

**Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021 at
7.00pm
Via video**

Present: 20

Heather Armitage	Friends of Lye Valley
Elsa Bell	HONORARY SECRETARY, VICE CHAIR & TRUSTEE
Rosemary Belton	Friends of Bury Knowle Park
Richard Bradley	Friends of Quarry – CHAIR & TRUSTEE
Keith Frayn	Rambler/ Former Co-Chair Market Committee
Theresa Frayn	Former Co-Chair Market Committee
Priscilla Goldby	Market Coordinator
Liz Grosvenor	ADMIN SUPPORT
Sheila Hurst	New Headington RA
Viv Miles	Project Lead on Connected Communities
John Nealon	TREASURER & TRUSTEE
Anne Partridge	U3A
Cllr Glynis Phillips	Oxfordshire County (Barton Sandhills & Risinghurst)
Hilary Seal	St Annes's, Gathorne, Rock Edge, St Margaret Roads RA
Cllr Roz Smith	Oxfordshire County (Headington & Quarry) Oxford City (Quarry & Risinghurst)
Cllr Chris Smowton	Oxford City (Headington)
Howard Stanbury	Friends of Old Headington
Wendy Vrij	Oxford Brookes
Lesley Williams	Headington Schools Partnership
Guest Speaker	Lenny Sackey (Oxford City Council)

Apologies: 7

Cllr Liz Brighouse	Oxfordshire County (Churchill & Lye Valley)
Cllr Susan Brown	Oxford City – Leader (Churchill)
Patrick Coulter	Headington Neighbourhood Forum – TRUSTEE
Bridget Durning	Community Schools Alliance Trust – TRUSTEE
Tony Joyce	Oxford Civic Society
Sonya Roffey	Mileway Gardens RA
Cllr Linda Smith	Oxford City (Lye valley)

1.	<p>Welcome and introductions.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, and particularly two visitors, Lenny Sackey, our speaker for tonight, and Priscilla Goldby our new Market Coordinator</p> <p>Priscilla introduced herself and thanked Theresa and Keith Frayn for their brilliant work in steering the market over the difficult recent months, by setting up the market in Quarry Hollow during the pandemic and then overseeing the move back to London Road.</p> <p>Theresa responded by saying that Priscilla had been one of many volunteers who had supported the market at QH during all weathers and had helped to make the move back to London Road go smoothly.</p>	Action
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	<p>She appreciated that some people were sad to see the market move away from such an attractive venue, but reiterated that staying there would not have been viable when new City Council charges would have kicked in, and also, with the ending of the pandemic and the opening of shops there was a lesser footfall for the market.</p> <p>Elsa also thanked the Festival Committee for helping with the move which, thankfully, took place in good weather. She also thanked Anne & Geoff Mc Illhinney and Neil Holdstock and the Round Table for organising the entertainment and providing practical support on the day .</p>	
2.	<p>Confirm Minutes of previous meeting held on 28 July Agreed.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising including those from the Exec Committee meeting report of 9 August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Womens’ Cycle Tour – since our last meeting the route of the cycle tour has been moved such that it does not now come through Headington. • Update on the Lye Valley: HA reminded us that this issue had been going on since 2015, whereby cars at the houses near the entrance to the valley were driving over the Lye Valley footpath and habitats despite having their own entrances. Unfortunately, the City Council has now decreed that those properties can have vehicle access despite not having right of way over this land, and the gate that had been requested has now been erected in a position which effects this ruling. 	
4.	<p>Diversity and Inclusion</p> <p>Presentation and discussion led by Lenny Sackey, Oxford City Council. He is the Deputy Equality Coordinator for the City Council and works with young people, and those with disadvantaged backgrounds, and he works all over the city.</p> <p>The Chair introduced this topic so that we pay more attention to diverse groups to make them feel more included in what we do. This initiative follows on from recent discussions of the Diversity working group. The recommendations from these meetings were presented to, and agreed by, the committee at a previous meeting. One recommendation was that we should recruit someone to join the Executive to further Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). He invited thoughts from our groups.</p> <p>Lenny commenced his presentation by referring to the 2011 census demographic figures in order to address: Equity – ensuring that all groups are treated the same regardless of race, gender, disability, age etc. Diversity – respecting differences in culture and encouraging their participation Inclusivity – feeling part of the place or group and helping to shape that group. Valued contributions gives strength to that group</p> <p>The 2011 demographic figures for Headington are:</p> <p>60% under 45 55% female 20% non-white (15% Asian, 5% Afro Caribbean) 5% with a physical disability 50% work in professional/managerial jobs</p> <p>He demonstrated the issue with the following analogy: You are organizing a party made up of different friendship groups – they do not all feel connected to each other. You need to make sure that these diverse groups of people are able to speak to each other You need to ensure that they feel included. You need to ensure that they are integrated and feel equally part of the party.</p>	

The meeting was then asked for their thoughts:

Viv thought that groups need a **designated person** to do an impact assessment on those affected e.g. ethnic groups. Also to evaluate the positive and negative affect to groups such as the visually impaired.

Rosemary said that the structure of the Friends of BKP is currently over 60s, mainly women – they would like to encourage younger people and parents but how do you do that? The problem that most groups have is that it is generally only the older and retired who have the time to partake in these groups.

They have recently done a survey of the paths and **access with a wheelchair user** and this proved to be very informative.

They would really like to encourage older teenagers to get involved.

