



## Minutes of Oxton Society Committee Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 17.00, via Zoom

### Present:

Rhiannon Evans	(RE)	(Chair)
Jeff Willis	(JW)	(Vice Chair)
John Heathman	(JH)	(Secretary)
Alan Chape	(AC)	
Griff Round	(GR)	(Treasurer)
Carla Walker	(CW)	(Newsletter)
John Booth	(JB)	(Hanging Baskets)
George Harrison	(GH)	(Tree Group)
Cllr Allan Brame	(AB)	
Dave Barden	(DB)	(Membership Secretary)
Heather Alcock	(HA)	(Planning Group)
Dominic Wilkinson	(DW)	(Planning Group)
John Field	(JF)	
Chris Jarrey	(CJ)	
Annette Capper	(ACa)	(Friends of the Arno)
Don Firth Williamson	(DFW)	
Lisa Stafford	(LS)	(Secret Gardens)
Kirsty Cotton	(KC)	(Secret Gardens)

**Apologies** were received from Steve Weber

### Announcement:

RE noted the award by the RHS of a Gold Standard for the Hanging Baskets display in the village this summer. This is the fourth such award in a row and is testament to the detailed work and lead taken by John Booth.

### 1. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were approved.

### 2. Matters Arising on the Minutes

#### 2.1. *Secret Gardens* (LS and KC)

Update with arrangements so far for the 2022 SG event.

Ticket prices agreed at £7 / £9; advance/on the day.

Cashless machines will be utilized for most of the money transactions. Exact system to do this not decided yet.

Kate Wyness looking after Rose Mount traders/stalls

Oxton Artists booked

Roles of tickets manager and H&S managers still not filled.

First meeting of Task Group 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Action:** LS to send to JH ticket manager job description for circulation to all.

**Action ALL:** Everyone to consider whether they know anyone who could take on the H&S

role – let LS/KC know

**Action AB:** Advise on any regulation in the WBC area for holding a street market

## **2.2. Birkenhead Park 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Update from JF: The Park has missed out on lottery funding, but is in an application process for World Heritage status.

## **2.3. Carbon Literacy**

JH has received no response from either Council representative (Mike Chapman) nor CEO of Energy Projects Plus (Peter Owen). Will pursue them again.

HA advised an additional contact from an organization that is liaising with local groups on this subject. **(Action JH)**

## **2.4. Christmas Lights (JH)**

A successful event with good attendance. GR advised finance looking at £2k loss, but some income still to arrive. Noted that Justgiving site has worked well. If same scale of event takes place in 2022, might break even as no intention to purchase new lights.

## **2.5. Village Centre**

**a). Defibrillator.** No update.

**b). CCTV. (AB)** The project is progressing as planned. The camera is to be installed next and linked up to the comms network.

### **c). Traffic management / Liveable Streets.**

Discussion on the survey carried out by WBC in 2019/20, although this presented only a small number of responses. Query as to whether this is a responsibility of the Society to 'solve' the traffic crisis. JH proposed that there is a need for local residents to come up with ideas and proposals that the Council could consider. **(Action JF/JH)**

**d). Christmas tree area development (JH).** Proposal to make this area a reflection of the changing seasons: Spring flowers/ summer planters / Hallowe'en display / Poppies / Xmas etc.

**Action: RE** to put JH in touch with Jay Little.

**Action ALL:** Any other ideas?

## **3. Appointment of Alan Chape to new Officer role “Conservation and Partnership”**

RE updated the committee on rationale of this new officer post. Formal approval of this will be put to next AGM. In the short term committee approved for Alan Chape to be appointed as an officer of the Society in this newly defined role. (N.B. Agenda incorrectly titled this new post)

## **4. Local Plan.**

AC outlined the timetable for the submission of the Wirral Local Plan which will replace the Unitary Development Plan approved in 2000.

The new plan should be submitted for Government approval by mid 2022. Conservation Areas Wirral (CAW) has been involved in consultations on the draft plan throughout 2021.

It has submitted proposals for all 26 conservation areas which have largely been accepted by WBC officers and should now appear in the draft plan. CAW has also stressed we should raise the bar for the assessment of planning applications in all of these areas from “do no harm” to “making a positive contribution “.

This is especially important within the Oxton Conservation Area where there are many small scale potential development sites and properties of character which need protection from proposals that might undermine these features.

The Society will be consulted as this process of plan preparation and submission unfolds in 2022.

#### **5. Format of future meetings.**

Agreed that future meetings will be face to face with a Zoom link. Zoom account to be extended for another 12 months **Action GR**

#### **6. Conservation area rules / Society identity**

JW is drawing up new leaflet to stipulate rules to be followed. The intention is that this will go to all 1200 postal addresses within the Conservation Area. GH asked that the leaflet is worded in a non-confrontational manner so as to not alienate residents.

#### **7. Membership report (DB)**

No issues. Following discussion, agreed to place newsletter onto website once it is printed and delivery is in progress. (Action JW)

#### **8. Finance (GR)**

Accounts now changed as per agreed at last meeting.

#### **9. Planning report (JW)**

As per report circulated (now approved by planning sub-committee).

#### **10. Tree report (GH)**

As per report. No issues.

#### **11 History Group (BK)**

As per reports. The History group now has a vacancy. Anyone know of any suitable candidates?

#### **12 Friends of the Arno (ACa)**

As per report.

#### **13. Hanging baskets**

JB outlined awards received at awards ceremony last month. Letter of thanks to go to Dovecote nurseries commending the quality of their flowers this year. **(Action RE)**

#### **14. Newsletter and social media. (CW)**

Agreed to go to 12 pages if necessary. A yearly plan of dates to be drawn up (newsletters, events, AGM), together with preparation dates, so there is no excuse for items being late. **(Action JH/CW)**

#### **15. AOB**

**Wirral Museums Future Strategy (RE).** See recent email to all committee. The Society will not be responding to the survey, but individual members can respond as they wish.

**Birkenhead Regeneration Plan (JF).** Discussion on possibility of a presentation to Oxsoc committee & local residents. Dominic Wilkinson, has access to presentations being made in the near future, but in Liverpool **(Action DW** to inform committee of dates of this). Decision to be taken on whether further information is required to be brought to committee.

#### **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting to be face to face; Tuesday 1st February. 7pm – 8.30pm St Saviour's. **Action JH** to arrange

The meeting closed at 18.50 approx.