

Friends of Quarry

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Date: 19 November 2020

Location: Online

Co-ordinator: Jeff McIlhinney

Attendance: 24 Members

1. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
Proposed by Lawrence Kelly, seconded by James McNally

2. Co-ordinator's Report

The Co-ordinator reminded the meeting that his report had been sent out in the Friends of Quarry Autumn Newsletter, which was delivered to all homes in the Quarry and is available online.

Friends of Quarry had missed out on the social events planned for 2020 as the result of the pandemic but were hoping to be able to reinstate them in 2021, vaccines permitting. The bulb planting had been deferred to Autumn 2021 to save money.

The survey on filtering in the Quarry had been completed. The results produced had been interesting and would be used to inform future activities.

The stone sign at the entrance to the Quarry had been set in place. It was hoped to hold an unveiling ceremony soon.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reminded the meeting that his report was available on the Friends of Quarry website. Income had been reduced due to the lack of social events.

Generous donations covering a substantial part of the cost of the Quarry stone sign had been received from Roz Smith's County Councillor's Grant and from Alan Kimber-Nicholson.

The meeting recorded its thanks to Roz Smith and Alan Kimber-Nicholson for their generosity. £300 had been spent on the building survey carried out on 1 Quarry High Street.

A small loss of £23 had been made overall. It was noted that the payment for the stone sign would fall into the next year.

The Treasurer reminded the meeting that subscriptions were £2.50 per person annually or £10 for a 10-year membership. Details of how to make payment were available on the Friends of Quarry website.

4. Election of Committee

The Committee for 2020 had consisted of:

- Jeff McIlhinney (Co-ordinator)
- Richard Bradley (Treasurer)
- Lawrence Kelly

- David Kiggell
- Ken Weavers
- Julia Gasper
- Jonny Ives
- Paul Rogers
- Laura Biron-Scott
- Janice Wheeler
- James McNally
- Phil Siswick

The Committee was duly re-elected for 2021. Proposed by Jonny Ives and seconded by Trish Elphinstone. The Co-ordinator noted new committee members always welcome.

5. Discussion on Quarry Matters

a. Planning

1 Quarry High Street: The primary focus had been on Beechers. It had been 14 months since building started and 1 year since Friends of Quarry had requested that Planning Enforcement take action. Planning Enforcement had requested that a retrospective planning application be submitted with a 28-day deadline, but this had not taken place.

The Oxford Civic Society are also involved in support of Friends of Quarry's position that the building has been built in breach of the planning permission.

Planning Enforcement have ignored the evidence that has been presented to them, including the outcome of the survey that Friends of Quarry had commissioned at a cost of £300. It was not clear what action Planning Enforcement were taking and Friends of Quarry were waiting to see the outcome.

A Freedom of Information Request had been raised by Friends of Quarry for details of the Building Regulations to allow comparison with the original submission. The request had been refused. It had been challenged and was now under review by Oxford City Council, who had requested a ruling from their Legal Team before making a decision.

5G Mast: A proposal to install a 5G mast next to the Ring Road had been submitted.

Holy Trinity Extension: The resubmitted application had been approved.

House behind Coppock Close: The required long-term remedial work to the Quarry face had not been completed, though some limited work had taken place. Friends of Quarry had written to the Planning Officer for clarification of the conditions and plans to satisfy them. In response to a question, it was established that the consensus was that the wall was less than 1m from the new house that had been built.

b. Traffic and Parking

Filtering Survey: A survey of residents had been carried out to establish their views of the proposed filtering options. The intent of the filtering was to reduce traffic through and the clogging of roads within the Quarry.

32 responses had been received, of which 5 said that nothing should be done, 4 said that something should be done, but that the filtering proposal was not suitable and 23 were in support of the proposal.

Roz Smith provided a summary of the benefits and impacts of the proposals, including those to the streets outside the Quarry. This was offered a new solution to a problem that had been discussed for many years. The County Traffic Officers were in support of the proposals as they would provide a good trial of filtering.

A question was raised asking how the impact of the filtering could be separated from the impact of working from home. Roz clarified how the impact would be assessed and stated

that the filters would be put in at minimum cost using temporary closures, such as planters, so they could be removed or revised based on experience later.

One filter of several proposed had been selected by the Traffic Officers as most effective. This would form part of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood proposals that would be subject to public consultation in due course.

A question was raised asking whether an impact assessment had been carried out for people living in Risinghurst. Roz replied that there may be an impact, but that she hoped it would encourage them to walk or cycle instead of driving. If the filtering did not work, it would be removed, but it was necessary to try something to ameliorate the impact of traffic on the Quarry.

Controlled Parking Zone: Roz reported that a decision had been made to implement a CPZ in the Quarry on that day. Roz thanked residents for their input to the consultation. Signage would be limited, with white lines across driveways and narrow double yellow lines where safety issues exist. The number of yellow lines had been reduced in response to feedback from the consultation and the requests for additional white lines had been approved after discussion with the Traffic Officers. The maps of the proposal would be shared in due course. 17 more CPZs would be rolled out across the City in the future. Roz raised a concern that parking enforcement would need to be increased to ensure that the CPZ is effective.

c. Social Events

The Co-ordinator reiterated that planned events had been cancelled due to the pandemic but would be reinstated as soon as possible. Any ideas for new social events should be sent to Friends of Quarry.

6. Any Other Business

a. Oxford City of Light

Oxford City of Light was taking place the following weekend. Headington Action had requested all residents to light the front of their houses to bring light into a dark time. The lights in the centre of Headington would be lit from this weekend.

b. Effort Invested

The Treasurer highlighted the amount of effort required to achieve the aims of Friends of Quarry, in particular in response to 1 Quarry High Street and the Quarry stone sign. Particular recognition was given to Jeff McIlhinney and Lawrence Kelly.

c. Damage to Cars on Trinity Road

A resident reported issues with a particular individual damaging cars on Trinity Road. The Co-ordinator and Roz Smith confirmed that they would raise the matter with the local PCSO and Sergeant. It was noted that the Police would act where crime hotspots existed, so examples of crime and anti-social behaviour should always be reported to them.