

Walton Manor Residents Association

WMRA 23-07-09_02

Minutes of committee meeting held at 6pm, Sunday 9th July at 40 Leckford Road

Present: Maggie Black (MB); Charlotte Beatson (CB); Helena Webster (HW); Jo Lane (JL); Mary Pegler (MP); Bryan Pickup (BP); Simon Mollison (SM); Caroline Martin (CM); Tom Landell-Mills (T L-M).

Apologies: none

1. Outstanding Matters from last meeting's minutes:

● OCM Clock

SM reported he had email correspondence from Paul Bendor-Samuel, director of OCM, which explained the clock had broken, and involved great expense to mend. MB to follow up the email, in future. **Action MB**

● Constitution Revision (inc terms of office limits for committee members)

SM reported he felt the current committee was working well, and that it would be a shame for the terms of the constitution to force any to stand down at the end of their term. MB proposed improving the wording of the 2015 constitution, to enable committee members to be re-elected immediately, if they wished. MB volunteered to re-write some of the constitution following a resident's complaint that they had been included in the WMRA automatically, without consultation. Boundaries of WMRA were discussed but no changes were made. **Action: MB**

2. Planning issues: 179 Kingston Rd

BP and HW reported they regularly monitor all the current planning applications for the area, with suggestions from Cllr James Fry, but do not consider tree applications. Application by Savills for 179 Kingston Rd has been withdrawn. There had been several objections to it by residents as well as our official WMRA objection. MB to contact Savills in September for an update. **Action: MB**

Committee members were asked to keep in mind any suggestions of typical architectural features for a local appraisal, e.g. low front walls, non-pvc windows. WMRA has not yet had its appraisal, unlike other groups in conservation areas in Oxford, but hopes to have one soon. HW suggested a tab on the website for advising residents of typical local features. CM has names of railing suppliers who can produce the correct style iron railings for the area and will include these on our new website.

3. New Website

CM has started work on a new website, which is being designed, free of charge, by Peter Stalker, who is responsible for the Jericho Online website. The address *Waltonmanor.org* has been purchased, and the design now has to be developed. The committee studied the design for *Jerichocentre.org.uk* and made suggestions for categories. MB favoured keeping the design simple with three categories (each with sub-categories):

- i. About Walton Manor (History; planning and conservation; facilities; local councilors, useful information)
- ii. Residents Association (Committee members and generic contact details; constitution; minutes of meetings)
- iii. News (Newsletters; road closures)

CM happy to compose a prototype along these lines, for committee's approval, but although she is happy to be in charge of the website, it will need to be organised in such a way that she does not have to constantly update it. **Action: CM**

4. Hiring the d'Overbroeck's Hall

SM described the struggle it has been to hire the D'Overbroeck's school hall, for the past couple of years. He was disappointed by the slow response of the head and bursar to his enquiries and anticipates

it will occur again this year. CB reported that the school is now part of a much bigger organisation, which has increased bureaucracy. CM to speak to her opposite neighbour in Farndon Road, who is known to work there, about liaising on the residents' behalf. SM suggested in future we should request a date without mentioning charges.

Action CM

5. The Welcome Leaflet

MB has edited the Welcome leaflet and will distribute via email to the committee. SM suggested we appoint a representative in each street to promote it to new residents. JL suggested a copy goes on the community noticeboard.

Action: JL

6. AOB

- a) MB discussed the suggestion of a local resident (Caroline Roaf) to form an Urban Gardening team similar to the one in Jericho which we reported on in the newsletter, to brighten up the Walton Well area (and perhaps other areas), e.g. by applying to the council for a large planter. The committee discussed the need for Walton Well to be made more green; no-one was opposed to it but no-one was very enthusiastic. MB to feed back to Caroline Roaf and enquire of Cllr James Fry about plans for the well.
Action: MB
- b) SM reported that there are archives of the WMRA stored with Sally Odd, in Plantation Road.
- c) SM stepped down from the committee after his long tenure and was thanked by the members for all his dedicated work in re-establishing the WMRA after a period of dormancy, and leading it as Chair. The committee wishes him all the best in his retirement.

7. Date of Next Meeting: 6pm, September 17th 2023, 41 Kingston Road (MB's house)