

# **Friends of Iffley Village**

## **Annual General Meeting 2018**

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 3 pm in the Church Hall, Iffley**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM** (see handouts)
- 3. Committee elections**

To re-elect members willing to serve another 3-year term: Felicity Gray, Ged Guinness, Gail McIntock, Tina Reid, David Wiles

To elect recently co-opted members: Will Brossler, Daphne Hill, Marianne Puxley

To elect new members: Mike Starks

- 4. Chairman's report**
- 5. Treasurer's report** (see handouts)
- 6. Iffley Community Shop report and accounts** (see handouts)
- 7. Film Nights report** (see handouts)
- 8. Committee reports** (see handouts)
  - i. Highways**
  - ii. Planning**
  - iii. Security**
  - iv. Trees & Greenspaces**
- 9. AOB**

**At around 4.30 pm, Fran Gardner of GreenSquare Group**  
will present an illustrated talk entitled:

***Rose Hill Junior Youth Club – support, care & fun***

Then seating will be re-arranged & tickets checked for:

**Summer Tea Party to start at 5 pm**

**Families and Friends all welcome**

# Friends of Iffley Village

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 at 1900 h in the Church Hall

**Present:** Caroline Pond (Chair, CP), Laura Cope, Felicity Gray, Kate Griffin, Ged Guinness (GG), Gail McLintock, Celia Palmer, Sue Reynolds (SR), Richard Vernon, David Wiles and about 40 others

The chairman welcomed everyone. Apologies for absence had been received from: Pauline Maclean, Tina Reid, Terence English

**1. Minutes of the 2016 AGM:** These were circulated and approved.

### **2. Committee elections**

The following new members were elected:

Andrew Benfield: Proposed by Gail McLintock; seconded by David Penwarden

Alex Coren: Proposed by Helen Potts; seconded by David Penwarden

Mia Eisenstadt (*in absentia*): proposed by Richard Vernon; seconded by Felicity Gray

Jane McBain: Proposed by Richard Vernon; seconded by Susie Seville

All were elected unanimously.

Kate Griffin & Richard Vernon were re-elected to serve a further term.

Two retiring members, Helen Potts and Mike Sinclair, were thanked for their efforts. Helen Potts' work on suppers and on liaison had been particularly appreciated.

[It was noted after the meeting that Daphne Hill had been co-opted as a committee member in Dec 2016, but she would continue pending formal election in 2018.]

### **3. Chairman's report**

CP has been chairman for two years and tries to both continue long-established traditions and to bring it into the modern, digital age that provides a better service for members & contractors, and reduces the workload for Committee members.

FOIV's annual subscription, 2/6d in 1960, was raised in 2017 for the first time since 1997. Nonetheless, membership for 2017 stands at 415, the highest in 7 years. CP thanked Gail McLintock for managing membership lists and subscription collection.

The website has been improved this year, with the addition of a calendar that can be edited by other Iffley organisations to create an overview of Iffley activities. Film Nights coordinators, FoSM, Iffley Music Society, Iffley History Society, Rose Hill & Iffley Low Carbon Group, Living Stones, and St Mary's Church can now edit the online calendar. The website also has sections devoted to archives, the shop, events & news. The efforts of Tina Reid had been invaluable. There is clear evidence that the website has been helpful to Iffley residents and those further afield. However, FOIV will continue use of the traditional media of the printed newsletter and the noticeboard for the foreseeable future. Members of the committee distribute the newsletter to all accessible addresses in Iffley. Joan Brazier mentioned that sometimes the newsletter had not reached her, and Gail will investigate.

FOIV's bank account now has on-line banking, enabling authorised users to complete transactions remotely and instantly, and reducing the need for cheques. As a voluntary organisation, FOIV has a business account, that requires more complicated and numerous controls than personal accounts. Kate Griffin was thanked for her efforts in establishing this account.

Following Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action open day in Oct, it was decided that FOIV would benefit from completing its survey questionnaire about work undertaken by volunteers. FOIV reported that its committee members + film organisers worked 1329 h in 2016, which notionally equates to 1.5 h/volunteer/wk. FOIV is now registered on Local Oxfordshire on 18/1/17, which provides access to legal advice and other services.

