



## **Minutes of Oxtton Society Executive Committee 8th June 2021 by Zoom at 5:00**

Rhiannon Evans (Chair)  
Griff Round (GR) (Treasurer)  
Steve Weber (SW) (Planning and Amenities)  
Bob Knowles (BK) (History Group)  
George Harrison (GH) (Tree Group)  
Cllr Allan Brame (AB)  
Patrick Toosey (PT)  
Steve Ferguson (SF)  
John Booth (JB) (Hanging baskets)  
Dave Barden (DB) (Membership Secretary)  
Annette Capper (ACa) (Friends of the Arno)  
Don Firth-Williamson (DFW)  
Dominic Wilkinson (DW)  
Chris Jarrey (CJ)  
Heather Alcock (HA)  
Carla Walker (CWA)  
John Field (JF)  
Carolyn Weber (CWe)

**Apologies** were received from John Heathman

Lisa Stafford was present for the item on Secret Gardens  
Ian Wray and Rob Belcher were present for the item on Birkenhead Park

### **1. Minutes of previous meetings**

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 2 March 2021 were approved. Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Officers held on 7 March 2021 were circulated.

### **2. Matters Arising on the Minutes**

#### **• *Virtual Secret Gardens 2021***

£1,000 sponsorship had been raised and all sponsors had paid up. A number of raffle prizes had been received and raffle tickets would be sold in the Drawing Room and Oxtton Boutique and in the village over the Bank Holiday weekend and the following weekend. Volunteers were needed for some shifts selling tickets – AC to send round details from Lisa. GR to provide cash boxes and float.

Peter de Figueredo would have a box in the Arno for donations for the Food Bank, and the Society will have a box by the notice board in village centre.

Posters had been printed to go up on notice boards and in shops. Birkenhead Park representatives offered to display posters and help with other publicity. JW to do email to members giving link to Virtual Gardens site and to Justgiving page.

CWa working on text for social media and other publicity – to circulate round.

**Action: AC/GR/JW/CWa**

• ***Hanging Baskets***

SW/JB/JW had met and walked around the village assessing the brackets. Six new brackets needed, being ordered and to be fitted in May. Dovecote to provide final price for baskets shortly. Society would need to hire van to collect the baskets and Clearground were organized to put the baskets up 5/6 June.

RE to send flowers or a basket to the donor of the funds. **Action: JB/RE**

• ***Conservation Areas Wirral/Local Plan***

The links to the Birkenhead Regeneration Framework and the Culture and Heritage Strategy for Birkenhead had been circulated. Both were part of the Local Plan which would be submitted to government by the end of the year.

• ***Birkenhead Park***

Ian Wray, Chair of the Birkenhead Park Bid Committee, and Rob Belcher, Park Manager attended to report on the bid for UNESCO World Heritage Site status that was currently in progress. At the same time a grant application for up to £5 million was being prepared for imminent submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which if successful would fund a two-year development programme. Community involvement was very important in this application and they invited the Oxtou Society to become engaged in the programme. AC noted that there was very little mention of the Park in the Birkenhead Regeneration Framework.

Agreed that there should be follow-up discussions with individual members of the Committee who would be able to contribute. RE to email thanking Ian and Rob for attending and suggesting conversations with

AC/BK/HA/JF/GH/ACa. **Action: RE**

**3. Membership Report**

The Membership Secretary had circulated a report. 65 members were still to renew their memberships but par with previous years. There were also new business members.

**4. Finance Report**

The Treasurer circulated the Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2021. These would go out to members with the AGM papers in due course, and to the Charity Commission.

**5. Planning Report**

SW circulated a report on three applications which had required no comment from the Society and one application where a short comment had been submitted.

He also reported that there had been no progress on the development proposals for the Ashton House site but that he and AC had held discussions with Kath Lawless, Head of WBC Planning Service, on general issues around conservation and urban design policy and in particular the Ashton House development.

## **6. Tree Report**

A report on four applications was submitted, no issues. The advertisement for a new coordinator had not produced any response as yet.

## **7. History Group**

Report on meeting held 5 April had been circulated. BK reported that the resident of 3 Silverdale Road had contacted the Society proposing to fund a Blue Plaque on his house for George Edward Schultz, Commanding Officer of the Birkenhead Bantams Battalion in the First World War. BK had also been in touch with George Schultz's grandson who had written a book about him and offered financial support for the plaque. Agreed to go ahead with this plaque, BK to find a date. **Action : BK**

BK had been in touch with the company carrying out renovation work on the Queens pub, who wanted photos of old Oxtan for the walls, in return for a £120 donation

BK had also been contacted about Edith Smith by someone in Brazil who was writing about the history of policewomen there

## **8. Friends of the Arno**

ACa circulated a report on FOA activity. She also reported that the Little Arno would no longer be maintained by WBC Parks and Gardens service, and that there would be a 'No mow May' on the Arno Fields.

## **9. AGM**

Date and venue to be arranged for October. A first draft Annual Report had been prepared and circulated – relevant committee members to provide input for their areas of responsibility. Only two topics would now be included – Eco Oxtan and Lessons from the Pandemic.

Papers for the AGM would

Sent from my iPhone