



Minutes of Oxton Society Committee Meeting 5th October 2022, 18.00 St Saviour's

Present:

Chris Jarrey	(CJ)	(Chair)
Jeff Willis	(JW)	(Vice Chair and Planning)
John Heathman	(JH)	(Secretary)
Alan Chape	(AC)	(Conservation and Partnership)
Cllr Allan Brame	(AB)	
Bob Knowles	(BK)	(History Group)
George Harrison	(GH)	(Tree Group)
Annette Capper	(ACa)	(Friends of The Arno)
Steve Weber	(SW)	(Planning)
John Field	(JF)	
Dave Barden	(DB)	(Membership)
Dominic Wilkinson	(DW)	(Planning)
Kirsty Cotton	(KC)	(Present for Secret Gardens item only)
Lisa Stafford	(LS)	(Present for Secret Gardens item only)

- 1. Apologies** were received from Griff Round, Carla Walker, Don Firth-Williamson, John Booth
- 2. Approval of minutes**
The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- 3. Secret Gardens**
 - Date: Sunday 14th May 2023.
 - Gardens: Recruitment to start in November. Have 3 new gardens already. Going to use FB and newsletter article to attract more. Kirsty has the original list of 60 or so previous owners to contact.
 - Volunteers: Leslie McGarrity has agreed to assist with volunteer management. We will use the premise that each volunteer earns approximately £150 each for their charity by turning up, to apply a more robust arrangement with the charities. This should help reduce absences on the day.
 - Pre-event raffle and gardens ticket sales: We will not take cash on the street anymore due to security concerns. We have the card readers to take payments.
 - Charities: approach to be made to Rotary for assistance in E.g. road marshalling and security for cash takers on the day. Likely they will not want a % payment, but we would offer something to show our appreciation.
 - Suggestion we review the %age allocation to charities in light of our financial success. **Action: Officers to propose change**
- 4. AGM de-brief**
 - Need for more control of questions from floor
 - Need to send the invitation out with the July newsletter

c. General nature of questions showed that the subject of “community” is strong and the belief that we are a parish council, need to be addressed.

5. Conservation

- a. Wirral Borough Council Local Plan. AC outlined the current status of this. Leverhulme estates have put in planning applications to test WBC’s resolve regarding protection of greenbelt land. With change in Westminster government, it is unclear how demanding the planning inspectorate will be in the future.
- b. Local Listing scheme. AC updated the meeting: This scheme appears to be stagnant. Only one submission has been made to the pilot project team from the whole of the Wirral (the one from us). The thought being that it is seen to be no advantage of protection to any building carrying this new heritage status.
- c. New project on tree strategy / Wirral tree survey. See reports sent out. **Action: George Harrison** to respond to the WBC survey as a society representative. **Action All to respond as individuals.** JF asked whether the society would consider paying for a tree expert/contractor to offer maintenance advice to residents. Mixed thoughts on this, and no decision until after the WBC survey is complete.
- d. Planning report (as circulated).
 - 14 Hughes Lane. It was agreed that the Society will not object to the plan put forward to rectify works at this property. We need to check what the rules are for people installing tarmac driveways **Action JW**
 - Riverhill Hotel: An application has been recently submitted to convert this to a nursing home. Planning group will respond accordingly
 - Planning Group are to meet the WBC appointed Senior Heritage Officer on Friday 7th October.
 - 1/3 Shrewsbury Road: We have received at least one request to make these buildings listed – this would only be necessary if demolition was proposed – watching brief. DW suggests the sale price precludes refurbishment and conversion works.
 - Ashton House – we are hopeful that a new planning proposal will be submitted following the rejection of the first proposal by WBC.
- e. Solar panels.
 - JW outlined the rules (a brief version was posted following the Liverpool City Region installation contract project) and suggested publication of this on our website. All agreed. **Action JW**
 - AC to seek clarification from Heritage Officer on meaning of certain rules regarding installation of panels. **Action AC**
- f. Resident’s leaflet: As per circulated draft. Distribution – the leaflet will go to all addresses within the current conservation area boundary.
- g. Design Awards. JW outlined that energy saving will also be considered when assessing suitable candidates. Planning group to consider the question: “Are we setting our bar too high?” **Action JW**
- h. Tree report (as circulated). 1 Glenmore Road – Council probably failed to act in time; no response from WBC as to what their decision process was.

4. Finance

No update other than what was stated at AGM.

5. **Newsletter.** Content plan circulated. Copy to be with Carla Walker by **Monday October 31st.** **Action JH, BK, AC, JW, CWCJ, AC.** JH to assist BK with distribution process as DB will be away.

Committee mugshots and biopics. This will go on the website. Details to follow.

Action JH

6. Christmas Lights

- a. As per circulated report. Please can committee members volunteer to help set up etc by contacting Dave Pennington davewpennington@sky.com

7. Sub-group reports

- a. Membership. As per circulated reports. Follow up telephone calls going on to chase up 'missing' subs.
- b. History Group. As per circulated report.
- c. Friends of the Arno: As per circulated report.

8. Village Centre Items

- a. Defib machine. No activity
- b. Hanging Baskets. Suggestion we send a thank you letter and small gift to Ian Garland, who carried out the on-going maintenance of the baskets and flowers. **Action JB**

9. AOBs

- a. Civic Voice. No action – we are still awaiting an explanation of their financial crisis
- b. Constitution revision. A proposal for changes will be sent out. **Action JH**. All to suggest any additional changes
- c. JF suggested that the society should offer its services (i.e. expertise) to adjacent similar organisations. We are part of the Conservation Areas Wirral set up (led by Alan Chape). There was no uptake of this proposal. (JH - Since the meeting: this was suggested by JF in a previous meeting and JH took an action to contact Ian Wray of Friends on Birkenhead Park on this basis. Action was completed)

10 Date of next meeting.

This is planned to be Tuesday 6th December starting at 7pm. St.Saviour's.

The meeting finished at 20.10