Archives on the FOIV website contain files of all Newsletters, AGM minutes since 1960, maps, plans & reports tracing the development of Iffley's physical structure, and the membership & activities of the FOIV Committee. The entire paper archive has been donated to the Oxfordshire History Centre in Cowley who will allow public access at their discretion under their guidelines. CP thanked Felicity Gray, Peter Neumann and others for their work on this project. In response to a question from Gail, CP explained that newsletters and AGM minutes were added cumulatively, and that other material could be added retrospectively to existing files or new files created.

The 2017 Winter Supper was very successful under its new management, with the first course produced by professional caterers. More space in the Church Hall improves diner comfort. All 80 tickets were sold. The many helpers were thanked, especially the organisers Helen Potts and Daphne Hill. The 2016 Summer Party was also successful. CP invited past FOIV chairmen for a group photo that Richard Vernon took during the party, now on the website.

The Tree Lane notice board was badly damaged in an accident on 4/3/17, so existing plans to refurbish and upgrade both wooden boards were extended and accelerated. The cost was split between FOIV subscription money, St Mary's Church and Oxford City Council. The refurbished boards should last for at least seven years.

Long-standing concerns about emergency access to SW Iffley and the River if Church Way is impassable prompted CP to study possible routes, measuring road widths and corners in relation to dimensions of fire & rescue vehicles. City Councillor Ed Turner accepted her suggestions. The crumbling 'baffle' barrier between East Church and Lenthall Road will be replaced with a gate locked with a combination padlock, leaving gaps for pedestrians and cyclists and 20 m of tarmac path towards Rose Hill widened and strengthened. OCC has agreed to replace the barrier and use Grasscrete for the roadway at a total cost of about £6K, providing a cheap, permanent & comprehensive solution to emergency access that would not impinge on the Iffley Conservation Area. Iffley keep must be trimmed, especially on the tight corner, and avoid obstructive parking. The padlock combination number is to be the same as the lock of the Tree Lane gate and known to adjacent residents, St Mary's Church and the emergency services. CP expressed her thanks to OCC. The route will be useful when drains and other infrastructure under Church Way are repaired and upgraded.

Corinne Grimley-Evans noted that many cars in the vicinity of the Prince of Wales pub often parked partially on the pavement, which obstructed pedestrians, particularly the disabled. She suggested that FOIV creates notices to be placed under windscreen wipers condemning this illegal and antisocial practice. CP will bring this helpful suggestion to the forthcoming committee meeting.

The committee would benefit from more members. Volunteers are encouraged to come forward.

4. **Treasurer's report.** The report was presented by Kate Griffin and circulated. She thanked John McLintock for his work as auditor. CP thanked KG for her efforts. The accounts were approved as satisfactory.
5. **Film Night** CP congratulated Kathryn Wilkinson and the film group (an affiliate of FOIV) for the success of the film programmes that are widely enjoyed. The sound quality will soon improve with the installation of new stereo speakers, funded by the proceeds of Peggy Seeger's second benefit concert in December. CP thanked Helen Potts for organising this event and those undertaking the technical arrangements.

#### 6. **Committee reports**

**Planning** CP restated the criteria for a thorough scrutiny of applications leading to critical and constructive comments. She thanked the FOIV planning group for their hard work. GG asked about the threat to allow heavy vehicles access to Rose Hill Recreation Ground (RHRG) via Church Way and Abberbury Road/Ave. Cll. Ed Turner (ET) said that CP had thoroughly and firmly conveyed local objection to the scheme to him and OCC officials when they met in March. The funfair company is in dispute with OCC, so would not operate in Oxford in 2017. ET & RHRG managers will explore upgrading routes that bring in large vehicles directly from Rose Hill. RHRG has no on-site parking, so on-street parking for major events creates severe congestion in Rose Hill, and potentially in Iffley, which must be resolved.

**Security** No issues were brought the meeting.

**Trees & Greenspaces** CP and Celia Palmer outlined Donnington Hospital Trust's action in response to local concerns about felling the horse chestnut by the St Mary's Church. Its responded poorly to major pruning in January 2016. The most decayed branches were in the most dangerous positions. A similar tree beside the Lock blew down without warning during a storm in February, fortunately without casualties or serious collateral damage. DHT will reassess the Church tree soon and inform FOIV of their plans.

