

BULLINGDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION : Meeting : 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

Attending ; Steve Dawe, Hazel Dawe, Barbara Bryant, Richard Bryant, Pat Kennedy, Chris Perks, Trevor Kimber, Frank Holliday, Catherine Gundry, Terry Smith. Apologies : Tom Crook, Liz Brighthouse, Phil Jones ( City Council )

1 Priority Issues : Working Party report on changing the booking system. The working party met on the 31<sup>st</sup> August and a majority of those present agreed on the following recommendation;

‘The recommendation of the Working Party is that Bullingdon negotiates a contract to use the Strelix Booking System for a trial period of 6 months. At the point at which Bullingdon starts using the Strelix system, Otis Williams, our Building Manager, will take on the administration of both the individual and the organizational lets’.

At the BCA meeting this recommendation was supported by 6 trustees, with Steve and Hazel Dawe voting against and 2 trustees abstaining. Tom Crook was unable to attend so his views were read out at the meeting. Steve and Hazel asked for their objection to be recorded in the minutes.

2 Business Meeting : The minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> August were read and approved.

Matters Arising :

Wild Garden : Hazel reported that she had arranged with the Friends of Lye Valley to mow the wild garden tomorrow morning. They will take away the cuttings and also plant seeds. The meeting agreed to make a donation of £50 to FoLV and recorded our thanks to them for undertaking the work.

Richard reported that he had received a quote of £224 plus VAT from the City Council to remove the ivy which has been the cause of a

complaint from a householder in Dene Rd. No timetable for doing the work is available at the moment.

Building : Otis reports that the ventilation system is now working and that he has repaired the lock on the door of the accessible toilet. Hagen Lewisman has indicated that acoustic panels will be put in the meeting room. If Direct Services are not available to do the work another firm will be hired. No timetable available at the moment. Some dampness and minor cracks in the walls of the rear hall have been reported. Harry Tuke (Jessop/Cook) reports that the cracks will be filled and painted by ODS towards the end of the year and are due to the timber structures moving slightly. The dampness is likely to have been caused by the velux windows not closing quickly enough when it rained heavily. There are still delays by Octopus in getting a new smart meter installed.

Football : No news about Bullingdon Youth returning, which is disappointing. The pitch is sometimes being used for football but not many cars are using our car park. Recently the pitch was cut and marked out.

3 Bookings : A number of groups are returning to the centre after the summer break including Repair Café, ORK Martial Arts, Bullingdon Baby & Toddler Group, and Bullingdon Community Lunch. Silver Shakers and Ruskin classes start soon. A new Taekwondo group for the over 50s started this week. Otis reports that there were 9 private lets in August, which brought in £523.

4 Treasurers Report. Trevor reported that there was £39,332.62 at the bank at the end of August. Payments received 1<sup>st</sup> April-31<sup>st</sup> August were £14,571.13; expenditure was £19,657.27 .

The audited accounts for 2022 -2023 have been received from Martin and Fahy and have been circulated to trustees. The meeting agreed unanimously to accept the accounts.

Richard reported that we have been granted mandatory rate relief (80%) as a registered charity. Our annual rates bill is now £994.62

After a discussion a job description for the Treasurer's post, which had been circulated by Hazel, was withdrawn. It was agreed that we should undertake a 'skills audit' to identify what additional skills the trustees need to run the new community centre.

Barbara reported that she used grant money to cover the cost of blinds for the rear hall (£323)

5 Activities. A Community Lunch is being held this Friday, followed by a talk by Pat Kennedy. Barbara, Richard and Frank are attending a reception this Saturday at Modern Art Oxford to mark the exhibition which includes archive material from several of Oxford's community centres. MAO are keen to work on a project with the BCA next summer We need volunteers to help staff a stall at the Older Peoples Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October at the Town Hall. The fundraiser for Cancer First organized by Shirley Nelder, raised £400 – well done Shirley and the team of volunteers. Catherine reported on her work with the over 50s group at the Arc T Centre. Trustees backed the proposal to run a Bullingdon Xmas Fayre on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. There is a possibility that a summer event will be held in July 2024.

The AGM will be held in the rear hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. We need to start getting publicity circulated, plan a display about the centre and have a suggestions board. We will provide refreshments.

6. Correspondence. The grant application to the Oxfordshire Community Foundation was turned down. A grant application for the City Council's Community Impact Fund will be submitted this week. A complaint has been received about the removal of the bike wheels which were left on two occasions outside of the community centre in June. Richard will respond. The City Council is checking out the availability of public spaces for Electric Vehicle charging and has

asked if Bullingdon would be interested. Reservations were expressed relating to the size of the car park and access, given that the car park is not open a 24 hour basis. Richard will respond.

7 Health and Safety. Barbara reported that the BCA is now registered as a food business.

AOB : The plaque for the mosaic is still being sorted out

Richard has written a book on the history of Bullingdon. Digital copies are available ( free ) from our web – site and printed versions are available to read at the Oxfordshire History Centre and the Headington library.

Date of next BCA meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.30pm.

Date of AGM – Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm – Rear Hall.

RB/BB. 9/9/2023