

Registered Charity No. 1170517

www.headingtonaction.org

headingtonaction@gmail.com

DRAFT Minutes of Committee Meeting

held on 29 November 2023 at 7.00pm in the Executive Suite

Oxford Brookes University

Present: 15

Marion Ackrill	Friends of Headington Hill Park (FoHHP)
Heather Armitage (HAr)	Friends of Lye Valley (FoLV)
Elsa Bell	HONORARY SECRETARY, VICE CHAIR & TRUSTEE
Rosemary Belton (RBe)	Friends of Bury Knowle Park (FoBKP)
Richard Bradley (RBr)	Friends of Quarry (FoQ) – TRUSTEE & ACTING CHAIR
Liz Grosvenor	ADMINISTRATOR
Neil Holdstock	FINANCE OFFICER
Sheila Hurst (SHu)	New Headington Residents' Association
Fiona Mckenzie	TREASURER
Viv Miles	Project Lead on Connected Communities – TRUSTEE
John Nealon	Headington Neighbourhood Forum
Andrea Siret	Oxford Brookes University
Cllr Chris Smowton	Oxford City (Headington)
Peter West	Oxford Business Action Group
Jim Woods	Shotover Preservation Society

Guests: 2 Sue Holden (SHo) (Barton Community Association)
Kristine Bunayog (Barton Community Association)

Guest speaker: 1 Dr Martin Christlieb (Blood and Transplant Research Unit)

Apologies: 8

Cllr Liz Brighthouse	Oxfordshire County (Churchill & Lye Valley)
Patrick Coulter	Headington Neighbourhood Forum – TRUSTEE
Priscilla Goldby	Market coordinator
Cllr Glynis Phillips	Oxfordshire County (Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst)
Sonja Roffey	Mileway gardens Residents' Association
Hilary Seal	St Anne's Road, Gathorne Road, Rock Edge, Margaret Road
Howard Stanbury	Friends of Old Headington
Lesley Williams	Headington Schools Partnership

1.	Elsa Bell in the Chair	Action
	Welcome and introductions to all members and to our guest speaker Dr Martin Christlieb.	

	Apologies as above.	
2.	<p>Presentation by Dr Martin Christlieb, Patient and Public Involvement Lead- Blood and Transport Research Unit: Genomics to Enhance Microbiology Screening</p> <p>The unit based in Oxford is testing new approaches to improve the safety of blood donation.</p> <p>Martin described their work and discussed how local people can assist their research.</p> <p>Subsequently he sent us the summary of his presentation (attached):</p> <p>Dr Christlieb then asked for questions.</p> <p>SH asked if this exercise would reduce the amount of blood collected? A: Their hope is to personalize the risk assessment so that maybe a suspect donor can, in fact, be used.</p> <p>HAr asked if this created a simplification of the A/B/O groups that we know? A: A virus identification is more important than identifying a blood group.</p> <p>RBr asked what they are wanting to do with us? A: Research is better if done with people, rather than theoretically. A conversation will be had to determine whether the person wants to know the outcome of the testing. Small groups are being sought at this stage. One source is to engage with people who have been refused to donate. The objective is to reduce the risk for the donor.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of previous Committee Meeting held on 27 September 2023 – confirmed.</p> <p>and Exec Minutes of 30 October – confirmed.</p> <p>Matters arising: It has been noted that the boxes in Windmill Road have now been filled up with some very attractive planting.</p>	
4.	<p>Christmas lights event</p> <p>The event takes place on Saturday 2 December from 4.15. This takes a lot of organizing.</p> <p>We encourage people to dress warmly and come and enjoy the City of Oxford choir and the appearance of Father Christmas. Our local MP Anneliese Dodds and the Lord Mayor, Cllr Lubna Arshad will be present. The Lord Mayor will switch on the lights.</p>	

5.	<p>Headington Festival</p> <p>Despite our leaflet and poster campaign and personal contacts we do not have a Chair for the Festival Committee to put on the 2024 Festival.</p> <p>Four months ago, we set a deadline for appointing a new Chair by the end of September as various tasks, including seeking funds, have to be done from October onwards. This was reviewed at our full committee meeting in September and the importance of having a Chair was ratified.</p> <p>In the light of this, we have regrettably concluded we will not be able to run the usual Festival next year. It may be that we can run an alternative and simpler event on the Sunday, and that Oxford Round Table may wish to run an event on the Saturday as in 2023. The Exec committee will decide next actions, including communicating decisions to the public, when they meet in December.</p> <p>We intend that the usual festival will take place in 2025. We hope to expand the committee with a view to attracting a new chair.</p>	
6.	<p>HA Projects</p> <p>Connected Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VM was pleased to report that because of the distribution of free lights to households, additional street contacts have been recruited. • The Community Activity Directory is now in print form as well as online, and is being constantly updated. Further contributions from our groups are encouraged. SHO suggested that the booklet be given out to new residents and VM will liaise with her to arrange this. <p>Greening</p> <p>RBe reported that she is working with Brookes on a project to introduce more pollinators in Headington.</p> <p>Market</p> <p>PG advised (in her absence) that there will be a big Christmas market on 23 December to include pre-ordered goods to pick up, as well as the normal fayre.</p> <p><i>She had also advised that there will be a no market on 30th December. Restarting in new year on 6th January.</i></p> <p>Barton Community Association (BCA)</p> <p>Sue Holden expanded on the information * we previously sent out to our members explaining that last year they had helped 50 families at Christmas.</p> <p>She explained that parts of Barton are an area of high deprivation. The families they help may be on zero hours contracts, on a minimum wage, experiencing a perpetual struggle to survive, and the BCA aim to make a difference by supplying clothes and birthday gifts. She explained they help those who try to help themselves, rather than those who do not try.</p>	VM

