

Bullington Community Association : Meeting : 11th February 2025

Attending Trevor Kimber, Chris Perks, Frank Holliday, Mary Woolliams, Pat Kennedy, Barbara Bryant, Richard Bryant, Tom Crook, Terry Smith, Phil Jones (City Council). No apologies.

(1) The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

(2) Priority Issues.

Proposal from Woodfarm Youth Centre(WFYC). WFYC, which is reviewing its governance, had circulated a proposal at the end of 2024 asking whether the BCA would consider taking over the governance of WFYC. This proposal had been discussed briefly at our meeting in December. After careful consideration, Trustees decided that taking over the management and running of the youth centre would put too much additional pressure on the existing resources of the BCA, particularly the Trustees & volunteers who are already coping with increased demands since the opening of the new Community Centre. It was emphasized, however, that the BCA would continue to support the Youth Centre, as it has in the past, through supporting grant applications, providing advice and assisting with the circulation of publicity.

Business Plan. The Working Party compiling a new business plan held its first meeting in late January. A draft SWOT Analysis was produced, which has been circulated to Trustees. No amendments to the SWOT were suggested at the meeting. Richard to check out dates for a further Working Party meeting which will focus on the details of the Business Plan. Tom proposed that the Business Plan should be reviewed on a three-year cycle. This was agreed at the meeting.

(3) Matters Arising from the January meeting.

Energy. Barbara reported that the contract with Octopus has been renewed for a year at a similar price to last year. She is

still pursuing getting the deposit repaid. Octopus now say they can do 'pay back' for any additional energy generated by the solar panels. It is complicated but she is pursuing this with support from Jessop & Cook and Oxford City.

Wi-Fi The contract with Virgin has finally been sorted out and a new router installed. Thanks to Otis for keeping the passwords the same. The cost is £35 per month with a reduction for the first 6 months. Barbara was thanked for the work she did on this issue.

(4) Lets. Otis has reported that the income from lets for January was £2082.50. This was made up of – one off lets £73.00; party lets £384.0 regular lets £1625.50. Jack Carter is now using the small meeting room and is paying a letting charge.

(5) Treasurer's Report. Trevor reported that the income for January was £2,299.50 and the expenditure was £2,201.42. There has been increase in our insurance for 2025-26, due to the increased use of the building. Richard reported that the City Councils budget, which is due to be confirmed on Thursday, is likely to have some cuts in the future support provided for community centres. According to information received by the Oxford Federation of Community Associations these cuts will only impact on the Community Centres which are directly run and managed by the Council – currently Rose Hill and East Oxford and Blackbird Leys when they re – open after redevelopment. The cuts will not apply to those Community Centres which are run and managed by local Community Associations.

(6) Correspondence. Due to our membership of CAG (Community Action Groups) we are now on a new web – site called the Mycelium Map, which provides information about local environmental groups across the country.

(7) Present Activities. Barbara reported that the childminders who use our parent/toddler group Lye Valley Little'uns have agreed to keep the group running – which is good news. Community Lunches are attracting up to 40 people, including volunteers. The next free community lunch is this Friday with an art event in the morning and a speaker from Carers Oxfordshire in the afternoon. Repair café is well attended but needs new volunteers. The Modern Art exhibition, which features art work produced by the Date Palm Tree Group, is running until the 9th March and is well worth a visit.

(8) Future Activities. The Community Lunch is looking for suggestions for speakers for the June afternoon session.

(9) Health and Safety. Some adjustments have been made to the fire door in the meeting room.

(10) External Matters. The reports on the Healthwatch survey of Wood Farm and Town Furze are due to be published on the 26th February. There are two reports – a review of the findings from the survey of residents and a review of statistical data relating to income, housing, the make-up of the population etc. Due to the County Council elections on the 1st May, the next stage in the process-the drawing up of action plans and the awarding of grants- will not start until later in May.

AOB : No issues raised.

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 11th March at 7.30pm.

RB/BB 17/2/2025