

DRAFT Minutes

FOIV AGM

1 November 2023, 7.30-9.00pm, Church Hall Iffley
(presentation by TVP at 8.15pm)

1. Welcome to members, and to City and County Councillors

Apologies from: Cllrs Brad Baines, Shaista Aziz, Ed Turner and Committee member Rachel Falconer

FOIV members: Terence and Judith English, Chris Rust.

Welcome to PCSOs Jonny Little and Thomas Taylor

Approx 50 members in attendance at the AGM.

FOIV Committee Present: Troth Wells (Chair), Ian Maclean (Vice Chair and lead on Iffley Mead); Hannah Newbury (Secretary and Security); Martin Reed (Treasurer); Alex Coren (Highways); Dominic Woodfield (Ecology); Bill Beaver (Court Place); Dave Broughton; Anna di Stefano; Celia Palmer (Trees); Caroline Mason (Membership); Martin Lister (Membership); Katrina Robinson, Peggy Seeger.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM, Corrections/MA

Minutes approved with no corrections. Member asked that in the future please put the documents, in particular the minutes of last year onto the FOIV website before the meeting – duly noted.

Matters arising –

Caroline Pond asked for clarification on OxPlace's decision on Nuala Young grazing horses in the field – TW confirmed the response was a no.

3. Chair's report

The Chair read out her report for the year, with an intro and conclusion generated by ChatGPT.

FOIV membership now c430, with 300 signed up for the e-newsletter. The sub for 2024-5 will be £5, due in January. We are moving towards online ticketing and membership facilities, and have widened communications and engagement with e-newsletters, use of WhatsApp groups, Next Door, Daily Information as well as the regular print newsletter. Another busy year with the Coronation in May; we put on events with FoSM, IHS and IMS and the Glebe Field opened; thanks to OPT. Enjoyable Peggy Seeger and Julia Hollander 'Why we sing' event in September. Poet Jackie Kay will be coming in December.

At a public meeting in September, County Cllr Brad Baines guided us through implications of a Controlled Parking Zone in Iffley, should it arise. No formal CPZ application as yet.

Reports follow, but note that for the Horse Fields' application there were 1,000 formal responses on the City's Planning portal – a huge response – with some 98% of those objecting to it, including from statutory consultees such as the Environment Agency. Thanks to the experts' reports commissioned by FOIV, which found many flaws and omissions in the application, it is to be revised and come forward again. An independent Crowd Funder is to be set up to pay for further experts' reports.

The work of FOIV is very wide-ranging, dealing with burglaries, traffic issues, noise, leaks, trees et al. Thanks to committee member Dave Broughton, the Prince of Wales pub is now registered as a community asset. Happily it is now open again, and Iffley's second defibrillator is re-installed there.

We noted the retirement of Andrew and Sarah McKearney of St Mary's after many years, and thank them for their work in the village and area.

We noted with sadness the deaths of several Iffley friends, in particular former FOIV Treasurer, Kate Griffin. Thanks noted to the committee for their support and hard work in another challenging year.

Particular thanks go to:

Chris Steele and Juliette Gammon for their work to support the committee with their work on the website and print newsletter respectively.

Thanks to Mercure Hawkwell House for hosting committee meetings.

Thanks to Thomas King for his support with the AV system at tonight's meeting.

4. Committee reports – questions were invited from the floor by the Chair on each of the reports at FOIV website at <https://friendsofiffley.org/about-foiv/>)

Court Place:

PH commented that OUD would like to thank all their neighbours for their patience and will hope to complete the work in the next year. He also highlighted that Felthams contributed financially to the last FOIV event, and thanks is noted to Felthams for this.

FOIV will continue to focus on working with Felthams to open up the view down to the river.

Horse Fields:

Question from the floor: Statutory consultees: What did the highways agency say in response to the application?

DW replied that it is the Oxfordshire County highways officer rather than the Highways Agency. They were broadly satisfied as long as other matters related to the plans were addressed (but please see further discussions below about their unrealistic assumptions about car ownership and parking, which FOIV will be following up on). With the CPZ potential proposal in the village, issues with parking will be exacerbated and FOIV will raise this at the next application round.

