

Notes from the 53rd Annual General Meeting of Highfield Residents Association Held on Thursday 30 April 2026 in All Saints Church, Lime Walk

Attendance: 25 members including committee: Patrick Coulter, Chris Dinsdale, James Larminie, Peter Leaver, William Marx, Susie Pye, Mike Ratcliffe, Hilary Rollin

Apologies: Gill Beeston, Angela Blackburn, Sally Brodhurst, Frank McKenna, Lucy and Wocky Whitworth.

1 **Notes of the 52nd AGM** were approved (moved by Peter Leaver and Jim Pye) subject to correction to the name of Frank McKenna, that James Larminie would circulate members' information to street representatives and clarification that John Nealon and Diane Sider had stood down from the committee while Angela Blackburn and Peter Leaver had joined.

2 Chair's report

Hilary Rollin reported on the work of the committee over the year, noting that things didn't stand still. There was a new website, changes to subscription methods and many engagements with outside bodies. The Committee had made contributions to All Saints in recognition of the use of its facilities. Hilary noted that things also didn't just happen, with special thanks to Gill Beeston for stepping in to produce the newsletter. The events programme had included a talk that was so popular it was standing room only.

3 Proposal to revise the HRA constitution

Patrick Coulter introduced a proposal to update the constitution. The changes proposed by the committee were minor, but reflected the need to follow models with updated and inclusive language.

All members present who voted **agreed** to amend clause 13 of the existing constitution to remove the clause 'save that there should be no power to amend clauses 2 or 3'.

All members present who voted **agreed** to adopt the revised constitution including the new aims and objectives.

4 Other reports

a) **Events:** Patrick Coulter explained that HRA had a standard pattern of events spread over the year; it had facilitated a concert just the other night and the walking group would be meeting on 10 May. As with other parts of HRA's work, there was a need for volunteers to take forward organising events.

b) **Membership:** James Larminie reported that there was no significant change to the membership which stood at some 255 households.

c) **Finance:** Chris Dinsdale introduced the HRA accounts which had been audited by Sally Brodhurst and Simon Lowles. There was an increase in the number of transactions due to the change to the method of subscription payments, so there was especial thanks for their checking.

Funds from HRA's deposit account had been used to make a contribution to All Saints for new chairs and to support the Barrington Close Tree plants - it had therefore moved from a starting balance of £7265.30 to £6922.50. The Treasurer's account was used for day to day transactions with £990 income from subscriptions supporting expenditure through the year. At the end of which it stood at £858.23. It had been agreed that subscriptions would remain at £5 per household.

- d) **Planning:** William Marx explained that the two biggest challenges were sites adjacent to the HRA area. There were two buildings under construction at the Old Road Campus and the planning process was underway for the redevelopment at the Warneford site. Submissions had been made about the impact of development: directly in terms of height and light on the Old Road and the increase in vehicle traffic. There were particular issues about entrances from the Old Road.
- e) **Website:** Peter Leaver presented the changes that had taken place with the website after it had become necessary to move platform. The new address Oxfordhighfield.org was now working, but there would be a need for content. A useful supplier list sourced from residents' recommendations was highlighted.
- f) **Reading Group:** Jim Pye described how the group was working well, but was at capacity. There was no reason that another could not be started.
- g) **Walking Group:** the next walk would take place on 10 May.
- h) **Incident Log:** Hilary Rollin reminded members that logging incidents was very useful as it provided an overview that could be supplied to the police and councils.
- i) **Gardening Groups:** The evening group was continuing to facilitate visits to residents' gardens. A team was maintaining the Lime Walk planters; cultivating plants and ensuring they were watered through the year. The new tree garden on the corner of Barrington Close had a successful first year; this year's planting was intended to provide ground cover and require minimal maintenance. There was a discussion about trying to discourage Voi e-scooters being left there.

5 Election of Committee

The current members of the committee were re-elected. It was noted that during the year Phil Hunter had left the committee and Angela Blackburn had taken the role of secretary and newsletter editor.

6 Thanks and Guest Speaker

Hilary Rollin thanked all those that contributed to HRA, especially the street representatives, members of the committee and other volunteers. In turn, members thanked Hilary. Alison Woodhead gave a presentation on *The Save UPP* campaign. The Ultimate Picture Palace was one of the oldest purpose built cinemas in the country, but its future was uncertain. Alison explained the campaign and ways for members to be involved.