

Osney Island Residents Association AGM, 15 April 2015

Present: attendance by c. 60 residents **Apologies:** Bob Lawrence, Peter Newell, Jonathan Wright

1. Minutes of the AGM 2014

These were circulated amongst the committee and posted in draft format on the OIRA website. No comments were received. The 2014 AGM minutes are confirmed as accurate.

2. Chair's report:

Georg Deutsch described 'a quiet year', notably:

- the **Tea on the Towpath** activity in June (100+ people attended and the Peter Marsh band made the afternoon go with a swing and Maureen Egenelli and her crew gave their usual amazing support for tea and the Island rallied round with cakes)
- setting up the **Island email account** (managed by Bob Lawrence and used regularly by Islanders to share Island-relevant messages)
- the **Island website** (managed by Tony Roberts and active, with 'daily use')
- the **Welcome Pack** (organized by Jude Carroll who distributes a hard copy to newcomers on request plus the pack is posted on the Website)
- a 100th edition of the **Newsletter** under the editorship of Elizabeth Newbery (an event celebrated by a mayoral reception in the Town Hall and a special edition with look-back contributions from a range of Islanders)
- winding down of **OIRA Ltd.** (with thanks for the effort involved, especially from Stephen Lynam and Fiona Macfarlane)
- 5 meetings by the OIRA committee
- 'blooming' from **planters on Bridge Street** (much appreciated by all and groomed by their individual carers).

Georg listed decisions made, including standing down plans for a round-Island raft race pending more people coming forward to organize it; Stephen Lynam stepping down as secretary with thanks for five years' hard work; on-going plans for more 'greening' of the Island; watching briefs on the impact of local developments such as Friedeswide Square and changes to the Hollybush.

Questions were asked about getting more planters on Bridge Street (A: it is limited unless more sites are identified); on managing the riverbanks on West Street (A: currently an initiative by individuals but will be included in 2015 'greening' plans discussed later in the AGM); on keeping money in the account (A: contingency needed and plans for spending under discussion with the committee). On the last point, the meeting asked for a list of purchases and a projected plan for future spending to be brought to the 2016 AGM.

3. Treasurer's report:

Jula Turner noted in summary income around £1500 and expenditure around £500. No major changes or challenges were identified.

4. Election of Officers

Committee members elected unopposed: Stephen Lynam, Suzanne Jeffrey, Anna Truelove, Veronika Haacker-Lukacs, Bob Lawrence, Jude Carroll, Maureen Egenelli, Gareth Strange, Jula Turner, Georg Deutsch
Jula was re-elected as Treasurer, Georg elected as Secretary and Jude elected as Chair.

5. Subscriptions for the Newsletter:

Subs cover the cost, come from about 50% of residents, and will stay at £2/50 pence (concession) for 2015/6.

6. Changes to the OIRA constitution

This proposal was prompted by the possible inclusion of Osney Lock ltd as one member with one vote, suggested in recognition of their significant community 'presence' and in recognition of the 'hydro's' contribution(s) to the environment of Osney. There are a variety of views on the hydro scheme across the

island and a decision on inviting Osney Lock Ltd to seek membership must be one for the 2016 AGM. To allow the opportunity to decide, Georg proposed a change to the constitution:

To Article 3: immediately after 'island', add ' ... and to any other person who has a business or other material presence on the island, subject to ratification of that person's membership (by simple majority) at the Annual General Meeting.' The vote for bringing the change to 2016 was 23 in favour, 7 against and 3 abstained. The move to make the change was declared passed. Elizabeth was asked to ensure there was an article in the newsletter setting out the case for and against Osney Lock Ltd membership before the 2016 AGM.

7. Forward planning:

The Spring Event (16 May) is a tabletop sale. It was agreed that OIRA would not buy tables but instead, use those in the church, thereby resolving problems with storage.

The Autumn event (12 September) is a return of the ever-popular Open Gardens. Anna Truelove has several offers and wants more.

The next AGM was scheduled for 20 April 2016 at WOCA.

8. AOB:

A free raffle was held to identify five lucky winners for a bespoke window box, created by Sid Siddle (6 West Street) and funded by OIRA. This is in support of island greening and for general enjoyment. Winners were David, Barbara, Jude, David and Miranda. A story in the newsletter about how 'winners' get on might be welcome.

The AGM closed at 8:30 pm.

The meeting then heard from a range of speakers, including Kristian Volek about his proposed changes and planning applications for the Hollybush, Jan Warner about threats and 'scams' to watch out for, Jude Carroll about proposed replanting of East Street riverbank daffodils in the Autumn (volunteer helpers needed), and from David about WOBFEST, the local beer festival held at WOCA.