Iffley Mead:

Question from the floor to clarify the concern that the council want to build a cycle/walkway along the side of the recreation ground.

DW replied this application went to committee on the 17th and was approved by a majority vote. Issues have since been raised with the decision-making process as the committee was advised by the legal officer that they couldn't consider alternatives. This is not legally correct and has now been challenged and the council invited to reconsider.

Highways report:

Question from the floor: Does anyone in the council have a strategic plan to have the whole of Oxford as a CPZ?

TW replied that Cllr Brad Baines was asked this question and he did not deny it. The understanding of FOIV is that the strategy is to make car travel difficult. TW advised that Cllr Brad Baines devised an unofficial online survey which individuals were advised to respond to. If/when a formal application comes forward, FOIV will make local community aware.

Another member raised concern of the safety of Iffley Turn with the current parking situation which will only get worse, especially for cyclists.

MR - There is an option of low impact CPZ in conservation areas

Member raised that if planning application of the Horse Fields goes ahead then a CPZ will be required, if it does not then maybe not. IM and TW clarified that it is Iffley Mead that is a car-free development, whereas Horse Fields is a limited parking development – albeit not one space per household which will push parking onto the road.

FOIV do not believe the County Council took on the extent of the effects on highways when putting forward the various building proposals in the village.

Member raised that the three developments should be considered as a whole, not as individual developments due to the cumulative effect of over 196 households. This is something that Highways will definitely need to consider when the revised Horse Fields application appears, as their previous response reflected a piecemeal approach.

TW has discussed the fact with Cllr Brad Baines that CPZ creates parking permits. In car free developments such as Iffley Mead, they will not be eligible for parking permits but this does not stop people having a car and parking on roads / elsewhere. Also the building developments have not considered the effects on resources such as doctors.

Member – could there be designated disabled parking bays – committee agreed this is a good suggestion. Thanks noted to Cllr Brad Baines for running an informative consultation for the village on parking and highways.

Security:

TW highlighted that sometimes there is a delay between the reporting and the police responding to security issues. However, FOIV acknowledges the pressures and cuts on the police and public service

Member – highlighted a good experience with the Police following a village break in a couple of years ago and wrote a letter to the chief constable to thank their work: Detectives were there within 10 minutes and an excellent response.

Another member – Dangerous driving in the village is a real concern esp with speeding cars and motorbikes coming down Church Way. What is FOIV doing about this?

TW: all concerns are sent into the police. A monitoring system in the village was suggested after FOIV reported these concerns. FOIV will continue to report things and encourage members to do the same.

5. Treasurer's report and accounts

Accounts to Dec 2022; surplus of £116

Up to date figures, at end of Sept 2023: £7144 bank balance

Report reflects the chairs report

Member commented again that it would be best to have the report available before the meeting in the future.

6. Election of committee members

Thanks to Alex Coren for all he has done as he stands down.

Martin Reed - renewed his term.

Jenny Sakamoto - Proposed by TW and 2nded by RF; carried.

7. AOB

Member - Thank you to the Chair and everyone on the committee for all work done this past year.

8. Presentation by Thomas Taylor and Johnny Little, Police Community Support Officers for the Rosehill, Littlemore and Iffley neighbourhood police team,

‘Neighbourhood policing – how we can help you, and how you can help us’.

Lots of discussion and questions raised relating to the issues of high speed traffic in the village and surrounding areas – especially e-scooters, motorbikes and e-bikes. The policing team urged people to report any such incidents either online via Thames Valley Police or 101.

PCSOs to share their contact details poster with the secretary of FOIV for distribution. Also asked to share the details of the Community Speed Watch contact as well as a list of upcoming ‘have your day’ events they run in the community. This can then be shared with FOIV members both on the website and via newsletters. Thank you once again to the PCSOs for their informative talk and discussion.

Meeting ended at 9.00pm