



## Minutes of Oxtown Society Committee Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 19.00 St Saviour's

### Present:

Chris Jarrey	(CJ)	(Chair)
Jeff Willis	(JW)	(Vice Chair and Planning)
John Heathman	(JH)	(Secretary)
Griff Round	(GR)	(Treasurer)
Alan Chape	(AC)	(Conservation and Partnership)
Bob Knowles	(BK)	(History Group)
George Harrison	(GH)	(Tree Group)
Annette Capper	(ACa)	(Friends of The Arno)
Don Firth-Williamson	(DFW)	(Business rep)
John Field	(JF)	(Blue Plaques)
Dave Barden	(DB)	(Membership)
Steve Weber	(SW)	(Planning)
Dominic Wilkinson	(DW)	(Planning)

- 1. Apologies** were received from Heather Alcock, Carla Walker, John Booth, Allan Brame
- 2. Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- 3. Conservation**
  - Planning report. No formal requests for comment to WBC since last meeting. DW has agreed to take the lead for the planning group.
  - Tree report: As per reports sent out. DW to approach Dwain Chong as a potential convenor of the tree group.
  - Tree future strategy. As per reports sent out. AC outlined position with WBC and their intention for a new strategy to be actioned in the autumn which will include at least a refresh of TPOs. This follows on from renewed communication links with Erik Bowman.
  - Heritage lamp posts. Meeting held with Paul Graves from WBC. Positive response from Paul on need to maintain the current heritage stock and to improve their appearance. Awaiting Paul Graves to confirm what action WBC will take.
- 4. Finance** GR presented signed off accounts that have been checked by our accountants and are now ready for AGM approval.
- 5. Community items**
  - Secret Gardens.** GR outlined financial aspects of the event. Agreement that the event was a huge success with increases in income in all aspects compared to 2022. All features of the event worked well (refreshments, raffle plant stall, gardens, entertainments, village scene, artists).  
JH outlined key points from the SG de-brief meeting:
    - Obtaining new gardens is very difficult.
    - Good input from local businesses on the day, but lateness in communicating with

the organizing committee.

3. Alcohol sales within the village centre were of concern, with no knowledge of formal permissions for these sales.

4. Sale of merchandise, a new aspect of 2023, will only just break even at best and needs formal financial approval in future. **Action GR** so find out remaining stock numbers and value.

5. Control of waste and litter must be improved.

6. More young (aged between 20-50) volunteers required

7. Overall it was felt the current organizing arrangements are at their maximum capacity and any increase in the nature of the event in whatever aspect would be difficult to control without a change in the strategy of how the event is managed.

JW stated that there are several options for the scope of future events and that these need to be discussed with all parties involved. It was agreed by all that the main Co-ordinators Kirsty Cotton and Lisa Stafford did a great job and this should be acknowledged by key members of the committee with a thank you event of some kind.

b. **Business engagement.** DFW stated that the businesses were holding a meeting themselves on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Output (if any relevance to Oxsoc) would be ascertained. A business bulletin to be delivered to all businesses by DFW to go out before 13<sup>th</sup> June containing an SG income statement and request for business feedback.

c. **Hanging baskets.** JH outlined situation as informed from John Booth: All baskets installed, with some new baskets added (E.g. at "2016"). Some teething water system issues now resolved. Replacement for JB still outstanding.

## 6. AGM

a. **Format.** A speaker would be preferred to supplement the meeting, perhaps someone who could speak on the subject of building heating and carbon literacy. Also if sufficient material of substance, the committee should present ideas for conservation investment that the AGM attendees could comment on. This material should be discussed along with strategic direction of the society at the October committee meeting (in place of the usual agenda items).

b. **Date.** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. **Action ALL** to attend

## 7. Sub-group reports:

a. **Friends of The Arno.** As per reports sent out. ACa thanked the SG organizing team for their assistance in helping with the plant stall set up at the SG event.

b. **History.** As per report.

c. **Membership.** As per report.

## 8. Communications:

Next newsletter to be published late July. Carla Walker has set a last date for copy to be submitted - 26<sup>th</sup> June.

It was agreed that activities of the society should be 'advertised' on the "Only in Oxtou" facebook site as well as our own FB site.

## 9. AOB:

a. **Space for equipment** JH stated that the lock up is full of equipment and that we have no facility to house the PA system and that a further amount of equipment for the SG refreshment tent will be forthcoming as Monica Toosey hands this over. DFW volunteered some loft space for the PA.

## 10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 1st August. 7pm. St Saviour's.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm