

**Minutes of Oxton Society Committee Meeting
3rd August 2021, 17.00, via Zoom platform**

Present:

Rhiannon Evans	(RE)	(Chair)
Alan Chape	(AC)	(Secretary)
Jeff Willis	(JW)	(Vice Chair)
Griff Round	(GR)	(Treasurer)
Bob Knowles	(BK)	(History Group)
George Harrison	(GH)	(Tree Group)
Cllr Allan Brame	(AB)	
Patrick Toosey	(PT)	
Dave Barden	(DB)	(Membership Secretary)
Annette Capper	(ACa)	(Friends of the Arno)
Dominic Wilkinson	(DW)	
Chris Jarrey	(CJ)	
Carla Walker	(CWa)	
John Heathman	(JH)	
John Field	(JF)	
Heather Alcock	(HA)	

Announcements:

The committee sent its best wishes to Carolyn Weber and Steve Ferguson who were both unable to attend due to serious illness.

RE informed the committee that John Heathman will take over from Alan Chape as Secretary. Exact date of change to be advised.

Apologies were received from Steve Weber, Carolyn Weber, Steve Ferguson, Don Firth Williamson, John Booth

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 8th June 2021 were approved.

2. Matters Arising on the Minutes

2.1. Letter received from Friends of Birkenhead Park (FoBP)

175th anniversary of the opening of the park in 2022. The Society has been invited to join the celebrations and to suggest to FoBP how they might want to do this. E.g. walk to the park and a picnic (committee and members). AC proposed that we engage with members via social media and ask them for suggestions. JH/RE to discuss putting out message to achieve this.

Action: RE/JH

2.2. AGM

The committee considered the recommendations of the officers which included 4 options on how best to conduct the AGM under the present Covid restrictions and associated IT issues. The conclusion and best option proposed was that there will not be a meeting of any kind. Instead, decision papers are to be sent out by email/post to members asking for endorsements and comments. It was agreed that this was the best way forward and that it will satisfy Charity Commission requirements.

2.3. Village Centre

a). Fit Grill alcohol licence application – JF attended local consultation meeting which seemed positive regarding neighbour concerns. Matter is with Wirral Borough Council for consideration.

b). Letter to Host. As per letter sent from RE. No response received as yet.

c). Defibrillator. JF updated committee on the situation regarding registration of the defib machine with the North West Ambulance Service. All issues now resolved. RE thanked JF for his efforts to resolve this.

d). CCTV. (AB) Funding for Wirral local area CCTV installations is subject to WBC approval at a meeting planned to take place in September. A consultation process will follow if funding awarded.

e). Christmas Lights (JH) Following planning meeting, plan for 2021 is that a switch on event will take place on Saturday 27th November. Marie Pennington is leading the planning group. Quotations have been requested for some new lights in select areas. Funding mechanisms to be decided. Tree to be donated by Ewer Roberts flower shop. JW advised that a financial offer has been made by a local resident to develop the walled area around the Christmas tree location. Details required for consideration.

Action: JW

f). Secret Gardens. Date of Sunday 8th May 2022 was agreed.

3. Membership Report

Update from DB. 48 memberships have currently not renewed (similar to most years this time) – they will all be contacted by DB. Paying membership = 453 – 302 Household and 153 Individual.

‘Introductory Packs / how to apply to join’ envelopes are sent out by DB to new residents – advise DB when you see them move in. Also recruitment adverts are going out on Facebook.

4. Finance Report

The Treasurer presented report of last 5 months accounts. No more income expected in 2021, so careful consideration required for future projects. The accounts need to be amended to show the full cost of the hanging baskets, including the donation.

Action: GR

5. Planning Group Report

AC updated committee on Ashton House development planning application. (See separate emails outlining the proposal and Society’s response). Committee agreed that there is a general need to reinforce, where possible, the requirements for environmental future proofing in this and forthcoming proposals (E.g. River Hill Hotel). AC has formally responded to WBC with the Society’s comments. Additionally, an expert report on the condition of the sandstone boundary wall has also been sent to WBC for its consideration as part of the need for further repair and ongoing maintenance by the site owners.

6. Tree Report

A report of recent applications was submitted.

The purchase of trees from Port Sunlight Garden Centre and relationship contacts with Ness Gardens needs clarifying in light of Steve Ferguson leaving the committee. GH will advise who the contacts are. **Action GH**

The role of Tree Group leader remains unfilled.

7. History Group

Report circulated.

JW commented that the unveiling of a blue plaque for George Shultz is scheduled to take place at 12.00 on Saturday 7th August – **can committee members please attend**. Location is 3 Silverdale Road. JW to advertise this on FB/Twitter. Notices on boards to go up in Arno.

Action JW and ACa

8. Friends of the Arno

ACa circulated a report on FOA activity.

9. Hanging Baskets

JW presented report from John Booth. Agreed that present look in the village is excellent.

10. Newsletter & Social Media

CW reported that the next newsletter is currently at the printers. RE thanked CW for singlehandedly producing the newsletter this time.

The next newsletter (November) requires some subject matter. Any items of interest, please send to Carla.

Action All committee members

11. Any other business

a). AB reported that travellers had broken through the chain/padlock on Storeton Road and set up camp on Oxtan fields. The Council with police are dealing with the situation.

b). RE informed the committee that this meeting would be the last one for Patrick Toosey as a committee member. RE and AC listed PT's significant contributions in growing the Society from meagre beginnings. The committee acknowledged this and thanked PT for his outstanding service to the Society and the community.

12. Date of next meeting

Next meeting to be held by Zoom on Tuesday 5th October starting at 17.00

The Officers are to meet before this date to agree AGM material publication.

The meeting concluded at 18.23