

Walton Manor Residents Association

WMRA 25-02-16_02

Minutes of committee meeting held at 6pm, Sunday 16th February at 60a St Bernard's Road

Present: Maggie Black (MB); Mary Pegler (MP); Caroline Martin (CM); Godfrey Cole (GC); Janet Minot (JM); Tom Landell-Mills (TLM); Charlotte Beatson (CB); Helena Webster (HW);

Apologies: Bryan Pickup (BP), Jo Lane (JL)

1. Outstanding matters from minutes of last meeting

- Walton Manor Conservation Area special character proposal, photos. BP and HW sent Shona Carr, Heritage Officer at the City Council, two documents, a description of the special characteristics of Walton Manor Conservation Area and a list of residents' concerns, and approximately 40 illustrative photographs, taken by JM, in early December 2024. Shona acknowledged receipt of the documents but nothing further has been heard. We were expecting Shona to start on the Walton Manor Conservation Area Appraisal in the New Year.
HW to follow up.
- CM's meeting with cllr John Howson, re: Woodstock Rd works. Cllr Howson spoke to Farndon Rd residents, sent exact specifications of the work to be done and offered a camera monitoring device to measure traffic. The work is now finished but the corners of the pavements are temporarily marked by bollards because vehicles are driving over the flower beds as the corners are too tight. The bollards will remain until flower beds can be planted up (see below, item 4). Residents complained of coaches parking on side streets. Cllr John Howson suggested this was a result of the closure of Oxford's coach park. He urged residents to write to the city council to urge them to re-open a coach park. **MB to contact other residents' groups about it.**

2. Representation (Process for advertising vacancies on committee)

Following a suggestion from the public at the AGM, JM discussed considering a process for inviting new members on to the committee. Currently, the committee has ten members (max), who may be re-elected at AGM according to rules in the constitution. There is no process for anyone new to be put forward before current members are re-proposed at the AGM. JM to draft a proposal to be submitted before the AGM, which would allow new members to be suggested, then proposed/voted in at the AGM. The committee felt that maintaining a geographical spread of residents across our area was important, and limiting the committee to ten members was optimum, given the practicalities of hosting meetings. The proposal should include a method of the applicant introducing themselves in writing.

3. Planning issues: HW reported it has been a quiet period for new applications

- 179 Kingston Rd: BP has been in touch with Savills for update and they responded that they progressing the project and are considering letting the demolition contract separately from the main contract. No timescales were given.
- 25 Wellington Square (rear of Little Clarendon Street) re-development. A consultation with the public is running and plans can be viewed 11am-7pm, 24th February at St Luke's Chapel, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.

4. Belsyre Court island benches and planting

BP reported (by email prior to the meeting) that the city council proposes putting two benches on the island in front of the shops outside Belsyre Court. Committee queried if anyone would want to sit on them, given Woodstock Road traffic. They suggested the other side of the road (Bevington Rd corner) would be quieter and safer than on a traffic island, but this is outside the WMRA area.

Cllr Louise Upton had suggested in an email to BP that the city council has no funds to maintain flower beds (already planned and part built) as part of the Woodstock Rd refurbishment, and wants local community volunteers to do so. Committee questioned whether this would be limited to maintaining the beds, or if the community would have to supply the plants.

CM to ask John Howson for clarification.

MB to contact Louise Upton in reply to her email.

5. Meet the Neighbours event at The Gardener's Arms

Owing to the popularity of this event, two further dates were decided. April 2nd, 5.30pm+ and July 2nd (to coincide with Oxford city morris dancers) **MP to notify the publican.**

6. Traffic issues

GC reported he has not heard from the county council, following his objection to the unusual pedestrian/cycle crossing on Woodstock Road, near Bevington Road. However, there are signs a pedestrian crossing will be built.

7. MP reminded the committee about the annual litterpick, Oxclean, 9-12 on 8th March from 46 Plantation Road. Volunteers needed. **CM to send out a notice in the newsletter. MP to put up posters on lamp-posts to advertise.**

8. Date and Time of next committee meeting: **6pm, 18th May, 41 Kingston Rd (Maggie's house)**