

## **Bullington Community Association Trustee Meeting 14 January 2025**

**Attending.** Trevor Kimber, Frank Holliday, Barbara Bryant, Richard Bryant, Tom Crook , Mary Woolliams.

**Apologies.** Chris Perks, Catherine Gundry, Pat Kennedy. (1) **The minutes** of the December meeting were read and approved.

(2) **Matters Arising.** Energy. No new developments. A second yoga class is now running. The Trustees Working Party meeting about compiling a 'business plan' has been arranged for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 10 a.m. in Bullington

(3) **Lets.** The Zumba class will not now be running. The Line Dancing group is now meeting twice a week. Otis reports that the income from lets during December was £1,726.50, which comprised £578 from one off lets to organizations, £260 from party lets and £888.50 from regular lets.

Unfortunately, a teenage children's party in December broke a number of our Conditions of Hire. As this is the second incident with a party for a young teenager over the last 6 months, after discussion Trustees regretfully agreed to amend the hiring policy. Bookings for 13-21 year old birthday parties will no longer be taken and children's parties will finish by 5pm.

Following the installation of a time switch in the Centre's office, the all-weather sports area can now be let out with the use of the floodlights. It was agreed that the hiring rate should be £12 per hour. The floodlights will be switched off by 9 p.m. at the latest. Richard to arrange for the publicity regarding the letting arrangements and

to check who pays for replacement light bulbs.

(4) **Treasurer's Report.** Trevor reported income £3,049.50; expenditure £2,460.59; increased income over expenditure £588.91 for December. Over 9 months since April our income is £25,626, expenditure £23,763.42, giving £1,862.58 increased income over expenditure. Our income nearly exactly matches our expenditure if grant income is not considered. Many thanks to Trevor for preparing this report. Community lunch has made a donation of £80.

A paper proposing we increase our rates by approx.20% for one-off events at the weekend because they require more admin, caretaking and cleaning time than regular lets was discussed. Trevor pointed out that we were nearly breaking even at this point but would face some additional charges next year such as wifi. There was concern that our rates remained affordable for everyone living in our catchment area. After considerable discussion it was agreed that our rates would increase by approx.10% for all new weekend bookings taking place after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

Broadband service. Barbara reported that sorting out our postcode and contract with Virgin Media has continued to be difficult. She finally today signed a contract with Virgin Media costing £35 per month with a 6 month discount. Installation usually takes 15-21 days after agreement so there may, unfortunately, be a short gap in our broadband provision. We will talk with Otis about a back up router. (City Council also informed us on 13<sup>th</sup> January that our post code was now officially OX3 7HS- our original post code which has apparently been re-

instated). Barbara was thanked for her work on this.

(5) **Correspondence.** The usual circulars.

(6) **Present Activities.** The Xmas Community Lunch went very well and had an excellent attendance. Thanks to Mary and the team of volunteers. Despite very cold weather the January Community Lunch was also well attended. Thanks to Tom for stepping in at the last minute to do a well- received talk on the 'Honours System'.

Modern Art Oxford has an exhibition of the project the artist Farwa Moledina ran in collaboration with the Date Palm Tree at Bullingdon during the summer of 2024. The exhibition starts on the 16<sup>th</sup> January and runs until March. Entrance is free. We would encourage people to attend.

Lye Valley Littl'uns-our Toddler Group on Wednesday mornings. Unfortunately, both the fathers who presently run this group need to step down by the middle of February. We will put a note on our website asking for volunteers and Barbara will speak with existing parents to see if any of them can help. We can only run if we have volunteers prepared to take responsibility for the group.

(7) **Future Activities.** A proposal has been circulated to Trustees by Wood Farm Youth Centre ( WFYC ) which is reviewing its governance in the light of long serving committee members either retiring or planning to retire during 2025. It asked, as one of the options it is considering, whether the BCA would consider taking over the governance of WFYC. Due to time constraints, Trustees could only briefly discuss the proposal. It was agreed to consider the matter in more detail at a future meeting.

(8) **External Matters.** Richard provided a brief up-date on the Healthwatch survey of Wood Farm and Town Furze. There are two reports which are due to be published in late February viz. a review of the results of the survey and a review of data from various sources (e.g. the census ) relating to population, health, household income, housing etc. When the reports are published, the BCA will need to review the implications of the findings and discuss what bids we can make to the £25,000 fund which will be made available for supporting local projects in Wood Farm and Town Furze.

(9) **A.O.B.** No issues raised.

**Date of next meeting. Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm.** All welcome.

RB/BB 15/1/2025.