

Walton Manor Residents' Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held at 6pm on Sunday 12 July 2026 in Caroline's garden at 1 Farndon Road

Present: Maggie Black (chair), Jonathan Davis, Jo Lane, Caroline Martin, Janet Minot, Diane Pearson, Bryan Pickup, Helena Webster

1. Apologies for absence

Godfrey Cole, Laura Heybrook, Tom Landell-Mills

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Approved

3. Matters arising

3.1 No change at the Grog Shop

3.2 Extra bike racks have been provided near Sainsbury's

3.3 Traffic camera to monitor speed in Kingston Road (see previous minutes). Tom to contact the Kingston Road WhatsApp group (Caroline can resupply the link if necessary)

3.4 Restoration of the Walton Well Fountain delayed by a leak

3.5 First aid training for community members. The Red Cross offers free first aid training to community groups, but we would have to organise this. Meanwhile we will continue to pursue the idea with Elaine Cohen, leader of the Observatory Medical Practice Patient Participation Group. **Caroline to investigate**

4. Meet the neighbours 10 June

The event was a success but strategies are needed to promote interaction with newcomers via informal hosts. A new venue was considered for the next Meet the Neighbours on 23 September. **Maggie and Jo to check the Victoria in Walton Street.** *A room in the Victoria has been booked.*

5. Oxford Canal Festival Saturday 19 September

WMRA will participate in the community tent for local neighbourhood organisations 12-6pm. Committee members are asked to help in hourly shifts with setting up, staffing the stall and dismantling. General information will be available for prospective members. Digital sign-up via QR codes will avoid errors. **Maggie to set up a rota and liaise with Caroline on the display nearer the time**

6. Planning

Work is progressing at the Party Shop site with communication in the form of weekly reports.

Concerns were raised over the removal of original stone curb stones in Leckford Place.

Helena to respond to Cllr Leffman's email

The Walton Manor Conservation Area Draft Appraisal has been further delayed. *The document was released on Tuesday 14 June*

7. Road works

Major works by SSE in Walton Street continue to disrupt both traffic and pedestrian movement.

The forthcoming closure of Adelaide Street will create problems for residents and for those on the north side of Observatory Street with garages in Adelaide Street

The newsletter will include updates on roadworks and links to websites

8. Trees

After some discussion, the committee reached the view that the council are unlikely to approve works that do not align with their tree planting policy; that we should wait for Luke Rowland, the county tree officer, to get back with the specification and costings for the planting of a tree in Kingston Road, but that there should be no further effort to persuade him to deviate from council policy

An alternative new direction for the greening agenda might be to review the St Margaret's Society leaflet for householders on planting in front gardens, with the idea of WMRA distributing it, revising it or creating our own document

9. Notice board and information

Council's plans for potential refurbishment of notice boards will be monitored, possibly to arrange repainting if necessary

The newsletter provider has been changed to one whose charge is not based on the number of subscribers which now stands at 290.

10. AOB

Coaches parked on double yellow lines outside d'Overbroecks School in Leckford Road create a hazard for residents driving out of Leckford Place. Residents were encouraged to take up the matter with the council and school.

Bryan has written a history of Adelaide and Observatory Streets that has been warmly received by residents

There was a discussion about the timing of the AGM and the subject of the talk and speaker. Bryan was invited to speak about his local heritage research. The date proposed was 28 October (*which is in the middle of half term week*). **Maggie to approach d'Overbroecks for use of the hall**

11. Next meeting 6pm Sunday 13 September 2026 at Maggie's house, 41 Kingston Road