

BULLINGDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION : Meeting : 5th December 2023.

Attending : Frank Holliday, Trevor Kimber, Barbara Bryant, Catherine Gundry, Richard Bryant, Nick Barbour, Terry Smith, Chris Perks.

Apologies : Tom Crook ,Pat Kennedy, Phil Jones (City Council).

Richard agreed to chair the meeting.

Before the meeting started Richard reported that Hazel Dawe has been involved in a serious traffic accident. The meeting expressed great concern and recorded their best wishes to Hazel and Steve.

(1)Minutes of the November meeting. These were read and approved.

(2)Matters Arising : Building issues : A snagging list of repairs has been sent to Jessop and Cook and Direct Services. We are meeting Jessop/Cook on Tuesday 12th December to discuss these. We need to check on what the future arrangements are for reporting repairs – Richard to write to the City Council. The plate which controls the operation of the front door has been slightly damaged. The problem was reported to Jessop and Cook who advised our Buildings Manager how to fix it. Concern was expressed about potential liability, whether this could happen again and whether the mechanism needs to be replaced. Richard reported that the Wi Fi will be funded by the City Council until the end of 2024.

Barbara reported that our most recent energy bill is much higher - £675.58. There was a discussion about possible pay back from the solar panels. We will try to get this when our contract is renewed early in 2024.

Bullingdon Youth are due to remove their equipment from the dressing room before Xmas.

(3)Lets : Otis has reported that during November the regular lets produced an income of £1580 and that one off lets, including parties,

produced £762.50. The total income from lets was £2434.50p. New lets starting in the new year include Indian Dancing, a Bible class and monthly 'taster courses' run by Oxfordshire Adult Learning.

(4) Treasurers Report : Trevor reported that we have consolidated our two accounts and that £10,666.26 has been transferred from the former savings account into our general account. The balance at the bank is £52,357.50. There are no current grant applications. Barbara circulated a report on how the £3,000 grant from the Connected Communities Fund (County Council) has been spent.

(5) Correspondence : Shabnam Sabir (City Council) is following up our request for improved road signage for the community centre. Richard has signed up Bullingdon with the 'Match my Project' scheme. The issue of the VAT payment on our water rates has been raised with Castle Water – no response to date. The planning department of the City Council has approached us about the Friends of Lye Valley locating a container to store their equipment in the grounds of the community centre. We have turned down the request because of the wildflower garden at the back of the centre and difficulties with access.

(6) Present Activities The Xmas Fayre went very well – estimated that around 200 adults and children visited the centre. There was a very positive feel to the event and £750 was raised. A big thanks to Shirley and Ann for organizing the Fayre and to the many volunteers, including seven of our trustees, who helped with the setting up and running of the event. It was agreed to earmark £250 for supporting the running of the community lunch and £500 to purchase new equipment for the community centre at some future date. The next Community Lunch is this Friday 8th December.

(7) Future Activities. Discussions about an arts project at Bullingdon next summer with Modern Arts Oxford (MAO) are ongoing. Date

Palm and Silver Shakers are interested in getting involved. MAO would hire space at the community centre and provide staff.

(8)Health and Safety. No issues raised.

(9)External Matters The Oxford Preservation Trust has praised the new Bullingdon Community Centre for its design and low carbon footprint in the 'New Building' category of its annual awards. They awarded Jessop & Cook and Oxford Direct Services a plaque for Bullingdon which will be presented to the BCA at some future date. Bullingdon is also being put in for the Royal Institute of Architecture awards. The City Council are holding an event in July at the Town Hall to celebrate the city's community centres. Chris and Angela Perks will be representing the BCA at the Xmas Civic Reception at the Town Hall next week.

The community centre will be closed between 23 December and the 2nd of January to give staff and volunteers a break. One person has expressed the view that we should be open over this period.

It was agreed to hold the monthly meetings in the future on the second Tuesday of the month.

The date of the next BCA meeting is Tuesday the 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

Wishing everyone a happy Xmas and a good new year.

RB/BB : 6/12/2023.