

Osney Island Residents' Association AGM

22 April 2026

Minutes (KS in absence of ED)

Attendees: 50+

Apologies: Andrew Boag, Jane Buekett, Jude Carroll, Simon Collinge, Eleanor Dickey, Alan Goodwin, Eli Harriss, Susan Hutchinson, Vernon Orr, Anna Truelove and Julia Turner.

1 Welcome

Alison Burdett welcomed attendees and explained that the slightly different format and content of the current AGM had arisen from recent resignations of officers and committee members. She introduced the prospective chair, Sarah Parker.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 2025 AGM were approved

3 Election of officers and committee members

Officers and committee members were re-elected (R) and newly elected (N) individually and unopposed (proposers and seconders previously circulated), as follows.

Sarah Parker (chair) (N), Eleanor Dickey (secretary) (N). Maria Holt (treasurer) (N/R), Alison Burdett (email list manager) (R), Philippa Lanchbery (R), Karen Schoeneman (R), Kate Stewart (N).

(Ex officio roles: Jane Buekett (newsletter and website), Eli Harriss (chatty Wednesdays))

4 Chair's Report

Sarah Parker thanked outgoing officers and committee members for their service as follows: former chair Alan Goodwin, former secretary Jane Buekett (current ex officio role: newsletter and website) former treasurer Julia Turner, former committee member Andrew Boag, former committee member Eli Harriss (current ex officio role: chatty Wednesdays).

Sarah thanked the organisers of last year's events and activities as follows: Jude Carroll and team (East Street daffodils); Lesley Casey and team (Bridge Street planters); Matt Dyson (carol singing); Debbie Hall (advent calendar); Susan Hutchinson and team (open gardens and tea on the towpath); Julia Marsh (noticeboard); Anna Truelove and team (newsletter distribution.)

Sarah noted the excellent turnout, welcomed all those attending and expressed her optimism for the future,

She gave a brief outline of upcoming events this year, as follows:

Although open gardens would be taking a well-earned break this year, tea on the towpath would be happening as usual and it was hoped would be as successful as ever. Sarah noted that the event was heavily dependent on volunteers for a large variety of tasks and resources, and said that all offers of help would be warmly welcomed, as would suggestions for how to further enhance this popular occasion. Other events would be announced in due course.

Post-its were provided at the back of the church for ideas on this and all things OIRA

Also at the back of the church was Veronica Strang and Vernon Orr's petition urging the towpath landowner and the Environment Agency to reinstate the East Street moorings as a matter of urgency. Attendees were invited to sign.

Sarah noted that the outlook for our immediate environs was looking up, as the end seemed to be in sight for at least some of the major causes of disruption: the old power station building (future Said School of Global Leadership) was due to be handed over to Said/the university shortly, and Botley Road was apparently still on target for reopening in August. The North Street flats development was also nearing completion.

5 Treasurer's Report

Maria Holt reported on OIRA's accounts as follows: income to 31 March £3485.14 (subs, gazebo hire, tea on the towpath/open gardens and donations for daffodil planting from residents and the city council); expenditure £2335.09 (daffodils project, newsletter, website, civic society subs, AGM, tea on the towpath, misc); closing balance (£3736.88). Maria reiterated the committee's thanks to all those who had contributed their time, effort and resources to OIRA in the past year. She also thanked St Frideswide's church for hosting us.

6 Daffodils on East Street

In the absence of Jude Carroll, Lesley Casey gave a report of the (manifestly highly successful!) daffodils project. She noted that the original East Street daffodils (planted 1999) had grown from just 4 bags of bulbs, whereas in the recent project, Jude, Lesley, Veronica and numerous helpers (too many to name individually) had planted 3,000 bulbs.

7 Email Manager Report

Alison reported that following Alan Goodwin's resignation as chair, she had agreed to house the OIRA archive, which included photographs of every island

house, taken between 1989 and 1991 as well as information from the 1881 census. Other treasures included agendas, minutes and correspondence from way back. Alison noted that few of the main themes—traffic, planning, etc—had changed. Items from the archive were available to look at at the back of the church.

8 Thames Valley Police

Toni Day and Pete Neale of Thames Valley police introduced themselves and gave details of how they could be contacted - 101 for non-urgent calls, 999 for urgent calls. Toni and Pete kindly made themselves available to circulate, and answered questions from the floor.

9 AOB

Robert Lawrence registered particular thanks to Julia Turner

10 Archives, Petition, Suggestions, Social

The formal business having been relatively brief this year, there was ample time for residents to socialise over refreshments, sign the petition and put in suggestions, etc. using the post-its supplied.