

**Minutes of Oxton Society Executive Committee Meeting  
 1 May 2018, 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Jeff Willis	(JW)	(Vice Chair) (in the Chair)
Alan Chape	(AC)	(Secretary)
Griff Round	(GR)	(Treasurer)
Patrick Toosey	(PT)	(Recruitment)
Steve Weber	(SW)	(Planning and Amenities)
Jane Horton	(JH)	
Steve Ferguson	(SF)	
Dave Barden	(DB)	(Membership Secretary)
Bob Knowles	(BK)	(History Group)
George Harrison	(GH)	(Tree Group)
Carolyn Weber	(CMW)	

**1. Apologies:**

Rhiannon Evans	(RE)	(Chair)
Chris Jarrey	(CJ)	

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 13 March 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

**3. Matters Arising**

• **Conservation Areas Wirral**

AGM was held 19 April. Four Blue Plaques done, two more planned. CAW Heritage Trail on website – agreed to email members informing them about it. **Action:JW**

CAW had requested donations from groups – agreed to give £100. **Action:AC/GR**

Wirral Borough Council was threatened with losing Local Plan making powers.

• **Friends of the Arno**

FOA had received from WBC a Memorandum of Understanding to sign up to in relation to working with volunteers.

Possibility of a different relationship between the Society and FOA to be discussed at later date. **Action:AC**

• **Business Club**

JH reported on progress with village business map and there was discussion on whether to be a fund-raising project or a service to the businesses. Creative input was also needed and ideally the map should go on the website and be easily updated.

Agreed JH/SF/DFW to progress and bring back to Committee. **Action:JH/SF/DFW**

• **Blue Plaques**

Blue Plaque for Edith Smith ordered and to be unveiled 16 June. BK had given talk on Edith at the Library, and a booklet had been produced, initial run of 50 copies, which was on sale at bookshop in Williamson. Agreed to publicise on social media with image of Edith. **Action:JW/RE/AC**

- ***Hanging Baskets***

No activity reported.

- ***Annual General Meeting***

RE had circulated last year's AGM report to all relevant people for updating, to be sent back to her by end May

Suggestion for speaker – Peter de Figuerado on conservation in Wirral – RE to approach. Forum topic possibly trees - AC to discuss with Tree Group. **Action:AC/RE**

- ***Street Signs***

AC had emailed Shaun Brady from WBC but received no reply as yet.

- ***Design Award***

The Design Award Group had held a village walk-about to identify possible projects for awards. There had been one formal nomination for the Award so far, with a few more possibilities. The deadline for nominations was 31 August and this was publicised on Facebook and notice board. Email to go to members about Award. **Action:JW**

- ***General Data Protection Regulations***

CW reported that the group looking at this was due to meet on 4 and 16 May. A note of actions required was circulated, along with a draft of a data audit for committee members to check their entries. A draft of a Privacy Policy had been produced and would be discussed by the group. An email to all members would be needed by the end of the month – DB noted that there were 69 members with no email address and it was suggested that notification to these members could be covered by a piece in the Newsletter.

#### **4. Christmas Lights**

John Heathman had approached a contractor for a quote for the lights and was awaiting a reply.

#### **5. History Group**

- Minutes of the History Group from 19 March were circulated
- The book of bound Periodicals was with the printers, initial run of 30, for which they already had 16 orders.
- Several organisations had requested History Walks including U3A, the Ramblers and the Brownies.

#### **6. Financial Report**

- GR had met the accountants and they only had one query about whether the money raised for Blue Plaques was to be held on a restricted fund to be used only for plaques. This was confirmed
- He would be dealing with Gift Aid claim in June **Action: GR**

#### **7. Membership Report**

Since the last meeting there had been about 40 renewals and 3 new members. 55 renewals were yet to pay and would receive a final reminder with the next Newsletter.

DB had delivered around 50 membership packs to addresses in the Conservation Area, none yet responded. To be followed up by visits. **Action: DB/PT**

## 8. Website/Newsletter

- The new website was fully functional but still needed some new photos and a review of the text on the homepage. We have editing rights to the site but cannot change the design. **Action:JW/CW**
- Agreed that there might need to be a change to the Heritage/History heading – BK to consult History Group. **Action:BK**
- New site to be publicised after Secret Gardens via email and social media
- A third Newsletter editor was being sought, but if one was not found CW would do next Newsletter in July/August

## 9. Planning

- SW reported on 1 planning application, as noted in the report circulated

## 10. Trees

- 5 applications had been considered and comments submitted, as noted in the report circulated.
- Following the report at the last meeting about a tree in Poplar Road which had been cut down, it had been learned that permission had been given for the work, but quite a long time ago.

