

WNF Steering Committee

Minutes of a meeting on 7 February 2023 at 7.30pm

In attendance:

Paul Buckley, Mary Brown, Tony Dale, John Bleach, Richard Lawrence-Wilson, Tamsin Smith, Andrew Siantonas, David Stone (arrived late), Jo Sandelson (arrived late), Steve Goddard (arrived late)

1. Apologies

Suzy Donald had sent apologies. David Stone, Jo Sandelson and Steve Goddard had sent apologies predicting late arrival because of other commitments.

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 10 January 2023 (circulated previously)

Item 5: last 2 lines. 'In exceptional circumstances' should be deleted. Subject to this correction, the Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 3: Planner role - Mary and Paul (as Chair) are both now receiving weekly alerts of new planning applications from the City Council. They would alert the SC of applications appearing to be relevant to WNF.

Item 3: Public Engagement role - Tamsin agreed to take on public engagement including Facebook. This was likely to need creation of a new Facebook account. John would liaise with Tamsin about this.

Item 5: Five Mile Drive noticeboard - Mary reported that she has still not been able to contact Julian Cooper about the Five Mile Drive noticeboard. It was agreed to contact local councillors for help if Mary is not able to progress with the item.

Item 7: Joe White's Lane – Mary had been unable to identify the landowner. It was agreed to request this information from the Land Registry, provided the cost did not exceed £50.

5. CIL

5.1 Round 2 CIL bids update

The City Council has been sent the request for funds for 6 applications but John has not yet received confirmation of any monies being issued.

5.2 CIL meeting with C.Cameron

A meeting of the CIL sub-committee with Council CIL officer C. Cameron had been arranged for 15 February. The committee suggested items to be discussed should include: (a) how much money is currently available for WNF CIL applications; (b) what limit if any should be imposed on WNF bids (current limit is £10k); (c) what procedure should be followed for higher bids given that these will need approval from Council cabinet; (d) can C.C. confirm that all of 25% of post-2020 CIL monies are available to be spent on projects agreed by WNF; (e) what is the status of remaining 15% CIL monies raised from Wolvercote developments pre-2020; (f) can C.C. confirm that (for CIL purposes) the delayed referendum in 2021 can be regarded as having taken place in 2020 because of pandemic delay; (g) will the Council provide WNF with a monthly update of WNF CIL monies available.

5.3 CIL: plan for future rounds:

The CIL sub-committee suggested the following timeline for round 3 bids:

Launch end of February with publicity campaign

Applications close 14 April

Longlisting 25 April

Applications publicised 27 April

Approval 16 May

Grant decisions confirmed by end of May

This timeline was agreed, subject to C.Cameron confirming availability of funds at the 15 February meeting.

6. **Mill Site Community Building update** (building plans had been circulated)

Plans of the building were viewed and approved, and the meeting supported Tamsin's proposal to press for provision of more facilities in the building. It was reported that CALA had approved fitting out of the kitchen with fridges and cookers. It was understood that the Wolvercote Village Hall Committee had agreed to accept the freehold of the Mill Community building but (consistent with the terms of the S106 agreement) WNF would be arbiters of the use of the building. Tamsin reported on the results of the community survey she had undertaken, and noted that there had been a high level of interest in using and helping with the building. Tamsin would report on this to the WVH AGM on 21 February. Legal documents will need to be drawn up to clarify the responsibilities of the WVH Committee, WNF, and any other stakeholders with respect to the Mill building. Committee members were encouraged to attend the WVH AGM. The meeting thanked Tamsin for her hard work on this matter.

7. Developments

7.1 Oxford North

WNF comments on current planning application 22/03042/RES (concerning re-design of the Red Hall) had been submitted to the Planning Department and are now included on their website, in the list of documents relating to this application. It was noted that WNF was now listed as a 'consultee' rather than just a group or individual submitting views. No other objections had been received by closing date of submissions. It was agreed that Paul as Chair would attend the planning meeting to raise WNF objections in person, and would also circulate a brief note on the subject to Planning Committee members in advance.

It was agreed the committee should remain alert to further planning applications from Oxford North: an application for Phase 2 (three industrial-scale laboratories) is expected soon.

It was noted that works are about to start on re-modelling pavements and insertion of a pedestrian crossing on First Turn outside Wolvercote Primary School, under the 'Safer Routes to School' scheme, the subject of an existing S106 agreement with Oxford North. The committee expressed concern that they might pose parking difficulties for St Peter's church.

7.2 Water Eaton (PR6a)

It was noted that, following the recent public consultation, a planning application to Cherwell District Council is expected soon. The information provided in the consultation is a useful guide to what the application will be proposing.

7.3 The Triangle – (Kassam stadium replacement)

Steve explained difficulties he saw with the site as a venue for Oxford United's stadium, and suggested that the County Council may not proceed with the proposal.

8. WNF website

Discussion was deferred to another meeting.

9. General meetings of WNF

It was agreed that, in future, the aim would be for WNF to have two public General Meetings per year, in line with the Constitution. They would be timed to follow the conclusion of each CIL round, so that the results could be reported upon. Therefore they would be approximately at the end of May and end of November.

10. Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance (ONPA)

WNF is a full member of ONPA. Three members of WNF need to be nominated to attend ONPA meetings. It was agreed that Paul, Mary and Tony would be WNF representatives attending ONPA meetings.

Also Neighbourhood Forums in the Oxford City Council area need to nominate one of their number to represent Oxford City NFs on the ONPA Executive. Until the recent AGM on 21 January this role had been filled by WNF, with Christopher Hardman our representative. But there is now a vacancy. The committee did not feel strongly that WNF should continue to fill this role. Paul agreed to liaise with Summertown and Headington NFs to agree a replacement.

11. Any other business

11.1 Sewage Disposal bill

Mary reported on MP Layla Moran's comments on this bill, recently passed by Parliament. It provided some hope of a future reduction of sewage spills into rivers such as the Thames.

11.2 Flying Goose

It was agreed that John Bleach would write an article to meet the 22 February deadline, in consultation with the Chair. It was noted that the Flying Goose is to go online as well as being in hard copy.

11.3 WNF logo

The Friends of Cutteslowe and Sunnymead Park had requested permission to use WNF logo on publicity material for their new woodland trail in parks which had been supported by CIL money from WNF. In discussion, the committee welcomed the FoCSP proposal to acknowledge WNF's support, and agreed to their use of the WNF logo to illustrate this.

12. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 7.30pm, at the White Hart.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.