BULLINGDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM 12th November 2026

Attending: Chris Perks, Trevor Kimber, Frank Holliday, Tom Crook, Richard Bryant, Barbara Bryant, Pat Kennedy, Catherine Grundy, Mary Woolliams, Councillor Liz Brighouse (County Council), Judith Harley (City Council), James Thorniley (City Council), Stephanie Jankovic (Oxford Federation of Community Associations), Gill Breeze, Paul Dabinett, Nigel Boulter, C.B. Dick, Chris Simlett.

Apologies: Marie Broyde, Caroline O'Connor (Date Palm Tree), Eric Cook, Stephen Briggs (Studio Theatre Group).

(1) **The minutes** of the 2024-25 meeting were read and approved.

(2) **Matters Arising**. We have not appointed a Chairperson and Richard has continued as the Acting Chair.

(3) **Secretary's Report**. Richard Bryant reported that it had been 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, fortnightly or monthly basis. The groups cover a range of age groups, from under-fives to over sixty fives. There is also a considerable demand for private lets at the weekend e.g. children's parties. We are not able to meet all the requests for group and private lets due to the size of the centre, our limited staffing and the need to allocate time for cleaning the centre. We estimate that between 300 -350 people visit the centre and the all-weather area during a typical week.

Because of the lets the BCA is generating income which goes a long way towards helping to cover most of the running costs of the community centre. Apart from lets, our other sources of income are from grants and from donations made by individuals and groups which do not pay a letting charge. During 2025-26 we

received over £7000 in grants, mainly from Oxford City and County Councils.

Over the last year the Trustees have started trying to address the goals which were outlined in our 'Business Plan' (2025).

(a) Recruiting new and younger trustees. To date, one new trustee has been recruited (Marie Broyde). We need to keep working on this issue.

(b) Arranging more meetings for members, affiliated groups and volunteers. To date, the only meetings which have happened have been for the volunteers who help with the running of the monthly free Community Lunch.

(c) Recruiting more volunteers to support the activities and groups which are run directly by the BCA – the Repair Café, Community Lunch, Parent/Toddler Group and the Creative Writing Group. New volunteers have joined the Community Lunch, the Creative Writing Group and the Repair Café but there was a big setback when the Parent and Toddler Group had to close due a lack of volunteers.

(d) To maximize the use of the space at the community centre, particularly the small meeting room. To date, we have been unable to attract regular lets for this space.

(e) To encourage more organized use of the all-weather sports area. Currently one football team (Quarry Rovers) are using the area for training during the winter months. The area is well used on an informal basis.

(f)To raise the profile of the community centre, particularly on the Wood Farm and Town Furze estates. This goal is being addressed mainly through circulating more information about the activities at Bullingdon. Well over a thousand copies of our new leaflet were delivered during the summer months to households on Wood

Farm, Town Furze and Lye Valley and more posters are being displayed on local notice boards. Groups which currently use the community centre have reported receiving more enquiries. Gill Breeze commented on the increased use of the notice boards on Wood Farm.

The BCA has continued to engage with wider issues which impact on the local communities served by the community centre. We have continued to be an active member of the Wood Farm Health and Well Being Partnership and have continued to make representations on issues which we feel might have a negative impact on the social well – being and cohesion of local communities. The BCA has a policy of objecting to the loss of family housing in Lye Valley due to the long-term increase in H.M.O.'s and other forms of temporary accommodation in the area. Currently the BCA is supporting local residents in Cinnaminta Rd, the Slade and Bulan Road who are concerned about a City Council plan to change the use of 12 flats in Cinnaminta Rd into temporary accommodation for the homeless.

Finally, I would like to thank the trustees and volunteers who keep Bullingdon going and the local Councillors for their support.

A big thanks to Otis Wiliams, our Building Manager, for his excellent work in keeping the community centre clean and tidy and for handling the many requests for bookings

Reports on activities and services run directly by the BCA.

