

**Odd Down Community Association Executive meeting
Minutes 10th September 2025**

Open session: Prior to the meeting a special session was held for members of the community to learn more about the Association that had been requested. Those attending: Julia, Ju, Alison, Jules and Jenny and ODCA Trustees. Graham presented a paper he had prepared posing the question *'What has ODCA done for our community?'* and attempted to answer by giving the history of the Charity, its aims, and the grants received and given to the community since 2008. A number of questions were asked about areas where needs were not being met or sufficiently understood (eg Learning Disabilities and Mental Health) and about the use and future of the Community Centre including its upkeep. A copy of this paper which summarises our history and all the grant activity is on our web site.(www.odca.co.uk).

Executive: Those attending: Peter Perkins Liz Vincent, Joel Hirst, Jo Peters, Ruth Wishart, Duncan McGibbon & Graham Pearson.

Members: Ju Mackrell **Apologies:** Steve Hedges & Debs Cutler.

- 1) **Minutes** 11th June & 9th July 2025 were approved.
- 2) **Matters arising.** Further questions about the maintenance of the Community Centre. Reference also to recent email from Caroline Howarth to Joel expressing concern about the situation (leaking roof) and asking the Council to respond. Joel had referred the issues to Hayley Ponsford at the Guildhall to investigate. Suggestions were made about asking the community to help with some decorating. Concerns over the appearance of the building and the way the community might see it. Then thoughts were shared about the potential to develop the site as a whole, including the RUC church site which is being considered by that church authority for redevelopment. Action: Graham & Ju to contact Caroline at the Centre.
- 3) **Grants:** update ODCA had received £2,000 from B&NES Councillor's Grant 2025 from Councillors Hedges and Hirst. Many thanks to them. The Fun Day was expected to be passing up to £730 to ODCA in next few days. **Applications.** Hampset Cricket Club had asked ODCA for a grant for their Youth work as in previous years. Committee approved £500, but would like more feedback as to how these grants have been and will be spent. (Action- Graham). Christmas Lights: Ju Mackrell asked the Committee to consider the next steps to provide Christmas Lights for Odd Down. Ju had led the programme last year. Some lights had been organised but she felt a more substantial decoration was needed. An enquiry with the Council had described costs of up to £1,200 for one lamp post where the initial idea had been for 4 such lamp posts with lights. These costs were considered out of reach of ODCA So other ideas were proposed and will be followed up by Ju. Graham was asked to check the situation at St Martin's Garden school which ODCA had helped fund previously.
- 4) **Youth Work:** update from Graham and Peter. The Youth Club had started as planned at the Community Centre in June 4pm to 6pm on Fridays led and organised by Youth Connect South West funded by B&NES Council, with further funding for premises and equipment from ODCA. The numbers have been slow to pick up and YCSW leaders have spent the time when no one has come on Fridays been walking around the community, talking to young people about their plans for the club which have been well received. There were already several young people after school playing in the basketball court area outside. The numbers who have signed up so far are approximately 15. Trampoline sessions had proved popular, and these will be on the first Friday in the month.
- 5) **Fun Day 2025: Feedback.** This had been collated at our last meeting. A meeting of the planning group is being planned for 23 September after which the funds for ODCA can be transferred and the grants to All Cycling and Radio Bath can be made.

- 6) Community News.** (a) JHoots pharmacy. Concerns continue over the pharmacy. Graham to write to MP. (b) Culverhay school. Being cleared. Demolition due to start but concerns arising recently over confidence in Government plans for funding new schools. (c) B&NES Local Plan is about to be sent out for consultation reacting to Government plans to build more houses. (d) Litter pick still continuing. Well done all involved.
- 7) Next meetings** October 14th and November 12th. Discussion on frequency of meetings did not reach a conclusion. Continue 2nd Wednesday in month at the Community Room on The Green at 7pm. Maybe miss December/January and August.