



## **Minutes of Oxton Society Committee Meeting 1st February 2022, 19.00. St Saviour's**

1. **Apologies** were received from Steve Weber, Heather Alcock, Carla Walker

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were approved.

3. **Secret Gardens**

We have 20 gardens of which approximately 10 are new. Ticket manager post filled. 2<sup>nd</sup> Health & Safety manager post still remains vacant. All other arrangements on-going. KC has H&S documentation from Ralph Ingram.

Presentation from Paul Cotton on cashless system options to be adopted for our community events. Decision taken by the committee to adopt the SUMUP system as this is a one whole unit with its own comms, thus not dependent on wi-fi or a separate mobile phone. Charge per transaction is 1.69%. Up front cost for a unit is £99.00

4. **Oxton Society Strategy**

(See paper written by AC circulated with agenda). Alan Chape presented synopsis of recent discussion of Officers concerning the Society strategy and how this links in with our constitution. AC outlined planning history within the conservation area since the Society was formed, and the Society's ability to effectively act and respond to planning matters.

In this it was explained that recent matters i.e. the pandemic and the Home mural episode had diverted the Society from adopting strategic decisions that were discussed at "additional meetings" held in 2019. The output from these 2019 meetings, coupled with an up to date vision and Officers input has resulted in the paper presented. The main messages were a re-affirmation of our key strategic objective, i.e. to promote and maintain the architecture and landscaping of the Oxton conservation area, and secondly; to effectively communicate and educate residents in the wider Oxton area in this strategic task. The paper identifies the 'Big Issues We Face' and 'Next Steps' to be adopted.

RE asked the committee members for questions and comments. All members present responded. Several members (without any disagreement from all present) commented that the paper presented was an excellent piece of strategic thinking and direction.

Comments included:

CJ asked on the relationship between the Local Plan and Oxsoc strategy and whether the Local plan should influence strategy. AC responded that the two are not necessarily linked, but we needed to progress with dealing with both items. Also, with regards to knocking walls down, AC stated that the strategy was a response (in part) to the legal ruling that exists now on protection of rules and that we required to reinforce this due to recent acts by some residents.

Relationship with businesses: This is extremely difficult to manage, as there is no leadership from within the present business owners. The Society's relationship here needs a separate discussion, as opinions differed.

RE asked Bob Knowles whether the History group can communicate more by digital means. BK to review.

AB stated that the latest draft of the WBC Local Plan document is imminent.

GH stated that it is all very well embarking on a communications campaign, but this will require volunteer input, and we are already struggling to attract volunteers for key roles in other projects. Point noted.

JF suggested a communications process to break the ice on this subject, and a mechanism to ask for member comments, rather than hitting our residents 'cold'.

RE asked the committee to approve the strategy paper as the Society's strategy to be adopted without delay. The committee unanimously approved the paper.

## **5. Newsletter.**

In the absence of Carla Walker, JH outlined agreed dates for the next newsletter and subsequent editions in 2022: There will be editions published in March, June, September, November. The November edition may move to December subject to further discussion. The key dates for the March edition are:

6<sup>th</sup> March. Last date for copy to be sent to Carla Walker

13<sup>th</sup> March. Newsletter formatted ready for print.

14 – 17<sup>th</sup> March. Printing.

18<sup>th</sup> March. Distribution to delivery team.

19<sup>th</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> March. Delivery to members.

A similar format of dates will be in place for subsequent editions.

BK confirmed that History supplement is ready.

CW has a list of articles for the March newsletter. It was agreed that the strategy paper just approved would be summarized, and an article with this summary would be in the March newsletter. **Action AC**

**6. Planning report**No items to discuss

**7. Tree report**

No items to discuss

**8. WBC budget cut Proposals.**

Allan Brame confirmed that WBC are continuing to work on their proposals. The proposed reduction in maintenance to the Arno Fields area had been made more realistic, but cuts in service must and will happen.

**9. Finance Report.**

As previously emailed out with agenda. No further discussion.

**10. Membership, History and Friends of The Arno reports.**

As previously emailed out with agenda. No further discussion.

**11. Matters arising from the previous minutes**

- a. Carbon Literacy. JH confirmed that contact had been made with the Leader of Cool Wirral (Peter Owen, Chief Executive of Energy Projects Plus). Further details to be sent to committee explaining recent discussions. **Action JH**
- b. Defibrillator. No activity with the machine. JF stated that the machine is now correctly registered with the relevant emergency services and databases.
- c. CCTV. Connection imminent, awaiting power and a comms connection
- d. Xmas tree area development. ACa stated that discussion within Friends of Arno group positive about providing advice (Alison Clark). Jay Little still keen to offer her contribution. Options include move the rubbish bin, place planters and possibly a small park bench. **Action JH**
- e. Hanging baskets. JB had recently brought the criticality of this project in missing key dates due to a lack of manager to lead. **Action Officers**

**12. AOB**

RE announced her intention to retire as Chair and as a member of the committee at the next AGM. Any candidates wishing to apply for position of Chair are to contact the secretary, John Heathman.

**13. Date of next meeting.**

This is planned to be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7pm. St.Saviour's

The meeting finished at 20.45