7. **Iffley Community Shop report and accounts.** Sue Reynolds commented on the excellent homemade cakes, bread other produce now sold at the shop. She expressed her expectation that apples would be plentiful in 2017, perhaps enough to produce sufficient apple juice for the whole year. CP thanked SR for planning and supervising the refurbishment; SR and Cheryl Sharp for organising the rota of servers; SR, Lydia Penwarden, Paul Butler, and others who buy in supplies; checkers who price and maintain the stock; Alan Whitaker and Herman Huyg (HH) who manage postage stamps and the computer that calculates postal charges. CP expressed the appreciation of Iffley residents for the hard work that keeps the shop going for locals and passersby. HH, who compiled the Shop accounts, explained the problems with the role of postal services in the Shop's budget, noting how the accounts were inflected

by the withdrawal of one large purchaser, along with the closure for refurbishment. The accounts were approved as satisfactory.

**8. Forthcoming events**

The FOIV Summer Party is scheduled for Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 1800-2100 in the Church Hall, making use also of the courtyard.

**9. AOB**

John Elliott raised concerns about the decaying railings around the steps at the route to the River from Mill Lane. CP said FOIV will ask the Council to repair it.

Patrick Lawrence mentioned a large pothole opposite 58 Church Way. CP promised to bring it to the attention of OCC. He also thanked those who worked on the Archive project, started partly at his instigation, emphasising its historical value to Iffley.

Andrew McKearney informed the meeting about the forthcoming conservation work to be undertaken on the West Front and South Door of the Church. The surface will be lime washed in accordance with current conservation practice and the appearance will be slightly different. A decision needs to be made about the tint of the limewash, and a sample is now in place on the West Front. He welcomes comments.

After an interval for refreshments, the meeting was addressed by Councillor Jean Fooks, Lord Mayor of Oxford, on the subject:

*Oxford and Oxfordshire: how did we arrive at the present structure of local government, and are there better alternatives?*

## 5. Treasurer's report

Kate Griffin

### Friends of Iffley Village 2018

#### Summary of accounts 2018

##### Income 2017 – 2018

###### General Income

Subscriptions 2018	818	
Bank interest	<u>6</u>	
		<b>824</b>

###### Social events income

summer party	245	
winter supper	797	
Film nights	1967	
Raffle	<u>78</u>	
		<b>3087</b>

Repairs to notice boards	460	<b><u>460</u></b>
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<b>Total income</b>		<b>4371</b>
<b>Less expenditure</b>		<b><u>5401</u></b>
<b>Deficit for year</b>		<b><u>-1030</u></b>

##### Bank Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

**16994**

**15964**

##### Cash at bank

Community a/c	<b>4600</b>
Business Money Manager a/c	<b><u>11365</u></b>
	<b>15965</b>

##### Expenses 2017 - 2018

###### General expenses

Printing, newsletters, website	352	
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>123</u>	
		<b>475</b>

###### Social events expenditure

Entertainment, Insurance	220	
Hall bookings	714	
Film licences and DVDs	331	
Food and drink	1019	
Shop commission on ticket sales	<u>247</u>	
		<b>2531</b>

Repairs to notice boards	540	<b>540</b>
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Donations	1855	<b><u>1855</u></b>
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<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>5401</b>
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The apparent deficit of £1030 this year is largely due to our having paid to the Parochial Church Council the £1705 donation from Peggy Seeger's concert in December 2016 that we were holding towards the improvement to the Church Hall sound system. We also made a modest donation to the Rosehill Junior Youth Club, rounding up the proceeds of a raffle held at the December film night.

The Accounts also show that we processed the payments for the work on the notice boards which was partly funded by the City Council.

The film group continues to thrive and has gradually accumulated approximately £1000 which will be the working capital for the French film weekend this coming September. This is contained in the overall bank balance which is shown above.

The summer and winter social events together almost exactly broke even.

In the absence of any fundraising activities, the very modest annual subscriptions, put up a little this year, continue to provide the income that pays for the essential costs of insurance, printing the newsletter, maintaining the website etc. These costs are increasing and it is important that we do all we can to keep our membership numbers as healthy as possible. I would once again like to thank John McLintock for casting his auditor's eye over my efforts.

## 6. Iffley Community Shop

Sue Reynolds

This has been a very disappointing year for the Shop in which we have made a substantial loss. Analysis of the figures indicate that this is due to a loss of footfall- we have just sold enough to cover our expenses.

We are proposing to reorganise our stock and equipment to deal with a noise issue and look again at our product range. We hope that this will encourage support from the village which is vital to our continuing sustainability.

