

BULLINGDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION : Meeting : 9th January
2024

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

(1)Apologies : Pat Kennedy, Catherine Gundry, Gill Breeze.

Before the meeting started Tom, who had to leave early, reported that he wanted to include new photographs of the community centre on the web-site and also suggested that we should consider acquiring a projector and screen for the various talks and training events which are held at the centre. It was agreed to check out the cost of a projector and screen and to contact Jessop and Cook about getting copies of the photographs of the centre which they have taken over recent months.

(2) The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved.

(3) Matters Arising : Building issues : Prior to Xmas Dan and Harry from Jessop and Cook visited the centre and conducted an audit of the outstanding repairs and snagging issues including that the Maglock plate attached to the front door had become detached and the bolt screw worn out so the plate could not be fixed properly in place. This visit resulted in work being immediately carried out on the guttering, fire doors and the leak in the roof of the rear hall. This week there was a visit from Oxford Direct Services to check out outstanding repairs and the further outstanding work will be undertaken later this month. Hagan Lewisman(City Council) has confirmed that after the defects period we will need to report repairs to the City Council(Neil Smith). Barbara to inform Neil Smith, (cc to Jessop and ODS) that we do not accept any responsibility for the defective Maglock plate on the front door, which has fallen off three times over recent months.

Energy costs. Barbara reported that our contract with Octopus Energy was due for renewal on 1st February but when she tried to sign up for the 'payback' contract which would allow 15 p per KWH on additional energy produced by our solar panels she was informed that Business customers were not yet able to be included in this contract. She has asked them when we can join and if we can switch mid-contract without penalty. At this point they are quoting a higher daily standing charge but a lower tariff per KWH. It was agreed to take out a one year contract with Octopus. She circulated a summary of the average daily use of energy on a monthly basis. This shows a reduction in use during the summer period after our solar panels were connected on 3rd April but quite high use and cost in the winter months e.g. 68 KWH per day in December (£751.43). We will have a clearer idea of our yearly use by the end of the financial year (31st March) This month Otis has re-programmed each heater to try to reduce our energy use. It was agreed that Barbara will check if we can get back any of the large advance payment required when we took out the initial contract.

Football. There have been no developments regarding the football team moving their equipment out of the dressing room. Phil will check with the Council Sports development staff about whether they have any suggestions for the future use of the equipment.

(4)Lets A number of new lets have recently started including Line Dancing, Indian Dance and a Bible class. Some of our lets in the rear hall now require more chairs than we currently have available. It was agreed we should purchase some additional chairs and an additional stacking trolley. Otis reports that the lets in December produced an income of £1,424.50 :£769.50 came from regular lets and £655 from one off lets to individuals and groups.

(5)Treasurer's Report : Trevor reported that there was £51,916.95 at the bank at the end of December. We have received a small grant

from the City Council (£240) for the purchase of food for the Community Lunch.

(6) Correspondence : No news about improving the road signage for Bullingdon. Barbara has recently taken photographs of the sign for the community centre on the Slade, showing it partly hidden by the sign for the bus stop and faded on one side. Richard will renew his correspondence with the local Councillors and relevant officers.

(7) Present Activities. The next Community Lunch is this Friday at 12.15 followed by a talk by a local author Colin Wade (2pm). The digital taster class which was due to be held on Friday morning has been cancelled due to the illness of the tutor. This class will now be held at a later date. Citizens Advice Oxford report that their numbers are increasing with an average of 7 attending the Thursday sessions at the centre. The Repair Café was busy this week and the Parent and Toddler group is doing well under its new leadership.

(8) Future Activities. The Date Palm Tree and Silver Shakers are going to be involved in a project with Modern Art Oxford during the summer. Planning meetings are currently being held.

(9) Health & Safety. Nothing to report.

(10) External Matters. Chris and Angela were thanked for representing Bullingdon at the Xmas Civic Reception which was held at the Town Hall in December. Richard reported on a 'Community Insight' survey of the Wood Farm estate being carried out by the Wood Farm Health and Well-being Partnership (WFHWP) during 2014. The survey is funded by the County Council and will involve reviewing existing data on the estate (e.g. data from the last census), an on- line questionnaire, focus groups and street based interviews. The focus will be on economic and health issues, community assets and the experience of living in the area. Wood Farm has been selected for the survey because it is one of the more disadvantaged local areas in the county. The BCA is a member of the WFHWP and it

was agreed that we should actively support the survey. Richard will provide updates.

(11)AOB Phil reported that he is trying to revive the Oxford Federation of Community Associations. It was noted that this would be relevant in the context of likely future cuts in local authority budgets.

Date of Next Meeting : Tuesday 13th February at 7.30pm.

RB/BB : 10/1/2024