

BULLINGDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM 10th November 2025

Attending Chris Perks, Frank Holliday, Catherine Gundry, Tom Crook, Mary Woolliams, Trevor Kimber, Barbara Bryant, Richard Bryant, Pat Kennedy, Councillor Judith Harley (City Council), Councillor Liz Brighthouse (County Council), Phil Jones (City Council), Pat Green, Sonia Lester, Nigel Boulter, Eric Cook, Terry Smith, Tina Dick, Gill Breeze, Paul Dabinett, Marie Broyde. Apologies Studio Theatre Group, Rhonda Riachi.

(1) The minutes of the 2023 -24 AGM were read and approved.

(2) Matters Arising We have not yet appointed a Chairperson. Richard has been the acting Chair over the last year. Concerns expressed about the possibility of cuts being made in the City Council's support for community centres proved to be misplaced. No cuts were made during 2023 -24.

(3) Trustee Report April 2023 – March 2024. Richard presented the report. It was a successful year in terms of the number of groups and activities using the community centre. Currently there are over twenty groups using the centre on a regular weekly or fortnightly basis and there is also a considerable demand for party lets at the weekends. The groups and activities cover a wide age range and a variety of groups. We estimate that around 350 people a week visit the community centre, to attend groups or to use the all weather sports area. We are not able to meet all the requests for bookings due to the size of the centre, limited staffing time and the need to manage the centre properly. In some weeks we have to turn down up to ten requests for lets. Income from lets generates income which goes a long way to help cover the running costs of the centre. Our other major source of income is from grants, which brought in around £5,000 during 2023 -24. Small donations from user groups also help.

During 2023 24 the Trustees produced a new 'Business Plan' for the community centre. The main goals we set for the next three years included:

- *Trying to recruit new and younger trustees and volunteers for the activities which the BCA runs directly at the community centre. (e.g. the monthly Community Lunch).

- *Maximizing the use of the space we have available, particularly the former football dressing room, which we have now converted into a small meeting room.

- *Raising the profile of the community centre on the Wood Farm and Town Furze estates as there is evidence from the recent Healthwatch survey that some residents are reluctant to use the centre or are not aware of the activities which are available.

It is important to note that a Community Association also has a responsibility for trying to improve the well-being and health of the wider communities they serve, which in our case are the Churchill and Lye Valley wards of Oxford. Examples of Bullingdon trying to do this include:

- *The support we have provided the Wood Farm Youth Centre over many years.

- *Our active involvement in the Wood Farm Health and Well Being Partnership, which is comprised of a range of representatives from the County and City Councils, GP surgeries and voluntary groups.

- *Registering objections to planning applications which we feel will have a negative impact on the social cohesion of the local community. For example, the increased number of H.M.O.'s on the Lye Valley estate – around 76 properties at the moment with more likely to be approved in the future.

Thanks to the Trustees and volunteers who keep Bullingdon going, the local County and City Councillors for their support and the Officers of the City Council for their advice,

Thanks to Otis Williams, our Building Manager, for his excellent work in keeping the community centre so clean and tidy and for handling the many requests for bookings.

Richard was thanked and the report was accepted.

Web-site and Social Media. Tom Crook reported that the website is still working well and is a 'shop window' for the centre. Gill Breeze reported that our facebook page, which is based on material from the website, has around 100 followers.

Community Lunch. Mary Woolliams reported that our format for the monthly community lunch of a Taster Session by Abingdon Co

In the brief discussion which followed comments were made about the increase in short term and holiday lets in Lye Valley and the possibility of circulating information via Wood Farm School.

(4) Treasurers Report : Copies of the Accountants report for 2023 – 24 were made available at the meeting. Trevor reported that we made a small loss over the year of £1,002. The income was £31, 924 and the expenditure was £32,926. He noted that we are still adjusting to the increased costs involved in running the new community centre (eg; increased energy costs) and that we had funds in reserve. Our policy on lets is to try to keep the charges as affordable as possible for groups and the local community.

Trevor was thanked and the report was accepted.

(5) Other Reports : Tom reported on the web – site. It is working well and is proving to be an effective 'shop window' for information about the activities at the community centre and for

groups and individuals who are interested in booking space at the community centre. Gill reported on the BCA face – book page, which highlights events at the community centre and currently has 100 regular followers. Gill is trying to make links with other face – book pages on the Wood Farm estate. Mary reported on the Community Lunch, which has around 30 plus people attending and 6 – 8 volunteers helping with the preparation and serving of the lunch. A recent survey of the people who attend received some very positive feedback on the lunch and the other activities which are run on the same day, the Abingdon College taster classes and the speakers in the afternoon. Barbara reported that the Headington Repair café will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in January 2026. It is one of the longest running repair cafes in the city.

(5)Constitution. No proposed changes. It was noted that the BCA is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) and that the trustees have limited liability. Under the constitution the BCA can have a maximum of 15 trustees.

(6)Election of officers and Committee. All the existing nine trustees agreed to be nominated for re -election – Trevor Kimber, Chris Perks, Mary Woolliams, Catherine Gundry, Barbara Bryant, Richard Bryant, Pat Kennedy, Frank Holliday, Tom Crook.

Proposed by Paul Dabinett and seconded by Judith Harley.
Agreed unanimously.

Secretary. Richard Bryant was nominated by Pat Kennedy and seconded by Tom Crook. Agreed unanimously.

Treasurer. Trevor Kimber was nominated by Mary Wooliams and seconded by Frank Holiday. Agreed unanimously.

In the absence of nominations for the Chair, Richard agreed to continue as the acting Chair.

It was also agreed that Barbara Bryant would continue as the Health and Safety Officer and that Barbara and Catherine Gundry would share the role as Safeguarding Officer.

It was noted that new trustees could be co-opted during the year.

(7)Open Discussion on priorities and plans. The questions, suggestions and issues raised included ; The possibility of music events being held at the community centre. Could the community centre have more lets at the weekends. The need to make the crossing on the Slade (by Dene Rd) safer for pedestrians, particularly at school times. Targeted publicity for the Wood Farm and Town Furze estates. Bullingdon organizing more community wide events.

AOB. No issues raised

Date of Next AGM : November 2026 – date and time to be arranged.

Date of Next BCA Committee Meeting : 13th January at 7.30pm.

RB/BB; 12/11/2025