Sheila shares Rosemary's comments as the New Headington RA which consists of white, 70+ people who struggle to engage with younger people. They have tried approaching other ethnic groups but to no avail.

Roz suggests that BKP engages with Oxfordshire Youth who use the park – this could be fruitful, as there is nothing for older teenagers to engage with in Headington. **Teenagers today engage more with social media than real live contact with people.**

Heather suggests introducing a **skateboard facility** in the park – possibly where the crazy golf used to be – youngsters are keen on this activity. She says that many EU residents are keen on **allotments** as they often have an agricultural heritage. The Friends of the Lye Valley have volunteer scouts of **various nationalities**, likewise volunteers from Headington School (many from Hong Kong), and students from Brookes who are also a very diverse group. She likens this diversity to the nature of the plants and insects they protect in the Valley.

Elsa wondered if all **organisations should have a diversity representative** –it is all too easy to organise events and forget, for example, that a wheelchair user cannot participate.

Howard's group in Old Headington is more interested in conservation and scrutinising planning applications, the Local Plan, Transport papers etc, and their group mainly comprises older people – the youngest is in their early 40's, but they do have mixed genders. He will take a look at the 2011 demographic data and evaluate their recruitment. They are open to all groups to attend their **Open Gardens Scheme**, but accessibility cannot be guaranteed in private gardens. Their winter meeting which incorporates a lecture and social occasion is open to all. A recent lecture was entitled "How to live Young"

Hilary welcomed the greater community feeling that had developed in her RA during lockdown. However, she was concerned that the group that had taken up the invitation to meet regularly could, in itself, be seen as a clique and is therefore a barrier to other residents who were more reticent.

Roz – says that we need to be more age-friendly in our streets by persuading them to attend events – when they do they are invariably pleased that they were invited. She says **food brings people together** and events could be organized around eating. In her local street the egg and spoon race during Neighbours' day attracted many ages and **many nationalities**.

Anne represents U3A which is 100% white, elderly and retired. She hopes that as the ethnic population gets older they might feel able to join.

Rosemary is going to put these issues on the next BKP meeting agenda.

Wendy is Dutch and has a Nigerian husband. She says that their mixed family is made very welcome in Headington. She notices that shop owners are not all British and Brookes do a lot of work around the subject of race equality reaching across Headington's foreign students with many inclusive meetings. She suggests that BKP could organize events that might attract more diverse groups.

Richard said he would put the subject on the agenda of the next Friends of Quarry committee meeting.

Elsa cautioned against the inadvertent excluding of some groups that are covered by the Equality Act by our focusing on the more obvious groups such as those within the categories of Race and Disability.

Lenny's summing up:

There is a need for

- Relationship building and finding out how to connect with youths.
- Look at the DNA of the diverse groups in order to address the elements of EDI.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He recommended that, for example when organizing parties we showcase the flags of the countries' diverse groups represented <p>He is happy to come to another meeting to pursue these issues. The Chair thanked him for his attendance and for encouraging us to take this forward.</p>	
5.	<p>Update on projects and activities</p> <p>The ongoing projects were in the Executive report but further to this: Neighbours' Day was very successful with 14 events that we knew about. We also got a larger lottery grant than we asked for. Winter/Christmas events will be addressed shortly. The trees should be lit in November – we do not know yet if we can have a Christmas tree because of the ongoing works at the ex Barclays Bank. EB wondered whether we should align the events with other faiths' celebrations like Diwali etc. and display their flags and symbols – we will discuss this further. We understand that there will be Light Festivals in various parts of Oxford between 17 & 19 November.</p>	
6.	<p>Finance</p> <p>We got £1500 lottery funding of which £500 was allocated to equipment for people to borrow for events. It cost us £2,000 to move the market</p> <p>Grants</p> <p>A grant of £499 was given to Barton to purchase a laptop. This was approved by members by email. One Small Sparks application was for setting up Hula-hoop sessions in BK Park. This was approved by Exec. We have previously approved a grant application from Friends of Bury Knowle Park (FoBKP) for bulbs. A CIL application from FoBKP for cherry trees along the diagonal path has been approved by members by email, subject to a quote being obtained and attached to the application which then goes to the City Council. RB will shop around to get the best deal on cherry tree prices – they need to be mature to avoid damage and wanton vandalism. The Parks department will charge £300 to plant and stake them. HA queried the type of cherry tree and said that it should be a variety that encourages birds and insects – they will liaise on this.</p> <p>HS wondered what proportion of CIL funding was being used for this project. The answer is c. 6% - we have c. £80,000 CIL funds available and any decision to spend this is determined by the City Council.</p> <p>We have agreed to help sponsor the calendar for St Andrew's School – this will have our logo on.</p> <p>CIL applications and Sn106 money</p> <p>Our local Councillors and Exec members are currently having discussions on how we can spend these monies – some ideas are for bike racks, planters etc.</p>	RB/HA
7.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HA said it would be nice to replace the tree that used to be outside the ex HSBC Bank. Cllr Smowton is currently liaising with Kennett Road to do some tree planting and he will include this. Highfield RA also has funds for a project like this. • VM raised the problem of the dog-free area in BKP that can also be rented out for outside events. Apparently the dog-free signs have disappeared – they will be resurrected asap. • Talks are progressing with <i>Courtside</i> and the Council regarding the tennis courts and the pavilion – watch this space. 	
8.	Date of next meeting 24 November via Zoom	
9.	The meeting closed at 8.33pm	