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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held
on Saturday 14th October 2017
at Madley Brook School, 12.30pm (as part of the Community Fun Day)

Present:

- Cllr James Mills
- Cllr Suzanne Bartington
- David Bates (Residents' Association Chair)
- Stuart George (Residents' Association Treasurer)
- Other attendees: Residents' Association committee members Tony Bennett, Lawrence Bee, Sue Carter, Kat Quigley, Steve Payne, Rich White and Kelly Hale and residents Alasdair Wild, Mrs K Hands, David Miles, Jane Bennett, Brita and Craig Sensicall, Bill and Jean Bowyer, John Binley, Cyril and Chris Tennant and Elaine Chadwick.

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

David Bates welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. He introduced Councillor Suzanne Bartington (County and Town Councillor) and James Mills ((Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council). Apologies had been received from Town and District Councillor Duncan Enright, District Councillor Jeanette Baker, Town Councillor Chris Holliday and Town Councillor Howard Chirgwin

David said a big thank you to our Town and District Councillors and our County Councillor for their work on our behalf and for working helpfully with us during the year on a large range of issues. He pointed out that we have a new format this year, by holding the AGM in conjunction with a Community Fun Day. This is aimed at involving more of our residents and highlighting the exciting new play park project for our children and young people (Activate:MadleyPark), which we are busy fundraising for.

2. Agreement of previous AGM Minutes

The minutes from last year's AGM were approved. David thanked Sue Cater (of Print Design Focus) for printing our minutes today and also for printing various other documents for us during the year. Agreement of the minutes was proposed by Tony Bennett and seconded by Stuart George.

3. Activate:MadleyPark

Kat and Tina briefly shared some information about our playground fundraising campaign, which has been gathering momentum. Further information can be found on our Facebook page, 'Activate:MadleyPark'. They would welcome any ideas and input, as well as help on our (currently very small and very stretched) fundraising committee.

4. Election of committee members

David said a big thank you to all 12 of our committee members for all of the work that they have done for our community during this year. Our constitution requires our committee members need re-election after two years. The meeting agreed to re-elect the following committee members (proposed and seconded by residents) to the committee for a further two years: David Bates, Stuart George, Steve Payne, Tony Bennett and Kat Quigley.

David also said a big thanks to Madley Park Care Home for hosting our meetings every 4-6 weeks. He stated that we do have a couple of spare places on the committee if anyone would like to join us.

5. Chair's report

David gave a summary of the many projects that the Residents' Association have been working on during the year. He explained that there would be a chance for residents to ask questions following (to committee and councillors), and also mentioned that we have our PCSOs on site (security marking bikes and scooters for residents at the Community Fun Day).

- Madley Park Playing Field Project

There are a growing number of children and young people on Madley Park and facilities are limited. Children's play areas on Waterford Road and Cedar Drive are urgently in need of refurbishment.

Data from the Office of National Statistics shows the percentage of the population the 0-15 year olds on Madley Park and its immediate surrounds, is 29.1%. This is significantly above the UK average of 19.1%. (Source-Midyear estimates ONS 2015). Additionally, the number of children aged 0-14 in West Oxfordshire is forecast to grow by 8% in the next 10 years.

We held extensive consultation including two well-attended public events and consultations with young people themselves and police and local residents, assisted by Base 33 Youth organisation.

The project was considered by West Oxfordshire District Council, who are also the landowners in their scrutiny committee and at Cabinet. We have agreement to proceed and the fundraising for is now well underway under the project name *Activate:MadleyPark*. We have put applications in to WODC and also Aviva Community Funds. We have just received confirmation that our project will be on the Aviva website for voting in two weeks' time. We need your vote.

Lots of great, fun activities have been organised to raise funds in our community. If you'd like to be involved or have ideas please speak This is an exciting project with real momentum

- French Square project

The square in front of the Co-op is becoming increasingly overgrown with the surface badly eroded and flooding problems in one corner. We aim for it to be an attractive and well used community space. Plans will be drawn up further to community consultation.

