

Walton Manor Residents Association

WMRA 25-07-27_01

Minutes of committee meeting held at 6pm on Sunday 27th July 2025 at 1 Farndon Road

Present: Maggie Black (MB); Helena Webster (HW); Bryan Pickup (BP); Caroline Martin (CM); Jo Lane (JL); Janet Minot (JM); Charlotte Beatson (CB)

Apologies: Mary Pegler (MP); Godfrey Cole (GC) Tom Landell Mills (TLM)

1. Matters arising from last meeting

- Walton Manor Conservation Area appraisal was due to be completed in March. It has been halted for the time being by City Council heritage team. Reasons are unclear. Alex Hollingsworth had been unaware. He has agreed to enquire and to get back to HW.
- Infrastructure Bill has reached the Committee Stage in the House of Lords. If passed without amendments there will be significant changes to the planning régime. At a local level decision-making will be taken away from planning committees and placed in hands of planning officers for proposals where fewer than 10 houses are involved. There will be no longer be an opportunity to escalate plans to a committee.
- Woodstock Road flower beds: because we failed to establish who has responsibility for maintenance through our City, and now also County, Councillor James Fry, HW got in touch with Robert Freshwater (RF), County Council infrastructure development lead. The responsibility for maintenance issue is yet to be resolved; the low-maintenance shrubs may be an interim solution for preventing vehicles mounting the pavements. Bollards on corners will remain in place until decision taken about street furniture, which may be placed to maintain boundary between road and raised pavement and flowerbeds. Concern was expressed about suitability of this: benches and cycle racks would be much more useful in other places. A consultation on this is due to take place soon and RF agreed to include WMRA in any consultation exercise. He will be in touch with Oxford City Council about including flowerbeds in their litter-picking rota. GC will take over liaison on these issues as part of his traffic and roads brief.
- 'Meet the Neighbours' event had modest attendance but received positive feedback from participants and it was agreed that it should be continued in the future.

2. Amendments to the Constitution

Agreed that the WMRA constitution should be amended as proposed in the paper submitted by MB and JM. This referred to the committee ideally having members from different parts of Walton Manor. It also made provision for elections with the number of vacancies on the committee being advertised one month before the AGM and any member of the association (aged 18 and above) being able to put themselves forward by notifying the Secretary at least one week before the AGM, with a short statement of what they would hope to bring to the committee. If there were more candidates than places an election would be held at the AGM.

JM will add the agreed additions to the constitution, renumber the paragraphs and redate the final document, replacing all earlier versions.

Following MP's decision to step down, focus should ideally be on recruiting a candidate with technical skills for the role of secretary. That person might also be able to assist with managing the technology at an AGM. It would also be good to find someone who was interested in organising social activities. MB asked the committee to try to identify suitable candidates who might wish to stand. She noted that CB would also be resigning at the AGM.

CM will draft a piece for the Newsletter about constitutional changes and recruiting new committee members. Will send to MB for comments.

MB to ask MP whether she would be willing to continue to manage OxClean for WMRA. Also to ask TLM if he wished to remain on the Committee.

3. **AGM** set for Tuesday November 4th, with Wednesday December 3rd as a backup. MB will write to d'Overbroeck's with request. As school is closed for the holidays a personal visit is not possible. Agreed BP will approach Liz Woolley to see if she is available to speak about local history.

4. **Planning update:** Not much to report. Mainly applications relating to rear extensions which are not controversial. Lack of progress on 179 Kingston Road. BP to contact Savills for an update. BP is also drafting a response to an application for Adelaide Street where there may be an issue about changing the use from residential to multiple occupancy.

5. **Next committee meeting: 6pm on Sunday 5th October at 41 Kingston Road** to finalise preparations for the AGM. JL not able to attend.

Post-meeting Note: St John's have now confirmed that they intend to start demolition of 179 Kingston Road relatively soon, in about a month. The construction phase will follow but is not completely ready yet.