



WNF Steering Committee

Minutes of a meeting on 20 March 2024 at 7.30pm

In attendance: John Bleach, Mary Brown, Paul Buckley, Tony Dale, Andrew Siantonas, David Stone, Cllr Steve Goddard

1. Apologies

Suzy Donald, Cllr Jo Sandelson, Cllr Andrew Gant

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Minutes of previous meeting on 13 December 2023

The Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 11.2: PB reported that he had attended the AGM and General Meeting of ONPA on 13 January 2024. He noted that there is currently no representation from Oxford City on the ONPA Executive, as none of the Oxford neighbourhood forums had nominated anyone. He understood there are currently 43 member groups, with 34 'made' neighbourhood plans. An interesting point from the General Meeting had been that a revised NPPF had recently been proposed (and was the subject of public consultation until 3 February) including provision for 'streets' voting for new developments, without planning permission being needed.

5. Application for re-designation of WNF

PB explained that WNF needed to be 're-designated' as a Neighbourhood Forum, as the 5-year duration of the previous re-designation in 2019 would expire on 13 March. Having been warned of this in advance by Oxford City Council, PB had already applied for this in February, on behalf of WNF. However, the Council had warned that because of time gaps between Council meetings (extended because of the imminent City Council election) it would probably be June before re-designation would be achieved. What effect (if any) this would have, e.g. on the current CIL round, was unclear. Clarification had been promised by the Council.

6. CIL

6.1 Designing a long term strategy for CIL expenditure

After discussion of a report prepared by the CIL team (JB, SD, TD), there was agreement that the CIL strategy should: (1) build on the 5 policy areas in the WNP; (2) be as informed as possible (e.g. by City Council) about the likely profile of CIL receipts

expected e.g. to a 10 year horizon (being the rough duration of Oxford North); (3) should acknowledge that the size of the community (and hence of infrastructure needs) will be growing significantly during this time; (4) should pay attention to the geographical spread of infrastructure across the WNF area, and aim to treat all areas fairly; (5) should be kept well informed about residents' views of needs within the WNF community. The CIL team were thanked for their work on preparing the report. It was agreed that a start needed to be made on consulting the community, to begin to meet aim (5) as soon as possible, and the upcoming General Meeting would be used to start this process. Another possibility was a community questionnaire (a draft had been prepared by the CIL team), but that suggestion was shelved for the present on cost/benefit grounds. It was noted, however, that a useful starting point in collating community views on local needs was already available from the results from the initial community consultation during creation of the WNP.

6.2 CIL updates from previous rounds

The scout hut application had been approved; the Davenant Rd design work application had been approved; Lower Wolvercote playground equipment had arrived.

6.3 CIL Spring Round 2024

The next deadline was 15 April. It was noted that 8 enquiries had already been received.

6.4 Other CIL business

There was no other CIL business.

7. Local public consultations: should we respond and if so how?

7.1 OUFC Stadium Planning Application

This consultation was in progress at CDC, with a deadline of 22 April. It was agreed that WNF would respond. Comments would be primarily the same as previous responses on this topic: objecting to the impact of the proposed stadium on transport in the locality – i.e. on the functioning of Oxford Road and Elsfeld Way, Oxford Parkway station, Water Eaton and Peartree Park & Ride car parks etc. Particular concerns were the proposed closures of Oxford Road and the proposed use of Park & Ride car parks by spectators.

The next meeting on 17 April would finalise details of preparation of the response.

7.2 Other planning applications

The list of 'no comments' on all other outstanding public consultations suggested by MB and PB were agreed.

8. A General Meeting in June?

It was agreed to follow last year's pattern and hold a WNF General Meeting in June or July, at the Cutteslowe Community Centre, if possible. It was also agreed that the emphasis of this year's meeting would be on the development of a strategic plan for CIL, with the aim of obtaining opinions from the community. Since it would help to prepare the community for this in advance through an article in Flying Goose, it was agreed to try to move the General Meeting back to July (2nd or 9th), after the next edition of FG appears. Other possible topics for the meeting would be updates on the Cutteslowe Greenhouse project, and plans for the Cutteslowe Pavilion.

9. Wolvercote Mill community building

It was reported that the community café is proving a particular success: coffee available on Thursday, Friday, Saturday mornings was recommended. The building is also becoming used for public meetings.

10. WNF SC Operational matters

10.1 People

It was agreed: to be more effective, we need to recruit more people to the committee. It was agreed that committee members would seek promising co-optees.

10.2 Money

WNF currently has no income. It was agreed to ask City CIL officers whether CIL could be used to support activities required to support WNF's management of its CIL process. JB agreed to ask. SG agreed in principle to support WNF's activities from his Ward budget, but explained that a financial case would need to be made by WNF.

10.3 Communication with members

It was agreed WNF SC needs to do more to keep public communications accurate and up to date: website and Facebook. In relation to the website, PB would communicate with Steve Roberts about this for non-CIL material: JB would do similarly for CIL material. In relation to Facebook, the position was uncertain: KK would be asked to advise.

10.4 Planning review of WNP

It was agreed to begin considering where WNP could be improved, starting with 'Green Spaces and Biodiversity' at the next meeting. PB would try to find out if/when there was a requirement to renew it.

10.5 Dates of future meetings

It was agreed to meet: Wednesday 17 April (CIL longlist); Tuesday 14 May (CIL decisions); Wednesday 5 June (if necessary); Tuesday 2 or 9 July (General Meeting).

11. Any other business

Committee members were interested to note that an Oxford City Council leaflet claimed that women in Wolvercote live 11.4 years longer than women in Cowley.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

AS/PB