



Minutes of Oxton Society Committee Meeting 5th September 2023, 19.00 St. Saviour's

Present:

Chris Jarrey	(CJ)	(Chair)
John Heathman	(JH)	(Secretary)
Bob Knowles	(BK)	(History Group)
George Harrison	(GH)	(Tree Group)
Annette Capper	(ACa)	(Friends of The Arno)
Steve Weber	(SW)	(Planning)
Dominic Wilkinson	(DW)	(Planning Lead)
Heather Alcock	(HA)	(Planning)
Carla Walker	(CW)	(Communications)
John Booth	(JB)	(Hanging Baskets)
Allan Brame	(AB)	(WBC)

1. **Apologies** were received from Jeff Willis, Griff Round, Alan Chape, Don Firth-Williamson, John Field, Dave Barden
2. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
3. **Conservation.** See report submitted
 - a. Ashton House. (DW). Latest submission is generally an improvement but there was no detail on looking after the exterior walls and trees. Our stance is that we would require the entire external wall to be maintained by the estate management company. In principle, no objection. DW has responded to WBC accordingly. **Action DW:** Response to be sent to JH for file.
 - b. Riverhill. (AB) Planning is approved for a residential care facility. Finance believed to now be in place and works expected to start in earnest in January 2024.
 - c. Design Awards. Jeff Willis had confirmed that no locations had been nominated or identified this year.
 - d. Tree report. As per report submitted. Confirmation that Dwain Chong keen to take on Tree Co-ordinator role. **Action GH** to contact Dwain early October with view to handover.
4. **Finance** No items reported by Griff Round.
5. **AGM**
 - a. Format. *Date of AGM is Wednesday 1st November.* JH confirmed that a guest presentation from SP Energy Networks "The future of electricity distribution" has been secured. Drinks will be offered prior to the meeting. The AGM agenda will follow a short welcome from the Chair and the guest presentation.
 - b. Constitution. Paper circulated previously. Some re-formatting required so there is no debate on the words to be used in the new constitution. **Action JH** to re-format.
 - c. Preparation of AGM documents. CJ to circulate draft Annual Report. JH will arrange invitation and other supporting documentation. **Action JH** to send out preparation timeline.

6. Community items

a. **Communications.** (CW). Requirement for more co-ordination of comms channels (website, twitter, FB, newsletters.) It is suggested that a young person could be utilized to post updates on more modern media platforms in an effort to attract a younger audience. **Action ALL** to identify such a person. Discussion on timing of next newsletter and agreement to make this early December for distribution.

b. **Business engagement.** JH on behalf of Don FW stated that so far no engagement on Xmas Lights has been received despite our encouragement for the businesses to give us their thoughts on this.

c. **Rose Mount pavement tables/chairs.** The planning application from The Library had not been passed by WBC. JH emphasized that the society has no view on this type of activity and discussion with businesses is not a society matter.

d. **Xmas Lights.** Marie Pennington again volunteering to head up co-ordination of the event.

e. **Hanging baskets.** JB confirmed that all was working, although several repairs were necessary to the watering system. There may be an issue next year if Cooke's garage is sold.

7. Sub-group reports:

a. **Friends of The Arno.** As per reports sent out.

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

c. **Membership.** **Action JH** to send out report sent from Dave Barden.

8. **AOB.** JH stated that we had been the beneficiary of a justgiving collection following the death of a local resident, Arthur Thompson. It was agreed that a thank you will be sent to Arthur's son Neil, who arranged the justgiving collection. **Action JH** to send out thank you.

9. Date of next meeting

Agreed to be Tuesday 7th November 7pm at St. Saviour's

The meeting finished at 8.30pm