

OIRA Committee Meeting
Sunday 10th May 2026 at 3 pm

Minutes

Present: Alison Burdett, Eleanor Dickey (secretary), Maria Holt (treasurer), Sarah Parker (chair), Karen Schoenemann, Philippa Lanchbery

Not present: Kate Stewart, Cllr Susanna Pressel, Cllr Lois Muddiman

1. Minutes of the March meeting: these were accepted and will now be sent to Jane for posting on the web site. The minutes of the AGM have not yet been produced.

2. Environment update: **Alison** and **Eleanor** will attend the upcoming East-West Rail consultation.

3. Councillors' slot: not taken

4. Events: Tea on the Towpath will be 6th June 2-5 pm, based in front of Jude's house (thank you Jude!), with the gazebo on the towpath. It will include tea and cake, music, pet show, toy animal show, origami, children's quiz, yoga on towpath and plant sale. Volunteers are needed for cake-baking and help on the day, lending equipment, and musicians; perhaps also for yoga if the yoga studio can't spare someone to do it. Simultaneously there will be a freebie day 10-4. The event will be advertised via e-mail list, poster, and flyers. **Sarah** will immediately talk to the yoga studio, and then **Alison** will produce a draft e-mail and schedule (either asking for yoga volunteers or not, depending on the outcome of Sarah's talk); we will comment on Alison's draft and then **Sarah** will produce a poster/flyer on the basis of that, which **Alison** will get printed and **Eleanor** will distribute.

5. Farewell to Phil the postman: we will have a party for him at noon on Saturday 18th July in the Hollybush, with card, bottle of fizz (vel sim.), and cake. Islanders will be encouraged to put a note saying 'Thank you Phil' on our doors on his last day. **Alison** will lead on making the arrangements.

6. Boat club storage fee: we agreed to pay £100 as one month of their rent, in exchange for the storage of the gazebo for this year. **Maria** and **Alison** will manage this.

7. Replacement of gazebo: we authorised **Alison** to investigate buying a new gazebo, ideally one with sides to protect against wind, and ideally before Tea on the Towpath so that we can use both the new and the old one. If this works out we will then keep both, loaning out the old one for free and the new one for a fee.

8. Date of next meeting: the previously agreed meeting on 13th July is cancelled because it would be inquorate owing to three committee members needing to be away. Sunday afternoons are better than Monday evenings, so the meeting previously agreed for 14th September is moved to Sunday 6th September at 3 pm, and the November meeting is moved to Sunday 8th at 3 pm. Committee members agreed not to plan on missing meetings without first checking with the rest of the group, to avoid further instances of inquoracy.

9. Any other business: Alison will talk to Liz Woolley about showing her the OIRA archive material (this would cost us, but not much), and will send a message to islanders asking if anyone interested in local history would like to do something archive-related to celebrate Osney's 175th anniversary this year. For example, the booklet done for the 150th anniversary could be updated, and we could have an event along with Open Doors (12-13th September).

Owing to cancellation of the July meeting, these minutes will need to be approved sooner than at the next meeting. We agreed that they would be posted one week from today, unless anyone disputes their contents in that period.