



The Friends of Old Headington

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at 8pm on Friday 4 December online via Zoom
(A video of the meeting is available at www.foh.org.uk)

Present: Nancy, Lady Kenny (President), Dr Sonia Brough (Vice-President), and approximately 50 members and friends.

Peter McCarter (Chairman) welcomed members and friends and chaired the meeting, with Howard Stanbury (Secretary) and John Clarke assisting.

1. *Apologies for absence:* received from Julian and Carmelita Lawton Smith, Ronnie Sonneborn, and Zoe Traill.
2. *Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 17 May 2019*
The draft minutes were proposed (by Robert Grimley, seconded by Sam Laidlaw) as correct, and were unanimously approved by the meeting.
3. *Matters arising from the Minutes*
There were no matters arising from the minutes, the Chairman having asked members to raise only urgent matters, or those not otherwise on the agenda.
4. *Treasurer's Report*
The Treasurer (Hugh Ferris) presented the accounts for the year ending 31.12.2019. He thanked the independent examiner Adrian Williams for his help and support and the main points to note were:
 - A major significant and one-off expense was the 60th anniversary party
 - Income at £2,810 was slightly down on the previous year (-7%)
 - Annual subscription income was £1,012 (up from £805 in 2018) and
 - Income from Open Gardens £979 (down from £1,260 in 2018)
 - Expenditure at £1,835 was higher (£838 in 2017) because of the party
 - There was surplus for the year of £975 (£2,178 in 2018)
 - The balance sheet indicated that our current assets and reserves totalled £18,714 on 31/12/2018, up from £17,740 in the previous year.

The Treasurer also noted the increased difficulties of banking with cash and cheques and urged member to sign up to standing orders and to approve Gift Aid if they were UK taxpayers.

5. *Adoption of the Annual Accounts for 2019*

The accounts were adopted unanimously. (Proposed Jinny Blom, seconded Jim Malcomson.)

6. *Appointment of independent examiner of the accounts*

The Treasurer thanked Adrian Williams for his examination of the accounts. The Chairman proposed that he be appointed for 2020. This was seconded and approved *nem. con.*

7. *Chairman's Report*

The Chairman began his report by reminding everyone of the purpose of the Friends as stated in our Constitution, viz. *'...to preserve the rural amenities and village charm of Old Headington and to seek to prevent the village succumbing to urban pressures. It shall work actively to encourage and foster the preservation of the character of the village. At the same time, acknowledging that change is ever with us, the charity shall seek to ensure, when change is being considered, that if made, it is effected only in a sympathetic fashion.....'*

Membership in 2019 stood at 200, comprising 160 subscribing and 40 Life members. He encouraged those who don't do so already to consider paying their annual subscriptions by Standing Order, and to encourage neighbours and newcomers to the Village to join too.

Key events of 2019 had been the annual open gardens, a party in the Priory gardens to celebrate the Friends' diamond jubilee and a winter meeting, at which the late Jill Paton Walsh had given a talk about Ethelred 'the unready'. These had been well-attended and enjoyed by all.

Trustees had commented on a number of Planning Applications within the Conservation Area plus some outside the Area which might have an adverse impact. The latter included both the Oxford City Local Plan (to 2036), which still includes the Ruskin Fields as a potential development site; and the South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan, which includes plans to build several thousand houses on the Green Belt on land north of Bayswater Brook. Both developments would almost certainly increase the volume of traffic passing through the Village (the issue of traffic was addressed in a subsequent agenda item).

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked all the trustees for their work during 2019, with special thanks to Howard Stanbury, our secretary; John Rawson, our architectural adviser; and Jenny Butler who organises the open gardens event each year.

8. *Enhancement Award 2020*

The Chairman announced that the award for 2020 had been presented to Jinny Blom and Marc Fox for their work on The Barn, Barton Lane. The nomination from Julie Harrod had the unanimous support of the trustees:

Damaging and unsightly cement mortar has been removed throughout and replaced with lime mortar to protect the soft Headington stone. An ugly fence along the west-facing elevation was demolished, revealing damaged stonework and missing quoins – the whole length of the building was then fully restored using Headington stone. Recesses marking the position of the old barn doors have been clad in dark weatherboarding. The overall effect is to reinforce the sense of a significant building – originally the threshing barn of Mathers Farm – occupying an important site at the eastern entrance to the village of Old Headington.

9. *Election of Committee Members*

With five vacancies for trustees, five nominations had been received, four of whom were current trustees and having come to the end of their terms of office, were willing to be re-elected. The following were duly elected en bloc:

David Cartwright

Proposer Nigel Frith, Seconder M. Cartwright

John Clarke

Proposer Steve Cowls, Seconder Jane Seggons

Roddy Deans

Proposer Howard Stanbury, Seconder Peter McCarter

Peter McCarter

Proposer Zoe Traill, Seconder David Cartwright

Jim Malcomson

Proposer Peter McCarter, Seconder Zoe Traill

10. *Headington Liveable Streets*

The Chairman introduced Katharine Barber, Chair of Headington Liveable Streets, and Howard Stanbury to present on developments with proposals for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Headington and Oxford, and the potential for implementation in Old Headington. Copies of their presentations are available from the Friends' website.

Katharine introduced Headington Liveable Streets and its vision: 'for community-led liveable streets across Headington, where active travel is made easy, playing out is safe, air quality is improved, neighbourhood connections thrive and rat-running is no longer an option'. She introduced the plan that the group advocates to create three low-traffic neighbourhoods in Headington - Quarry and Highfield south of the London Road and the wider Old Headington neighbourhood north of the London Road. She highlighted the hidden costs of the status quo (health, congestion, climate change) and the high-value benefits that can be achieved. Traffic evaporation was explained as a concept to illustrate how overall peak-period travel can be reduced.

Howard presented on the plans for Old Headington. He and the Chairman were members of the Organising Group of HLS. The background to the proposals is that the government has set up an emergency green transport recovery fund and £250m is being made available nationally. Oxfordshire County Council is receiving over £3m in funding and has identified Headington as one of the areas for action. Howard briefly reviewed the history of traffic problems in Old Headington and the need to reduce cut-through or rat-running traffic east-west through the village as well as north-south. Evidence from traffic counts done by Robert Grimley and John Rawson showed that nearly 1000 vehicles entered and left the village in the morning peak period and that up to 90% of the traffic could be excluded with the introduction of traffic filters on Barton Lane and Dunstan Road. Exact locations would be determined by the county and it is expected that the scheme would be introduced after invitations for public comment through the use of experimental road traffic orders. Trial of the scheme is expected to last 6-12 months.

In the discussion that followed aspects of the consultation were clarified with reference to the current plans for an LTN in Cowley. One member emphasised the need to grab any opportunity to address traffic problems in our neighbourhood as money is rarely available for such schemes.

11. Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at approximately 9:15pm.