<b>Iffley Village Community Shop Association</b>		21 Mar 2018
2015/2016	Trading and Profit and Loss for the year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2017	
£46,045	<b>SALES</b>	<b>£42,374</b>
£36,768	Less: Purchases	<b>£36,035</b>
£6,304	Stock brought forward	<b>£7,147</b>
<u>-£7,147</u>	Stock carried forward	<u>-£7,126</u>
<u>-£35,925</u>		<u>-£36,056</u>
£10,120	<b>GROSS TRADING PROFIT</b>	<b>£6,318</b>
£35	Bank Interest	<b>£35</b>
£1,000	Grants & Commissions	<b>£0</b>
	Less:	
£3,728	Rent	<b>£4,528</b>
£0	Rates	<b>£0</b>
£621	Insurance	<b>£676</b>
£523	Telephone	<b>£564</b>
£944	Royal Mail	<b>£944</b>
£1,333	Electricity	<b>£1,459</b>
£0	Cleaning	<b>£0</b>
£306	Sundries	<b>£642</b>
£2,804	Shop Works	<b>£168</b>
£1,131	Equipment Depreciation	<b>£791</b>
<u>-£11,390</u>	Expenses	<u>-£9,772</u>
<u>-£235</u>	<b>PROFIT for Year</b>	<b>-£3,419</b>
	Balance Sheet as at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2017	
1 Oct 2016		
	<b>ASSETS</b>	
£2,638	Equipment minus Depreciation	<b>£1,847</b>
£7,147	Stock	<b>£7,126</b>
<u>£17,812</u>	Cash at Bank	<u><b>£17,089</b></u>
£27,597		<b>£26,062</b>
£176	Less Creditors/Accruals	<u>-£1,708</u>
£27,773	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>£24,354</b>
	Represented by:	
	<b>FUNDS</b>	
£14,873	Profit and Loss Account	<b>£11,454</b>
<u>£12,900</u>	Contingency	<u><b>£12,900</b></u>
£27,773		<b>£24,354</b>

## **7. Film Nights**

Kathryn Wilkinson

It has been another successful year for our Film Nights in the Church Hall. Our broad choice of films regularly attracts audiences of sixty to eighty, with one or two exceptions. We try to mix recent releases with classics, such as *'High Noon'*, and world cinema releases such as *'Hunt for the Wilder People'*, which was our Christmas show. On occasions we have also invited speakers to introduce classic films such as *'100 Steps'* and *'The Leopard'*.

Our online mailing list continues to grow - thanks to Laura Cope – which helps to bring in filmgoers from the wider community. Ged Guinness and Susie Seville manage the refreshments, adding to the social aspect of film evenings. Mike Starks produces our distinctive posters, and Gail McLintock handles ticketing. Laura, Felicity Gray and Kate Griffin (who also keeps the budget under review) are our reliable bouncers at the door.

We are always in search of help with projection. Alan Dixon, Paul Hopkins and Dave Broughton have all assisted, especially with some of the technical developments such as the new speakers funded by Peggy Seeger's most recent concert.

The cost of film licences continues to rise alongside other expenses, but we have been able to keep ticket prices stable and break even. We have also helped some local charities - at Christmas, our modest raffle raised £100 for 'Animal Assisted Therapy' and the Rose Hill Junior Youth Club.

As we enter our fourth year, a big 'thank you' to all our supporters!

## **8. Committee reports**

### **i. Highways**

Caroline Pond

Oxford City Council finished the emergency route to SW Iffley, replacing the old barrier between East Church and Rose Hill with a padlocked gate (same as the new barrier at the east end of Tree Lane). The path to Lenthall Road has been widened and strengthened with grasscrete, with improved access for pedestrians and cyclists. The route will never be a thoroughfare, but the emergency services, organisers of events in St Mary's Church & the Church Hall, the lock-keeper and residents of nearby homes have the codes to open the gate enabling large vehicles to reach the River, homes and businesses if Church Way is blocked, e.g. during road works or major traffic jams. We must keep the route passable to large vehicles at all times by trimming the East Church verges regularly and avoiding obstructive parking near the narrow end of Church Way between the Churchyard and the Burial Ground.

FOIV has also reported abandoned vehicles, potholes and faulty street-lights to Councils, successfully requested homeowners to repair dangerously unstable stone walls and received many complaints about parking. Vehicles are often parked partially on the pavement, which obstructs pedestrians, particularly young families and the disabled. FOIV recognises the problem but cannot see a totally satisfactory, permanent solution. The official police notices condemning this illegal practice have been printed out and attached to lamp posts in Church Way, Iffley Turn and other badly affected areas, and are also available in the Shop for use on offending vehicles.