	<p>Last year they introduced slow cookers as a cheap way to feed a family and 20 families were helped in this way and said that they had made a big difference.</p> <p>She encourages everyone to spread the word about this initiative and to help fund it. * Here are the attachments again.</p> <p>In view of the diverse community she works in she agreed to liaise with Dr Christlieb to assist his project.</p> <p>Headington Centre Improvement</p> <p>RBr (on behalf of PC) advised that meetings had now taken place with the City and County to discuss the implementation of the plan. A working group has been set up with both councils, and the plan will be incorporated into the new Local Plan 2040. A stakeholder meeting will take place in January to prioritise the projects.</p> <p>Headington Hill Park</p> <p>MA has forwarded a poster about People, Plants and Pollinators which has now gone on the HA website. She encourages everyone to contact her (email address on the website) if they would like any advice or can offer help.</p>	
7	<p>Finance</p> <p>Courtside has received planning permission for their plans for BKP and aims to complete the development by March 2024. Whilst the £33k CIL application has obtained recommendation from this committee, use of this CIL money still needs to be publicised to the community before it can go to the City Council for formal approval. NH will deal with this.</p> <p>CIL application for a contribution towards the renewal of the BKP basketball hoop in the sum of £1,500.</p> <p>CS presented the application. Comments were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite a decision to recommend CIL funds not having been given by us, the council have already carried out the work. • There was concern about its location, with a large amount of unsightly tarmac in the middle of green space. • RBr pointed out that this application was for a refurbishment of someone else's equipment, not part of a new capital project. • RBe said that the council had said at the FoBKP AGM that it <u>was</u> a capital project but there was no consultation about the proposed location. She also said that if we were to support the project retrospectively then they would want a lower hoop as well for wheelchair users. <p>The proposer, CS, left the room while we voted on the application to recommend 10% of the cost of refurbishment of the hoops from CIL funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results: For 4 Against 6 Abstentions 4 • The application was therefore <u>refused</u> on the grounds that 	NH

	<p>the community had not been adequately consulted and that the siting is unsuitable.</p> <p>FMk advised that Finders Keepers have sponsored the Christmas Tree and lights this year and they have been duly invoiced.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>HAr drew our attention to a proposed development on Valencia Road which would contravene the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>CS subsequently sent us this response:</p> <p><i>In the current local plan it is listed as policy SP61, on page 213 (https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/download/1176/oxford_local_plan_2016-2036) -- "Planning permission will only be granted for residential development on this site. The minimum number of homes to be delivered is 12."</i></p> <p><i>By contrast in the draft Local Plan 2040 now out for consultation (https://consultation.oxford.gov.uk/planning-services/oxford-local-plan-2040-reg19-consultation/supporting_documents/OCC%20Local%20Plan%202040%20%20highres%20no%20cut%20marks.pdf) the site is no longer mentioned. On asking officers in writing, they said "due to constraints and only part of the site being available, uncertain whether net gain would be 10+ dwellings, so not allocated in LP2040 (would be windfall instead)." That means that ambitions for the site had shrunk, and since Local Plan policies can only be set for sites delivering 10+ homes, the site was dropped.</i></p> <p><i>"Would be windfall instead" implies that (as with any site) the Council or anyone else can still request permission to build there, so I asked Cllr Linda Smith at Council on Monday whether there was any intention to pursue development there even at a smaller scale. Her written answer said that the council "could" apply to develop there in the future; on pressing her as to whether the site was actively being planned or had budget assigned, she said no, but it could potentially be revisited in future.</i></p> <p><i>Of course it always remains an option for them to go back to, but my interpretation is the idea is in the long grass for the time being.</i></p> <p><i>Chris</i></p>	
8.	<p>Rotating Chair</p> <p>The highlighted months indicate the Committee meeting dates, and the others are Exec meeting dates.</p> <p>December – Patrick 2024 January, February, March – Elsa</p>	
8.	<p>DONM 31 January Committee Meeting at 7pm in Brookes CLC G.07</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 8.43pm</p>	