Go Local On a Better Environment

MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 27 May 2025
Held at the Meeting Room The Griffin

Chair: DK **Minutes** WT/DK

Attendees: Dave Kenny, Wendy Terry, Nick Haskins, Lin Godfrey, Caroline Johnson, Andy Johnson, Tim Castle, Jacopo Lanzoni.

Apologies: Judith Barratt, Vickie Abel, Chris Murphy, Brian Murphy, Chris Burden

1) Minutes of last Globe meeting held at The Griffin on 18 March 2025 were approved.

2) Finance and Funding Dave reported that the change of signatories to replace Bob with Wendy has now been completed., thanks to Judith for chasing Nat West several times.

Nick will contact Helen Lambert for update on possible donation from Festival Republic to go towards replacement planters. Meeting was due with FR later that week. Keep in view. (NH)

3) Church Street Planters Caroline reported that she has purchased some summer bedding plants which she and Andy plan to plant in the next few days. Tim also said that he has a few bedding plants that he will plant soon too. Thanks Caroline, Andy and Tim.

Tim is investigating alternatives to wood which could enable the planter boxes to be rebuilt with longer lasting material. (TC)

4) Litter and Graffiti. Caroline reported some new graffiti, but it seems that the earlier "Oil" graffiti may have been a one-off. The recent spate of Resinprint fly-posting has gone: the company has probably moved elsewhere.

5) Parks, Open spaces & River Thames
a) Encampments. The encampment in Hills Meadow behind the carwash is now abandoned and RBC is due to clear it (keep in view). The Police attended and they have asked to be informed of any other encampments. Caroline reported an encampment with blue tents near the carwash at Tesco (Napier Rd).
Nick reported that there had been caravans on Thams Prom near Cow Lane, but they moved on promptly. (DK/CJ).
b) Christchurch Meadows The new cherry trees seem ok and a replacement for the vandalised tree will be requested for planting in the autumn. (DK).
c) Abandoned boats. Nick reported that he is pressing for the sunken boats near Thames Water and River Spice to be removed. (NH).
d) Clayfield Copse – Felling of diseased ash trees by RBC contractor is continuing

6) Chilterns AONB Extension Wendy reported the proposed extension to the Chilterns AONB has been cancelled by Natural England. This is extremely disappointing as much work had already gone into identifying areas of countryside close to Caversham which merit AONB extension and could now be vulnerable to speculative development. Globe will write to Matt Rodda to raise serious concerns about and also hoped to arrange a meeting with the Chilterns Conservation Board. (WT/DK).

7) Planning Matters

Persian Palace - Awaiting the result of the appeal. Keep in view.
Kidmore rd – application to fell two yew trees - refused.
Shell Garage George St. – LED advertising panel. RBC planners recommend refusal.
Norman Place - Developers of the large site next to Thames Water are proceeding with their planning application to build a multi storey block of flats. Globe is concerned because of the excessive height and bulk and inadequate tree planting proposed on both the river and Vastern rd frontages.
Reading Golf Course –developer Fairfax is promoting proposals to build 70 more houses on the golf course. The site is next to the existing Emmer Green development but is just over the county boundary in South Oxfordshire. It would extend the development into an unspoilt green-field site which is not earmarked for development in Kidmore End's adopted local plan or by SODC. Its expected that SODC and RBC will object.
Caversham Court Gardens – RBC planning application for repairs to the frontage wall includes the removal of a very prominent lime tree east of the entrance gate. This and two other limes recently felled from the frontage will need to be replaced. Keep in view.

8) Advertising Hoarding Sites

a) Bridge Street Tim reported that he has received a reply from Matt Rodda about his pocket park suggestion. Matt contacted RBC and has been informed that they still intend to sell the site. Jacopo said that he received the same response to his enquiry about the site. Various options were discussed about a possible way forward. Jacopo will contact RBC to request that the grass is cut as it has not been done recently. Keep in view. (TC/DK).

b) George Street Triangle Appeal has been submitted by the developer against refusal for terrace of town houses on the site. Keep in view.

9) AOB

a) Flytipping in Chester Street car park - Dave reported that two Biffa trade bins in the car park are overflowing and attracting fly-tipping. Traders and RBC have asked for them to be removed. Dave also reported a Biffa trade bin on the corner of Oxford Street and Prospect Street appears to be abandoned and overflowing, it is also attracting fly-tipping. Jacopo will raise both of these with officers. (DK/JL).
b) Litter in Berry Brook - Jacopo reported that there is a lot of litter in the Berry Brook at Dingley Dell (open space near the Caleta Close/Rothwell Walk play area) and he wondered if Globe might be able to assist with its removal. Dave said that this could be arranged as a future task - Globe has grappling hooks and long reach litter pickers.

Next meeting & AGM Tuesday 29 July 2025 at 7.15 pm – at Meeting Room in The Griffin