

**CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cumnor Fit for the Future Steering Group**  
**on Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 7.30pm**  
**in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.**

**Present.**

Alison Jenner, Chair, (CPC), Tony Harker, Kevan Martin, Fiona Newton and Ray Stone .

Alison Jenner took the minutes of the meeting.

**10/24 Apologies for Absence.**

Catriona Bass (prior commitment), Tina Brock, Clerk (family illness) Lucy Crittenden (prior commitment) and Stuart Newton (prior commitment. Apologies approved.

**11/24 Declarations of Interests. None.**

**12/24 Variance of order of business. None.**

**13/24 Minutes of the Meeting of held on Thursday 4 April 2024.**

Agreed and signed by the Chair.

**14/24 Matters Arising from these Minutes. None.**

**15/24 Public Participation. None.**

**16/24 Public Art.**

There are s106 contributions for Public Art available to be spent within the next 10 years. Abigail Brown attended a Council meeting in April 2024 to inform Council of the available S106 contributions available for public art and the different art that the contributions can be spent on.

- i. The Group discussed ways to engage the public and community groups for ideas on art projects and key locations.

How to engage There was an immediate question about the problem of people struggling with the current cost of living crisis. We can expect to be challenged about this and we shall need to be clear that the amount of s106 money is £60,000 which is quite modest. However, the principle is that all residents, all wards must benefit from this funding. We are not permitted to spend it on other priorities, which residents may feel uncomfortable about; but unless we spend it on the hypothecated activities and areas we simply give up the chance to have anything created for us, created with input from parish residents. The concept of public art is that residents who themselves are not able to have their own private works of art still appreciate beautiful objects and the ideas which they provoke. The 'Angel of the North' and the 'White Horse' are creations of which people in each locality (and people from across UK) are proud.

We have a duty to provide items which are meaningful to the community, are sustainably produced and long lasting.



Tony displayed a photograph of a “found object” related to Chawley brickworks. The winch is at what 3 words, spends, loud, arrive OS SP [47558 04353](#)). If you head roughly west into the wooded area from there to what 3 words peanut, films, update (SP [47514 04362](#)) there is a single rail of the old trackway just next to a heap of stuff that looks as if it might have been bulldozed out of the way at some point – but whether to make level space for the timber yard or later when the houses were going up is hard to tell. The old OS maps don't show the course of the tramway at all clearly, so it's hard to know whether the winch is near its original position but given how heavy it must be I don't think anybody would bother to move it unless they had a pretty good reason! There is a line on a 1930s map which might be a tramway, and which runs close to where the winch is.

A locally- found plesiosaur could be a motif (now in the Oxford National History Museum). Corallian limestone, sandstone on the Hurst, local brickfield resource?

The Cumnor literary walks need to be traced out and displayed; with way marks and QR codes to access information about them online at the CFFF site.

The first walk, already produced on paper, could be the first to be marked up. key locations/permission from landowners

The Uffington Trail seen in PowerPoint was thought useful.

Appleton has a series of six photo posts, each arranged to focus on the same view. Residents take photos of the same view which is seen over seasons and diverse times of day.

Cumnor Hill House also has specific funding for artwork on the site. Suggestions included a badger-viewing window; inter-generational oral history project of residents' memories, which can be memorialised on site at Cumnor Hill House and in the archives. Liaise with Cumnor local history society. Martin Harris? Audio files on CFFF web site.

We shall have to give an update to the CPC June meeting and propose a number of options for the September 2024 Council meeting.

**17/24 Jubilee Memorial Copse.**

Request to turn Common Land CL42 into a Memorial Copse registered to OCC and land near to Cumnor Cricket Club registered to VWHDC.

Site visit update.

NB: Alison, Fiona and Tina looked at two pieces of land on Friday 17 May 2024. One was the small area off Abingdon Road, just behind the bus turnaround, what 3 words causes, fear, edits. It was too noisy being too close to the A420 NE-bound carriageway. There were numerous trees and some undergrowth.

The second plot was off the Cricket pitch, what 3 words veered, detective, adapt. This was a quieter area, with a nearby stream.

We think a survey could be undertaken by Cumnor Conservation Group of both locations to see what is currently in place, and how best to serve the space and the community. A tree surgeon could examine whether any of the trees were vulnerable or diseased.

**18/24 Reports.**

- i. Walking group – literary walks. Ray: Nature reserve warden at Pinkhill has developed some activities: bat walks, moth counts with moth traps, invertebrate survey. Lepidoptera (unsure)?
- ii. Website/Interactive map. Actions from last minutes; walking maps uploaded to the website and website due for renewal 1 June 2024. Hosting fees £186 for 2 years agreed to request council fund this.
- iii. Thames Valley Wildflower and Meadow Recovery Project. Since taking up the lease on 20ha. meadows at Swinford Kevan reported; planting with seed from Long Mead. If any suitable land is proposed for “meadowisation” TBWMP have some plants to donate. Two meadows at Farmoor for Freshwater Habitat Trust. The land was beginning to look okay but then flooded. Woodland, hornbeam, drainage pond. Playing fields in Eynsham planted with ragged Robin, Fritillary and Primroses. Dawn chorus day on 4 May 2024 was a great success, started sunny then misty. 20 bird species and a cuckoo heard.
- iv. Cumnor Conservation Group. None.
- v. Village Pond. None
- vi. Hill End. There are some activities arranged for the half term: Go wild IN THE WOODS Tuesday 28 May 2024 and Wednesday 29 May 2024, Explore ancient woodlands, trek the paths, build a den, or create natural art, Bug Hunt with Dr Liam Crowley, Oxford University Tuesday 28 May 2024 and Dr. James Sprinks, Earthwatch will be introducing the New naturalist app Wednesday 29 May 2024.
- vii. Any other reports. None.

**19/24 Date of next meeting.**

Wednesday 26 June 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed.....Date.....2024