## 11. Village Centre

- **HSBC site** – AC had asked WBC and architect whether pre-commencement conditions had been met but had received no reply as yet. **Action: AC**
- **Chemists shop** – noted this would be closing in September

## 12. Secret Gardens

- No update from Coordinators
- No shadows had yet come forward for the Coordinator roles. Jay Little and Lesley McGarrity had indicated that this would ideally be their last year in the roles. Agreed there needed to be a discussion about possible future options for the Secret Gardens format.

## 13. Other Business

## 14. Date of next meeting

- Next meeting **3 July 2018**, 7.30 p.m., St. Saviour's Parish Hall.

## TREE APPLICATIONS - REPORT TO JANUARY 2018 COMMITTEE

### Tree group comments on applications November and December 2017

#### **37c Rose Mount CA/17/0310**

*Proposal*

Tree with trunk split in several directions; cut back to main trunk so doesn't affect wall fence or garage

*Oxton Society Comment*

This tree has multiple stems with the lower ones resting on the wall and fence into Victoria Lane. No objection to removal of the lower stems whilst retaining the more central and vertical trunk and stems.

#### **3a Alton Road CA/17/0324**

*Proposal*

Remove 3 conifers on front boundary of 3a and 5 Alton Road to allow repair of fence. Replace with more suitable species.

*Oxton Society Comment*

No objections.

#### **39 Rose Mount CA/17/0345**

*Proposal*

Holly tree overhanging roof of 37c Rose Mount. Trim back to boundary.

*Oxton Society Comment*

No objections. Trimming back to boundary will have little effect on the view from the road.

#### **Shrewsbury Arms T/17/0351**

*Proposal*

Lime tree. Remove branch overhanging canopy to prevent damage to canopy and pub roof. 10-15% reduction in tree canopy.

*Oxton Society Comment*

No objections.

## Executive Committee 9th January 2018 – Planning Report

We have been consulted on seven applications since the report to the last meeting. Two of these did not raise any issues of concern and no comments were submitted:

APP/17/01356 - The Barns, 5 Village Road: change of use from commercial office to non-surgical cosmetic treatments.

APP/17/01475 – 45 Claughton Firs: single storey rear extension

Comments were submitted on the following:

### **APP/17/01265 – 2 Rose Mount (former Brimark premises)**

Proposal: Alterations and conversion of existing commercial premises to create a live-work unit comprising a residential apartment on first and second floor with an artist studio on ground floor/basement.

Comment: Having met with the applicants in advance, we strongly supported this proposal as representing an exciting opportunity for the re-use of an important building which would make a positive contribution to the village centre. We responded to the applicants' concerns about some negative comments received following a pre-application meeting with the Council planners by circulating our members, setting out the basis for our support and asking them to submit representations. Seventy representations in support were recorded on the Council's online consultation page. *[Note: the application was subsequently approved].*

### **LBC/17/01333 – 14 Arno Road**

Proposal: New roof with internal alterations

Comment: The application proposes to restore the roof and other key features to their original condition using traditional materials, including renewal of the timber sliding sash windows where they have decayed. The proposal to restore this important Listing Building is very welcome. Its rapid decline into dereliction has been a source of major concern.

### **APP/17/01335 – 58 Christchurch Road**

Proposal: Replacement of existing timber windows with UPVC windows to front & rear elevations and replace roof covering and roof light.

Comment: No objection subject to a condition requiring prior approval of the specific style of vertical sliding window to be installed, as referred to in the application, which has been used elsewhere in the village centre, and is a reasonable match with the proportions of the traditional sashes.

### **APP/17/01457 – 17 Rose Mount (former T for 2 premises)**

Proposal: Change of use to restaurant with ancillary bar (ground floor, first floor and second floor)

Comment: The scale and form of development is identical to that proposed in the previous application (APP/17/00654), for which the Council refused permission on the grounds of the adverse impact it would have on residential amenity. Although the Society did not object to that application its potential impact on residential amenity was a key concern that the Society asked the Council to consider in determining the application. Additional information on noise disturbance and policy considerations have been submitted in support of the current application. However, we did not consider that this justified over-turning the previous decision.

### **LBC/17/01529 – 20 Fairview Road**

Proposal: Create driveway to rear of property with canopy over, gated access and associated landscaping works

Comment: A similar proposal was part of a previous more extensive application approved in 2008, the

main part of which was for the construction of a free-standing residential annex on the Fairview Road frontage of this Listed Building. We supported the residential development (which was built and given a Design Award by the Society). However, at that time we felt that the proposed development of a new rear access with a car port and canopy on the Arno Road frontage would harm the setting of the Listed residential property at 14 Arno Road; the main concern being the unsympathetic canopy/pergola feature. This element of the 2008 scheme was not constructed and the consent had therefore lapsed. The current application revives the proposal in virtually identical form. Having been previously approved it is most unlikely that the Council would reverse its decision. However, our view has not changed and we have responded by simply drawing attention to our original concerns.