## ii. Planning

Caroline Pond

The FOIV Planning Group 2017/8 comprises: Alex Coren, Ged Guinness, Gail Mclintock, Caroline Pond, Tina Reid, Richard Vernon.

### **FOIV's comments on Oxford City Council's *Local Plan to 2036***

#### **General**

Plans for housing estates without parking provision risk causing serious prolonged problems. Iffley opposes Controlled Parking Zones because yellow lines spoil the rustic appearance.

Greenspaces: the Council must take responsibility for maintaining grass, trees & hedges paths, steps, railing and barriers.

FOIV welcomes the proposed restricting of the density of HMOs in East Oxford.

In high density areas, noisy vehicles need to be controlled.

#### **Areas identified as suitable for future development:**

*013 Court Place Gardens.* Acceptable, provided that access is through Rivermead Road (not Church Way, Iffley) and the many magnificent mature trees are preserved.

*104 Former Iffley Mead Playing Field.* Friends of Iffley Village agrees that its use should remain recreational, preferably wild land.

*389 Land at Meadow Lane & Church Way* These open fields beside the flood plain meadows are much valued for grazing and wildlife. Access is problematic, as Church Way is very narrow and Meadow Lane is impassable to large vehicles from Donnington Bridge Road.

*399 Land to the rear and North of Church Cottage, Church Way.* This area borders the Glebe Field, donated to OPT to be kept as a wild meadow and the Iffley Burial Ground that is still in use, maintained by local voluntary subscriptions and much valued by local people. The only access is through East Church, very narrow with sharp bends. The best alternative use for this land would be as an extension to the Burial Ground.

#### **Other major applications:**

Grove House (trees, gate, garage, bungalow). Total rebuild of The Iffley Academy, including a 3-storey building with unscreened windows to be on the current carpark, near a natural spring (formerly used as the water supply for Grove House) and utilizing a large part of the adjoining former Playing Fields as carparks and supply depots for at least 18 months. The proposals have been extensively reviewed recently, including hydrological & ecological surveys; no decision announced at 15/5/18. The Group also worked on proposed alternations to homes in Iffley Turn, Stone Quarry Lane and Church Way.

FOIV's Policy: to favour garages, driveways and anything else that deters on-street parking to reduce parking issues. OCC is getting stricter, several applications FOIV thought would be approved, some actively supported, were rejected.

#### **Progress on major projects:**

28 Abberbury Road is finished; 7 Abberbury Rd progressing well; 8 Mill Lane still incomplete after 4+ years. Bollards for 20 Mill Lane drive on path to the lock are done.

## iii. Security

Ged Guinness

The area around the Lock is increasingly used at night by drug takers and heavy drinkers, causing noise, litter and general disturbance. Former lock-keeper Aidan Mahon resigned after less than a year of living in the Keeper's house, fearing for his

young family. Litter left by smokers and drinkers in and around Woodhouse Way generates similar complaints. The Abberbury Road area has experienced theft of keys from a car left unlocked in the drive, and damage to fencing around gardens and the allotments.

#### **iv. Trees & Greenspaces**

**Richard Vernon & Celia Palmer**

##### **Stump of horse chestnut tree outside St. Mary's Church**

Complete stump removal awaits Donnington Trust (DHT) to resolve suspected electric cable before authorising contractors, to be followed eventually by replanting with a new tree.

##### **Scout field**

Vyvyan Salmon has discussed with Donnington Trust his actions towards creating a flower meadow, which would be a very welcome development. He has also informed DHT about three large stones missing from the field's stone wall abutting Church Way.

##### **Glebe field**

OPT owns the seven lime trees that were planted around 1908 to frame the Burial Ground. FOIV has informed OPT that, as the tallest trees in SW Iffley, these mature trees are highly valued and hopes that some management can be carried out soon. Locals helped with annual clean up and tree trimming on 8 Dec 2017 during the first snow flurries.

##### **Dog mess**

Someone has been throwing purple bags containing their dog's mess down the bank of the path from the tow-path to Donnington Bridge. Vyvyan Salmon kindly cleared them away and we have mounted a *Keep Britain Tidy* sign there, since when no more bags have been deposited.

##### **Overhanging branches**

This old perennial needs raising again as there are several cases of branches and hedges hanging from gardens over pavements, inconveniencing pedestrians. In Church Way someone's tree has a branch hanging over the road so low that it could strike a cyclist.