



WNF Steering Committee

Minutes of a meeting on 17 October 2023 at 7.30pm

In attendance: John Bleach, Paul Buckley (remote access via Zoom), Tony Dale, Katherine Kaye, Richard Lawrence-Wilson, Andrew Siantonas, Mary Brown, David Stone (from 8.50), Tamsin Smith (from 8.30), Cllr Jo Sandelson.

- The meeting was held at 65 Five Mile Drive (home of Richard Lawrence Wilson) because the White Hart room had become unavailable at the last minute.
- The meeting was chaired by John Bleach.

1. Apologies

Suzy Donald, Cllr Steve Goddard, Cllr Andrew Gant

2. Declarations of interest

PB as a Governor of Wolvercote Primary School (item 7.1).

MB as a member of the Wolvercote Commoners' Committee (items 7.3 and 7.5).

3. Minutes of previous meeting on 20 September 2023

It was agreed that 'OCC' in items 6 and 10 should be replaced by 'Oxfordshire County Council'. Subject to this change, the Minutes were agreed.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 8: TD reported that Oxford City Council officer Chris Cameron had agreed to inform WNF when CIL monies approved by WNF had been paid to recipients.

Item 9: PB reported that he had written to Cala Homes to confirm WNF's support for the former Cala Homes sales office being handed over to 'The Wolvercote Mill' Community Benefit Society, consistent with the original Mill Site Section 106 agreement.

5. Finalising planning of 2023 AGM on 7 November

5.1 Meeting logistics were agreed: JB would collect the keys on the day and set up the PA system; SC members would try to arrive 6.45 – 7.00, to help set up; PB would provide a laptop for presentations; speakers would forward presentations to PB in advance, for loading onto the laptop; some other SC members would bring other laptops as backup; there would be no collection at the meeting.

5.2 The proposed version of draft Minutes from the 2022 AGM (previously circulated) was agreed.

- 5.3 The proposed programme (previously circulated) was agreed. PB would arrange for printing of papers for the meeting: agenda, draft minutes from the 2022 AGM, Annual Report 2023, Treasurer's Report and Accounts (20 hard copies of each).
- 5.4 PB as Acting Chair would chair the meeting up to the elections. Another SC member (TBA) would run the elections for Chair (the only nomination so far was PB), Secretary (no nominations so far) and one committee place, since TS had given notice that, with regret and because of pressure of other commitments, she was resigning (the only nomination so far was AS). However, it was recognised that further candidates for any of these could be proposed and seconded at the meeting. It was agreed that meeting attendees would be encouraged to volunteer to be Secretary or to be co-opted onto the SC, and advised to let the committee member know if they were interested. Whoever was elected as Chair would chair the rest of the meeting.
- 5.5 PB and TD would put up posters as soon as possible. The website would be updated to include draft minutes of the 2022 AGM, a notice of the 2023 AGM together with agenda, the Annual Report on activities, and Treasurer's Report. PB would arrange this with Steve Roberts. The other usual publicity routes would also be used: JB would send a MailChimp email, TD would contact local community groups, PB would notify resident groups for which he had details, TS would put a notice on Facebook.
- 5.6 The Wolvercote WI had confirmed they would provide refreshments. They would not charge, but would ask for donations.

6. Developments and Planning Applications

6.1 Cherwell District Council Local Plan Review 2040

The SC noted that the CDC Local Plan Review proposed that the Triangle would remain in the Green Belt until at least 2040, and that this would not be consistent with the granting of planning permission for a new stadium on this site (an application for this was expected soon). It was agreed there was nothing significant in the review that merited objection from WNF.

6.2 OUFC latest consultation on plans for a stadium

It was agreed that the proposal to close the Banbury Road for 3 hours on match days was unacceptable, and WNF would respond objecting to this. PB would prepare a draft and circulate to the SC. SC members were encouraged to respond individually if they wished.

