**Minutes of OWRA AGM Meeting 28th May 2019**

Held at St Margarets Institute, Polstead Road Oxford

Chaired by Kay Gordon

* 2018 AGM Minutes were approved
* Kay Gordon gave the following OWRA Committee update:

**Events:**

* + **Sports Day & BBQ** 2018 was very successful with 215 meals served. The new gazebos performed well, and are available to loan to residents for hosting parties etc; those interested should contact OWRA via our email. As Richard Groves’ gazebo has expired, OWRA should buy an additional one. The new BBQ equipment was excellent. The old BBQ is to be given away on a first come, first served basis; those interested should email OWRA.
  + The **International Picnic** hosted by Richard and Ying Groves was very successful and is a good way to welcome new residents and make new friends
  + The **hugely enjoyed Hallowee’en event** continues, ably arranged by Allison Hood
  + The **Easter Egg Hunt** won’t be run as an OWRA-wide event next year, as we don’t have a volunteer to run this, but parents are welcome to arrange informal hunts on Merrivale Square or around the estate.

**Communications:**

* + The **OWRA Facebook group** is very successful with 110 members and is a good way to share very immediate information. Non-Facebook users do have the option to use Facebook just to access the OWRA group.
  + OWRA **Welcome Packs for New Residents** area updated. Please let Kay Gordon know if you have a new neighbour who may need one of these.
  + OWRA **Notices Boards** are well-used; if you want to post a notice please put a copy through the letterbox of 9 The Villas (for the South Notice board near Walton Well bridge) or 30 Plater Drive (for the North Notice board near Aristotle bridge)
  + New committee members Jen Watkiss and Sarah Martin were nominated and seconded. Departing committee members Patrick Kershaw, John Krebs and Helen Saunders-Gill were thanked for their hard work and contributions to OWRA over the years and a gift presented to each of them. The committee seeks one more new member either to manage litter-picking days or to manage a new idea of their own; those interested should contact Kay Gordon.
* Jen Watkiss gave the following Treasurers update:
  + OWRA membership fee collections are going well, last year 117 members; we already have 56 members this year. Residents wishing to join should contact Jen.
  + OWRA has a running balance of approximately £1200; main spends were new BBQ and gazebos this year.
  + It was agreed to keep the membership fee of £5/year unchanged
* Allison Hood gave the following Neighbourhood Watch update:
  + On Thames Valley crime tracking map Rutherway, Plater Drive and Merrivale square are at a steady 2/3 reported crimes per month with a slight peak last July. Crimes were generally burglary, bike theft, criminal damage and some vehicle crime.
  + Allison will seek to benchmark this with other similarly residential areas. If our estate rates are elevated she will discuss with our local PCSO Clare Bonneville.
* AOB:
  + The issue of large bonfires being lit on the Spinney was raised. This is using wood that the council had left following tree chopping activity; the wood is deemed good for insects and wildlife. There are reports of loud music and some evidence of drug-taking in the same area. If you see drug-taking or evidence of this please report online to the police (the 101 hotline is often engaged). Do not pick up needles, but report these online to the Council, who have a special page for this and usually seek to collect needles within hours of them being reported.