

BULLINGDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION : Meeting : 7th November 2023.

Attending : Frank Holliday, Trevor Kimber, Terry Smith, Barbara Bryant, Richard Bryant, Nick Barbour, Phil Jones (City Council
(1)Apologies : Tom Crook, Chris Perks, Pat Kennendy.

Richard chaired the meeting.

(2)Minutes of the October meeting. Read and approved. No corrections.

(3)Matters Arising : Wild Garden : Chris trimmed the garden this morning. Building issues : Coat hangers have been put up in the main and rear halls and the meeting room. Thanks to Trevor and Chris Scott for doing this. Chris has also put up a leaflet rack. The SMART meter has been installed. Otis is still reporting leaks in the rear hall. We need to draw up a list of the outstanding repairs before the 'snagging period' for the new building expires in December and report the repairs to the City Council and Jessop and Cook. There has been no news about the plans for Bullingdon Youth (junior football) returning to play at Peat Moors. Following a discussion it was agreed that we would give them a deadline of the 31st December to remove their equipment from the dressing room, as we need to start using the room for other purposes. We may need to move the equipment ourselves and Phil will contact the Council's football development officer to check whether the equipment could be used by other teams.

(4)Lets : Otis has reported that during October £1279.50 was received from long term lets by groups, £92 from one off lets from groups and £528 from party lets. The overall income from lets in October was £1899.50. Three new long term lets have started recently – Ballroom Dancing, Line Dancing and a keyboard group (Karali Music School). The NHS Health Checks are not now holding sessions on a weekly basis and are making bookings on a more

occasional basis. Otis is handling a considerable demand for lets and is making one off bookings up to the spring of 2024.

(5)Treasurers Report : Trevor reported that there was £40,856.83 at the bank at the end of October and that we broke even during October. Richard reported that we had recently received two grants - £960 from the County Councillors Priority Fund (Liz Brighthouse) for running costs incurred in providing meeting space for Citizens Advice Oxford and £300 from the City Councils Community Impact Fund, to assist with the running costs of the community lunch.

(6)Correspondence : Richard has responded to the Councils consultation on the private rented sector and has contacted the local County and District Councillors about the need to improve road signage for the community centre. This is a long-standing issue for Bullingdon and we have received more complaints since the new centre opened. The issue was raised at our AGM and the CAO have also raised concerns. We have received information about a City Council scheme – ‘Match my Project’ – which links community organizations to business and suppliers. It was agreed that we should sign up for the scheme. The annual return to the Charity Commission has been submitted, after the usual struggles with the Commissions web – site. Florence Park CA have circulated some useful information about checking contracts with utilities, especially with regards to VAT payments. Trevor to check out the VAT payments we are making to Castle Water.

(7)Present Activities : The next Community Lunch is this Friday. AGE UK will have a information stall at the lunch. Judy Webb was due to do a talk in the afternoon but is not now available due to illness. Richard will fill in and talk about ‘How we got a new community centre’ .Barbara reported that we need a team of seven volunteers to run the event. The Xmas Fayre is on the 2nd December and work on organizing stalls, publicity, the raffle etc is well underway. Volunteers are needed to help out on the day.

(8) Future Activities : As a result of our involvement with the archive project, organized by Modern Art Oxford (MAO), we have been invited to work with MOA on an arts project next summer, which would run at the community centre. MOA would hire space and provide staff. To date, the Date Plam Tree have expressed an interest in getting involved and a meeting is due to be held soon with Silver Shakers (Jane Castree) to explore whether they would like to participate.

(9)Health and Safety : Some good news ! Barbara reported that the City Council has awarded the BCA a 5 star rating, the highest, for the way our kitchen is being run. Congratulations to Barbara and the community lunch volunteers for their hard work in achieving this grade.

(10)External Matters. Richard had a recent meeting with Shabnam Sabir, the recently appointed Community Facilities and Well – being manager for the City Council, to brief her on the developments at Bullingdon. Following the meeting Sabir contacted the County Council about the road signage issue. Barbara and Richard recently had a meeting with two trustees of Florence Park community centre to discuss our experiences of the redevelopment of Bullingdon. The Florence Park CA are experiencing major problems with their roof and the centre was build at the sometime of the old Bullingdon centre.

AOB : Phil reported that the City Council will not be providing free Wi Fi for community centres after 2025. We need to check on the position with regards to our Wi Fi, which is supplied by Virgin and is not on the same system as other community centres in the city.

Date of Next Meeting – 5th December at 7.30pm in the meeting room.The community centre will be closed over Xmas and New Year between the 22nd December and the 3rd January.

RB/BB : 11/11/2023

