



MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 26 March 2024 Held at the Meeting Room The Griffin

Chair: NH

Minutes WT/DK

Attendees: Dave Kenny, Nick Haskins, Wendy Terry, Tim Castle, Bob Busby, Vickie Abel, Caroline Johnson, Andy Johnson, Chris Burden, Francis Hamley, Judith Barratt.

Apologies: Jacopo Lanzoni, Chris Murphy, Brian Murphy, Lin Godfrey, Bob O'Neill.

1) Minutes of last Globe meeting held at The Griffin on 23 January 2024 were approved.

2) Finance and Funding A letter to Festival Republic requesting a donation for a new planter was drafted in late January and passed to Nick for onward transmission to FR. However Nick reported that he has not had time to pass the letter on to them. He said that he was due to attend a meeting with them on Thursday 28 March and that he would raise the issue then and report back. Bob asked to be kept informed as he is being chased for updates by the planter manufacturer. Keep in view. (DK,NH).

Dave thanked the JANE Club for paying the insurance renewal premium, of £200.(DK).

Dave reported a generous £500 donation from a local resident and businessman. (DK).

3) Church Street Planters Thanks were expressed to Caroline, Andy and Wendy for keeping the planters looking nice.

4) Litter and Graffiti. Two litter picks have taken place in Milestone Woods as part of the Great British Spring Clean. In addition Globe members (and local residents) attended a litter pick on View Island organised by Keep Caversham Tidy. A huge haul of litter, fly-tipping and old encampments were cleared from the island.

A further litter pick is planned for 2pm on 13 April at the Warren Escarpment. (DK/NH).

Nick reported that at a recent North Reading Neighbourhood Action Group he raised the issue of the serious litter problem in the River Spice car park. He noted that since this there has been a great improvement in the litter and some suspect cars seem to have gone.

5) Christchurch Meadows and Thames Parks.

a) Sunken Boats Nick said he will raise the problem of the sunken boats with the EA at a meeting that is scheduled soon. (NH).

b) Hills Meadow. A bund is still required to prevent encroachment into the wildlife area by Winter Wonderland and others.

c) Hills Meadow Car Wash Globe objected to the application for a 10 year extension to the lease. RBC has instead agreed to a 5 year extension, with various stipulations including improvements to the landscaping.

d) The Danall Following Matt Rodda's intervention, RBC has undertaken extensive clearance work of the ditch and surroundings. There has been an improvement in the water flow. However the bank has now partly collapsed near Mill Rd/Heron Island with boulders blocking the stream, there is also silt and detritus in the culverts under George St and Mill Rd which needs clearing.

e) View Island. Brambles still need cutting back along all paths and around the benches. Dave to raise with Pedro. (LG/DK)

6) Chilterns AONB Extension Waiting for the start of the public consultation, expected to start in Spring/Summer 2024. Keep in view. (WT/DK).

7) Planning Matters.

Caversham Park Planning applications **220409 & 220410**. Amended plans now available. Keep in view

Caversham Lakes The site owner has decided not to appeal against the refusal of the retrospective planning application and the site is scheduled to close on 26 March. Hopefully it will be fully cleared of all structures etc.

De Montfort Island It seems that the structure under construction is just a jetty.

Persian Palace The restaurant has applied for retrospective planning permission for the extension it has built over the river, which impedes river flow when the river is in flood. The application does not reflect what has actually been constructed. Nick has drafted detailed objecting on behalf of Globe. Keep in view (NH).

Caversham Rd/Vastern Rd A major planning application for the former Royal Mail site has been allowed by the government despite being not being approved by RBC. Concerns over its height and massing, inadequate landscaping & lack of direct link to Christchurch footbridge.

8) Advertising Hoarding Sites

a) Bridge Street Triangle The grass has now been cut. Keep in view (DK/JL).

b) George Street Triangle No change - its still an eyesore. Keep in view.

9) AOB

a) Christchurch Meadow Cherry Trees. 8 cherry trees have been planted along the footpath in the meadows and 3 near the tennis courts. Thanks to Tim for suggesting this.(TC).

b) Tree Felling on Warren Escarpment. Replacement trees have been planted.

c) Bench on Balmore Walk. No update. Keep in view. (CJ/WT).

e) Wall on Balmore Walk There is no progress towards reinstatement of the demolished wall and despite their assurances, the pub has taken no action towards this. Several options were discussed including writing to landowner the Brakspear pub co, RBC, and possibly involving social media. Keep in view. (DK/WT).

f) Graffiti on Reading Bridge This has been cleared. (CB).

g) Litter in Iceland car park Wendy reported that this is much improved. It is hoped that RBC will continue to monitor the problem to ensure that the landowner keeps the area clear of litter. (WT/JL).

Next meeting Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.15 pm – at Meeting Room in The Griffin