views on the proposed approach to the local plan. RD said that the latest proposals evidence similar tension as with previous plans between the growing economy and housing need. His view is that the risk of development on the Marston meadows is diminished now that OU is managing them for conservation. NB has looked at the links in the document and has concerns that Marston Road and Old Road are designated as an "area of focus" with no explanation as to what this means and the implications for New Marston. RD agreed to contact the planning department to ask them about this. There was also concern raised about what will happen with Millham Ford school now that Oxford Brookes has decided to sell it. The recent listing on OHAR gives no guarantees that the site won't be developed for housing. RD will ask about this too and then liaise with NB about a possible response from NMSRA to the consultation.

- **Flooding Action Plan:** HB said there has not yet been a meeting and agreed to contact Cllr Kate Robinson to remind her. The recent burst water main in wider Marston was mentioned. This has been fixed, for now at least.
- **OBU liaison meeting:** NB attended the June meeting. The main issue for our area was the light spill from the new blocks on the Clive Booth site. OBU has agreed to fit sensors and timers to limit this. A NISA Express has opened on the site and is available for anyone to use. Cherry Block will be fitted out for use and the pedestrian walkway through the site will be properly landscaped. Little expenditure is planned for the wider OBU estate over the next few years. The issue of flooding in late 2024 experienced by St Michael's Primary School was raised with OBU responding that this could not be due to the Clive Booth development as they have installed holding tanks.
- **Our AGM 2025:** it was agreed that this would be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October . TH agreed to book a venue. AW asked for ideas for an external speaker.

**AOB:** LA reported that some of the whip trees planted on Ferry Lane by OU are smothered by weeds. It was agreed that LA would contact Nigel Fisher about this.

RD reported that the current tenants at Park Farm would be moving on soon. There was speculation as to whether the building would be used to house post grads working in conservation.