6.3 Other planning applications

The meeting agreed with the 'no comment' suggestions on the list of planning applications since the last meeting (previously circulated). It was noted that the developers of land adjacent to Goose Green Close were hosting an exhibition on 13 November, and online consultation, about their plans for that site (prior to submitting a planning application). SC members were encouraged to consider those plans: a decision on whether to respond would be made by email.

7. CIL

The SC received these updates from the CIL team, concerning bids submitted previously (Spring Round 2023).

- Davenport Road traffic calming project: there had been no further news.
- Electric Cargo Bike: TD reported that Oxford Food Hub had agreed to take responsibility for the project.
- The Scout Hut roof: there had been no further progress.

The SC made the following decisions on applications to the CIL Autumn Round 2023:

- 7.1 Wolvercote Primary School: SEND 'Shepherd's Hut': £10,000 of CIL approved, as a contribution to the total cost of £40,000.
- 7.2 Wolvercote Village Hall: disabled toilet refurbishment: £925 of CIL approved as 50% of total cost.
- 7.3 WCC: metal feet for new equipment in Lower Wolvercote playground: £2479.24 of CIL approved.
- 7.4 Wolvercote Monday Lunch Club: vacuum cleaner purchase: £280 of CIL approved.
- 7.5 WCC: noticeboard replacement opposite Village Hall: £1092 of CIL approved.
- 7.6 Cutteslowe Community Association: cinema equipment for Cutteslowe Community Centre: £7500 of CIL approved, as a contribution to the total cost of £10,088.
- 7.7 WYPC: installation of external fire doors: £3630 of CIL approved. It was noted that WNF SC had received objections to this from a few members of the public, on the grounds that this was a County Council property, so the money should come from their funds. The SC considered it was a justifiable use of CIL funds, as the fire doors were needed for safe operation of WYPC, and the SC understood that the Council was not obliged by the lease to cover this cost.
- 7.8 WYPC: installation of EV charger for two vehicles: £8980.18 of CIL approved, subject to WYPC providing assurance on how these would be maintained.
- 7.9 White Hart community pub: kitchen upgrade – phase 2: decision was deferred pending receipt of (1) a second quotation, and (2) assurance on the 'community' status of the business. TD would make enquires concerning (2).

8. CIL Spring Round 2024 planning

The SC considered two possible sets of dates suggested by the CIL team, and agreed the timeline:

Launch of publicity: 12 February

Applications close: 15 April

SC meeting: 16 or 17 April

Publication of shortlist: 22 April

Deadline for public comments: 6 May

SC decisions: 14 or 15 May

Final decisions confirmed to applicants: 21 May.

9. Oxford Brookes University request for student projects

Following the request from Adam Symons of Oxford Brookes University for suggestions for student projects on topics that would be of help to WNF, it was agreed to suggest studies relating to:

- (1) bird nesting platforms at Wolvercote Lakes;
- (2) river water quality in the WNF area.

TD would convey these suggestions to Adam Symons.

10. Wolvercote community building: update

TS reported on progress since the last SC meeting.

- The legal process, enabling handover of the building to the new Community Benefit Society 'The Wolvercote Mill', was still incomplete.
- Many local groups had expressed interest in use of the building, but no commitments could be made until handover had occurred.
- Charitable status of the CBS had been confirmed.

The SC agreed to the WNF's MailChimp email list being used one more time by the CBS, for communicating to residents news from The Wolvercote Mill.

11. Any other business

- PB informed SC members that they, together with their families and friends interested, had been invited by the St Peter's Church bellringers to a 'launch' demonstration of the new (CIL-funded) camera system in action at 3pm to 4.30pm on Saturday 25 November.
- JB asked for ideas for the next Flying Goose article from WNF.
- SC members expressed their gratitude to RL-W, for providing use of his dining room for the meeting at short notice.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be the Open Meeting and AGM at Wolvercote Village Hall, on Tuesday 7 November, at 7.30pm.

The next committee meeting was *provisionally* planned for Wednesday 13 December at 7.30pm. The Chair would confirm to the committee nearer the date.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

AS/PB