

Minutes of meeting of New Marston (South) Residents' Association committee held at 5.30 pm on Monday 18th May 2026 on Teams

Present: Adam Wright (Chair), Tessa Hennessy (Secretary), Liz Adams, Mike Charles, Chris Lewis, Charles Parrack, Helen Burlingham

Adam welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting. Apologies were received from Nigel Berry

Minutes of AGM: these were approved.

Matters arising: none

Co-option of Charles Parrack to committee: this was unanimously passed. CP apologised for not being at the AGM.

Local Plan 2045 Consultation: TH and NB prepared a document responding to the final draft of the Local Plan for Oxford. This was submitted in March. Comments from consultees were restricted to the way in which the document is "unsound". Our response concentrated on those parts of the Plan which impact our local area i.e. additional housing adjacent to St Clements Church, the Government Buildings/Harcourt House, student accommodation at Clive Booth and Millham Ford School (MFS). The response highlighted local flooding issues inc. sewage at the bottom of Ferry Road and impact on New Marston Meadows SSSI, concerns about the Local Wildlife Site at Millham Ford, poor transport links and inadequate facilities for the local community. CL said that there was no mention of development of MFS at the recent Oxford Brookes liaison meeting. CP said he works for Brookes and will let the committee know if he hears anything concerning their plans for MFS.

Action: TH agreed to contact Oxford City Council to find out about next steps in the process.

Ferry Road flooding: AW contacted Thames Water (TW) following the AGM and was told that they carried out checks and found no sewage at the bottom of Ferry Road. They reported that they have cleaned 390 metres of local sewers. Cllr Mary Clarkson has also raised the issue with TW, particularly regarding the attenuation tanks in New Marston Rec. HB said these are not adequate. AW proposed that we engage in a publicity campaign, taking photos at the next flooding event and sending these to the Oxford Mail. This was agreed as a way forward in response to what is a long term local problem.

Parking outside OCIS: AW has been in touch with the new bursar at OCIS regarding the issues of illegal car parking. The bursar has said they have put in measures to prevent this including placing traffic cones North of the site. The county council reported that during a 3 week period over Ramadan they issued 98 fines to those parking illegally. The bursar has emailed to alert us to additional car parking at second Eid at the end of May and said they will monitor the situation. Comments by committee members included: why can't OCIS discourage car use and why don't they use the car park adjacent to Headington Hill Park (used for film crews from time to time)? CL pointed out that we wish to maintain good relations with OCIS but feels they could do more to resolve the current parking issue.

Action: AW agreed to email the bursar of OCIS to raise these points.

Field behind Ferry Road: AW said that at our 2024 AGM a number of local residents raised concerns about the poor management of this field, which is tenanted. Nigel Fisher of OU Green Estates (which manage adjacent Park Farm) met with residents in February to allay their concerns and is trying to set up a forum of local landowners to discuss land management of Marston meadows. It seems that this issue is resolved for now. NF will check the field again later in the summer.

Funds from Save our Somerset: AW reported that NMSRA has received an unexpected windfall of £1,842.44 from the successful campaign to save our local pub, now the Up in Arms. This means that our total funds stand at £1,962.36. There is a caveat that SOS funds might be needed in future for a further pub campaign and/or supporters might ask for their money back. The latter seems unlikely given that a notice has been posted on Marston Mums alerting people to the decision to transfer funds and no requests have been received. AW said that NMSRA (which has running costs of around £100 p.a.) now has a solid financial footing. It was suggested that we produce a flier along with notice of our next AGM.

Date of next meeting: AW proposed late August/early September for our next meeting. The timing of our next AGM was discussed and it was suggested we keep with January for now.

AOB: CL reported that she attended the recent liaison meeting between Oxford Brookes and local organisations. She said that they weren't specific about their plans and mentioned that they don't have any proposals for the now derelict property they own on Pullens Lane. A water leak on upper John Garne Way seems to have been fixed by private contractors and should improve local flooding (or exacerbate it?). It was noted that there has been a water leak on Headington Hill. HB said that TW needed to get on top of water leaks.

AW and CP met with the Hertford College bursar earlier in the year following the refusal of planning permission for the playing field development. It seems that the plans are unlikely to change unless there is a material shift in the situation, so it's a case of "watch this space".

The meeting ended at 18.26 pm.