

Osney Island Residents' Association AGM

19 April 2017

Draft minutes

Present: 23 people attended

Apologies were received from the following: Alan Goodwin, Robert Lawrence, Frances Riches.

1. Minutes of the AGM from 2016 and matters arising

The minutes were accepted as true and accurate records.

2. Chair's Report

Jude Carroll gave an account of last year's 'highs and lows' on the Island.

Lows

- The sudden death of Georg Deutsch in December 2016. Georg was a long-term resident, past OIRA Committee Chair, and enthusiastic supporter of all things social. An obituary by Simon Stubbing was published in the Newsletter subsequently.
- The announcement by Oxford University to replace Osney Mead with a 'Knowledge Park', which could potentially disturb the peacefulness of the Island. Although it has gone quiet in the past months, OIRA will keep an eye on the developments, ensuring that Osney residents are consulted on the plans.
- The outcome of a traffic survey commissioned by OIRA in early 2016 was a disappointment to some Bridge Street residents. The survey did not show levels of speeding that warranted action but OIRA will continue to think of ways to strengthen the 20 MPH limit. In the longer term it is hoped the Environment Agency might relocate their entrance.
- The on-going question of the future of the Holly Bush. It is an issue that has generated the most heat and anger this year amongst Islanders - as well as confirming just how much a lot of residents value the potential asset of a second pub on the Island. When planning permission for a change of use and large attached house was finally sought by the owner in early 2017, 65 people objected and about 10 were strongly in favour. Permission was denied and as things stand, the owner has stated that he wishes to sell the pub, and in a few weeks he may put it on the market. As ever, OIRA will keep a close watch on developments.
- Antisocial and threatening behaviour by a few unwelcome boaters, which has caused concern in East Street. Two boats have been named and residents are asked to report sighting of these boats as well as antisocial behaviour or related negative experience with boaters to the police.

Highs

- Otherwise a busy and enjoyable year on the Island. For keeping the business going thanks are due to a number of residents.
 - To the OIRA Committee for meeting and keeping the ball rolling, especially for Veronika Haacker-Lukacs for the minutes.

- To Anna Truelove and Maureen Ergeneli for spearheading the litter picking campaign.
- To Suzanne Jeffreys for maintaining the notice board.
- To Stephen Lynam for keeping the grit bins functional.
- To Elizabeth Newbery, Maureen, Anna, Veronika, Brian and Joyce Chalmers, Donate Lotz, Julia and Peter Marsh, and many other Islanders for organising and contributing to social gatherings, with special mention of the highly successful Tea on the Towpath last December.
- To Tony Roberts for maintaining the website for many years and to Jane Buekett, who has recently taken it over.
- To Robert Lawrence for maintaining the e-mail list.
- To Elizabeth Newbery for the Newsletter, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2017.
- To Cllr Susanna Pressel for assisting OIRA and keeping it informed of Council matters.

3. Highs and lows from the attendees

Highs

- The new lock keeper
- Arts trail
- The Environment Agency being good and helpful neighbours especially with regards to flood control
- Living on Osney
- Open Gardens
- Welcome packs

Lows

- Water pressure problems earlier this year

4. Treasurer's report (attached)

Jula Turner circulated her report.

It was agreed that subscriptions should increase to £3 (waged) and £1 (unwaged) per household.

5. Election of Committee Members

JC is standing down as Chair and not standing again for the committee.

Stephen Lynam explained that no one had put themselves forward to stand as Chair, therefore the post would need to be filled on a rotating basis. The Constitution requires the

AGM to elect a named person as Chair and Secretary, but the Committee is then able to appoint these in between AGMs.

SL is willing to stand as Chair with the understanding that he will step down after the first OIRA Cttee and thereafter the post will be filled on a rotating basis. The attendees were in agreement and SL was appointed as Chair under the above terms.

A similar arrangement will be in place for the Secretary.
JT will continue as treasurer.

Members of the OIRA Committee were agreed as follows.

Joyce Chalmers (new)

Maureen Ergeneli

Veronika Haacker-Lukacs

Suzanne Jeffrey

Bob Lawrence

Stephen Lynam

Karen Schoenemann (new)

Gareth Strange

Anna Truelove

Jula Turner

6. Any other business

David Jeffreys mentioned two events that he was organising on 17 June 2017: a picnic in Botley Park and in the evening, the Beer Fest. These events will run as part of the Great Get Together campaign initiated by the husband of the late Jo Cox.

7. The business part of the AGM was followed by a presentation by Mark Wicks, the new lock keeper. Mark emphasised his commitment to good communication with residents and encouraged local interest groups to visit him for a chat or see how he works and what he does.