Community Lunch. Mary Woolliams reported that the monthly free Community Lunch has now been running for over three years. Between 20 – 30 visitors attend and there are between 5 – 10 volunteers involved. Positive feedback has been received from surveys of the people who attend. Over the last year the Community Lunch raised £700 in donations.

Repair Café. Barbara Bryant reported that the Repair Café which now meets weekly dealt with more than 200 customers and put in 478 hours of voluntary work during the year, repairing 128 items and saving more than 300 Kg from landfill. We were ten years old in January! We have recruited two new volunteers, once of whom is available to give free I.T. advice. Over the year we have received £550 in donations.

Creative Writing Group. Gill Breeze reported that this self-running group now has 8 regular members. Themes discussed at their weekly meetings include fiction, life writing, poetry. and drama.

BCA Website. Tom Crook reported that the website is working well and is proving to be an effective 'shop window' for information about activities and for booking space at the community centre.

BCA face book page. Gill Breeze reported that the BCA Facebook page now has links with other Facebook pages on Woodfarm and Lye Valley.

Richard and the other trustees and volunteers were thanked for their reports.

(4) **Treasurer's Report**. Copies of the accountant's (Martin and Fahy) financial statement for 2025-26 were circulated at the meeting. Trevor Kimber reported that our turnover had increased slightly this year (£32,838) and that the BCA made a net profit of £2,946. Trevor commented on the positive contribution made by grants and by donations from groups using the Centre. Our main items of expenditure included energy costs, insurance, rates and the employment of a part-time Building Manager.

Trevor was thanked for his report.

(5) **Constitution**. There are no proposed changes. It was noted that the BCA is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CI0) and that the trustees have limited liability. Under the constitution the BCA can have a maximum of 15 trustees.

(6) **Election of Trustees and Officers**.

This part of the meeting was chaired by Stephanie Jankovic (OFCA)

Nine of the present trustees had agreed to be nominated for re – election: Barbara Bryant, Richard Bryant, Trevor Kimber, Catherine Gundry, Tom Crook, Mary Woolliams, Marie Broyde, Pat Kennedy, Chris Perks.

Frank Holliday has decided to retire as a trustee.

No new nominations for trustees were received at the meeting.

It was proposed by Judith Harley and seconded by Liz Brighouse that the trustees who had agreed to be nominated should be elected as Trustees of Bullingdon Community Centre. This was agreed unanimously.

Frank Holliday was thanked for his significant contribution to the community centre and other projects in the area. Richard noted that Frank had been involved with the running of Bullingdon since the 1980s and he paid tribute to the key role Frank played in helping to establish the Wood Farm Youth Centre in the early 2000s. Frank persuaded UNIPART to support the campaign for a youth centre and to sponsor the renovation of a portacabin in the grounds of the Wood Farm Primary School.

Officers: The present Officers had agreed to be nominated for re – election – Richard Bryant: Secretary and Acting Chair; Trevor Kimber, Treasurer.

No new nominations for Officers were received at the meeting.

It was proposed by Judith Harley, seconded by Liz Brighouse that the Officers who had agreed to be nominated should be elected. This was agreed unanimously.

(7) **Open Discussion** Tina Dick commented on the increase in attendance at the Silver Shakers and reflected on the positive value of the group for herself and others. Barbara Bryant reported that Bullingdon was now running occasional Family Events, in partnership with Modern Art Oxford. The last event in October was attended by 59 adults and children. Liz Brighouse asked about the weekly Oxford Citizen Advice session at Bullingdon. Richard indicated that, as far as he is aware, the OCA were committed to maintaining the service at the community centre and that grant applications were currently being made to help with the running costs. Chris Perks was thanked for his work in maintaining the planters at the community centre. A suggestion was made about whether Bullingdon could advertise activities on the No 15 bus.

A.O.B. No issues were raised.

Date of Next A.G.M. – to be arranged.

Date of next Trustee Committee meeting – Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm.

RB/BB 15/11/2025