There had been a delay as ownership of the square hadn't legally passed to WODC. This has now taken place. David and Chris had a valuable meeting with James Mills and

WODC engineer. Immediate work has been agreed to tackle the flood problem, weed overgrowth and to survey the trees. This is the first step towards larger scale improvements. We have a French Square project group. Please speak to us if you'd like to be a part of this.

- Litter pick, weeds and rubbish.

The litter picks have now been running for ten years and are always popular, with 40+ residents again turning up this year for our Spring litter pick. This year, we introduced the 'Madley 20' challenge; giving 20 minutes to make a difference. This led to a real community effort in picking up litter, reporting problems, etc.

We are also very aware of an increasing amounts of weeds on the estate. Some areas were tackled in the litter pick and taken up with relevant Council for our public areas.

- Balancing ponds

We are liaising to arrange clearance of overgrowth in the top lake. We have also secured replacement of the damaged lifesaving equipment.

- Madley Park Easter Egg Hunt (April)

This was another big success. Thank you to Kelly, Stuart and others who helped.

- Madley Park Garage Sale (July)

20 households took part in the garage sale and we received lots of positive feedback. We will consider running a garage sale again, possibly as part of a bigger community event with sales spread out around the various greens.

- Graffiti

We are having a purge on graffiti and aim to be graffiti free. We have removed some ourselves and others with help of landowners.

- Madley Park Hall

The hall is a fantastic success, in no small part due to the fantastic hard work of Kelly Hale as Hall manager, who was awarded Witney Citizen of the Year this year. Congratulations to Kelly.

- Northfield Farm

Welcome to our new residents on the Northfield Farm development. We are working on upgrading the dirt track from the new homes through to Oxford Hill and have had on-site meetings with County. County Councillor Suzanne Bartington has been working hard to achieve the improvements.

- West Oxfordshire Community Transport

We continue to work with and support this valued service. It is great to have David Miles with us.

- Email queries through MPRA mail box

We receive a steady stream of queries from residents, raising issues which we've taken up with relevant agencies.

- Quarterly newsletter

Our newsletter goes from strength to strength. Brilliant work by Tina Hepworth in producing the newsletter, and our team of 20+ deliverers in delivering. The newsletter is entirely self-financing from advertisers. If you have a story, please speak to Tina. We are thinking about producing a 'one off' issue in colour.

- Facebook

This is a valued source of sharing information between residents and in between newsletters, along with our website and Twitter .

- Charity Status

David explained that the Residents' Association had considered changing our current organisational structure from an Unincorporated Association to become a registered Charity. After receiving pro bono advice from a legal expert, Tessa Hennessy. David discussed with Tessa what the Residents' Association do, are looking to achieve and current projects. Tessa felt that the current structure best achieved this, but if circumstances changed in future, we will review again.

David finished by saying the group has had a very full year with lots achieved and some great things to look forward to in 2018. He thanked all members of the committee and our town councillors in helping to achieve this. He stressed that residents' ideas and thoughts are always appreciated.

6. Treasurer's report

The accounts for 2016/17 were presented by Stuart George, agreed by Suzanne Bartington and seconded by Tony Bennett. Accounts attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

7. Questions to the panel

The following issues were raised as concerns by residents:

- Action points from the minutes of previous meetings (*results of actions from last year's AGM minutes will be provided as an addendum to the minutes on our website*)
- Why have only half the weeds on French Square been treated?
- Concerns over upgrading the footpath connection Madley Park to Oxford Hill (possible loss of separate footpath/it's not a cycle path)
- Future plans for redesigning French Square (maintenance vs redeveloping).
- Updates on balancing ponds. This will be communicated via the newsletter.
- Concerns over poor finishing of pavements following Virgin Media works. Residents concerned to send photos.

All issues were recorded on a flip chart and taken away by the committee to be worked on. Any updates will be communicated through our newsletter, website and Facebook page.

David encouraged any resident who would like to join the committee to speak to him or a committee member. New members are always welcome.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1.15pm.