

2016 AGM Minutes

*Osney Island Residents' Association AGM, 20 April 2016
Draft minutes*

Present: 24 people attended (excluding visitors and people by invitation)
Apologies were received from the following: Alan Goodwin, Fiona McFarlane, Richard Thurston, Joanna Westendarp.

Minutes of the AGM 2015 and matters arising

These were posted on the OIRA website after last year's AGM. Apart from the correction that Elizabeth Newbery should be added to the list of elected officers (Item 4), no other comments were made and the minutes were accepted as true and accurate.

Plans for projected spending for 2016/2017

At last year's AGM it was raised whether a plan for projected spending for 2015/2016 could be made. The Chair pointed out that no such a plan had been made but during that day's AGM attendees would be invited to take part in an exercise to establish what activities were important and should be organised. Other than activities, no major spending is planned for the following year.

Change to the OIRA Constitution

As agreed at the previous AGM, the following amendment has now been added to the OIRA Constitution. To Article 3: immediately after 'island' – ' ... 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'. This wording was accepted by 24 voting in favour.

Windowboxes

Last year, a number of AGM attendees won window boxes for attending but no one has as yet taken up the offer. It was agreed that these people could still take up the offer this year, or pass on their prize to others.

Chair's Report

Jude briefly spoke about a number of events and activities that had taken place since the last AGM in 2015.

2.1 To preserve and improve the environment and amenities of Osney Island

Another planter was added to Bridge Street.

Participated in OXCLEAN. Anna Truelove wants to continue and it has been agreed that two litter pickers at £25 each should be purchased to be shared among volunteer litter pickers. Maureen in East Street and Bob and Louise in Bridge Street are already active pickers.

Ran a week-long speed monitoring investigation in Bridge Street. This was due to some residents complaining about speeding cars in the street. It was found that although not all cars observed the 20mph speed limit, no one went faster than 31 mph. However, about 10% of cars went between 21 and 24mph. The OIRA Committee is pursuing having more obvious signage made. Detailed report is available in the May newsletter.

Kept an eye on planning applications on the island. Attended open meetings for proposals involving the conversion of the Power Station, the Western Conveyance and the station redesign. Currently sending out planning application notices relevant to Osney to those on the mailing list. Jude asked if this was useful and the answer was yes and should be continued.

The mailing list has been redesigned by Bob Lawrence and is active with 100+ residents on it.

Thoughts on how the website could be made more lively and updating it more straightforward.

A significant time and effort has gone into following the changes around the Hollybush. As a residents' association, OIRA cannot take a single view of the matter as it should reflect a range of views surrounding the pub and its potential future. However, an application to have the Hollybush declared as an asset of community value has been put forward and is led by Osney resident Rick Helmsley. As he could not attend the meeting, Georg Deutsch outlined the proposal. The reason for registering the Hollybush as an asset of community value is that it is one of only three pubs in West Oxford, and it is important as a public house as well as a building. The application would strengthen the council to argue for the preservation of the building as a pub. The application does not oblige Osney Island to buy the property – it is merely a tactical step to reduce the chances of the Hollybush passing into private hands. The signatories are under no financial obligation whatsoever, though they will likely be invited to attend future talks regarding the building.

2.2 To encourage community spirit among the residents of Osney Island

Organised a number of social events such as Tealights on the towpath, Open Gardens and tabletop sale.

In June 2016, OIRA are planning to hold a street party to celebrate the Queen's birthday. The plan is to hold it in Swan Street. Two residents from Swan Street attending the AGM approved of the plan.

Working with local community police to tackle rogue trading and doorstep crime. Several residents agreed it was a real issue and it was emphasised that every single incident should be reported to the police.

To promote the benefits of the residents of Osney Island

Welcome packs are available for new residents.

The OIRA Committee meets regularly and residents are welcome to join the meetings for specific issues.

The newsletter goes out every two months and Elizabeth Newbery is always on the lookout for new content. The noticeboard is regularly updated.

Treasurer's Report

Jula Turner explained the major expenditures (e.g. Tealights on the Towpath, £235) and income sources (e.g. Open Gardens and subscriptions, both £370), and reported that the account closed with a surplus of £91. It was agreed that Anna Truelove will order two litter pickers for £25 each. The subscription for the newsletter will stay £2/50p (concession) for 2016/17.

Election of OIRA Committee members

Jude was re-elected as Chair, Jula as Treasurer, and Veronika Haacker-Lukacs was elected as Secretary as Georg Deutsch had stepped down.

Members of the OIRA Committee were agreed as follows.

As members:
Jude Carroll
Georg Deutsch
Maureen Ergeneli
Veronika Haacker-Lukacs
Suzanne Jeffrey
Bob Lawrence
Stephen Lynam
Gareth Strange
Anna Truelove
Jula Turner

Traffic lights exercise to generate ideas for activities for 2016/2017

Attendees were encouraged to write down ideas for events/activities on the Island that they would like to see introduced (green paper), continued (yellow) or abandoned (red). The outcome of this exercise will be circulated in the July newsletter.

Any other business

It was asked whether the lock keeper was a member of the OIRA and if not, should they be? It was agreed that they should.

ACTION: Jude to invite lock keeper.

Next AGM

To be proposed by OIRA Committee in June 2016.
The AGM was followed by a short presentation by Peter Thompson, Chair of the Oxford Civic Society on plans for the west end of Oxford. Slides attached as a PDF document.