



## Minutes of Oxton Society Committee Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 19.00 St. Saviour's

### Present:

Chris Jarrey	(CJ)	(Chair)
Jeff Willis	(JW)	(Vice-Chair)
John Heathman	(JH)	(Secretary)
Alan Chape	(AC)	(Conservation and Partnership)
Griff Round	(GR)	(Treasurer)
Bob Knowles	(BK)	(History Group)
Annette Capper	(ACa)	(Friends of The Arno)
Dominic Wilkinson	(DW)	(Planning Lead)
John Field	(JF)	(Blus Plaques)
Heather Alcock	(HA)	(Planning)
Don Firth-Williamson	(DFW)	(Business liaison)
Allan Brame	(AB)	(WBC)

1. **Apologies** were received from Steve Weber, Carla Walker, Duane Chong, George Harrison

2. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the last meeting were approved. There were a few actions outstanding from these minutes. Please check.

3. **Conservation.** See report submitted

a. Two items came in since November:

1. RE: Planning Application APPH/23/01523 at 4 Glenmore Road, Oxton, Prenton, Wirral, CH43 2HG

*The Oxton Society have no objection to this application, although we do note that the greenhouse is forward of the building line established by the house..*

2. RE: Planning Application PRE/22/00096/ENQ at Rose Cottage 16 Rose Mount Close, Oxton, Wirral, CH43 5SW

*Although the two storey extension is large, efforts have been made to mitigate its scale and the proposals are not visible from public highways, so we have no objection in principle. By way of constructive comment, we note that the impact upon the 'rear elevation' is increased by the extension linking at a point forward of the existing façade. If, in plan, the extension connection is set back from the building corner this impact will be mitigated and the risk of unbalancing the overall composition reduced.*

b. Ashton House. (DW). Latest position discussed. AB is liaising with WBC planning officer to encourage movement in this application.

c. No 1 Shrewsbury Road. No application received. History Group to investigate history of this property, in preparation for possible move by WBC to designate the property as a listed building. **Action BK**

- d. Tree report. As per report submitted. Dwain Chong has started to carrying out visits.
- e. Heritage lamp posts. We will re-approach WBC with proposal to paint these ourselves.

**Action JH**

**4. Finance**

- a. Xmas Lights. A cost of approx. £2200 for the 2023 event to be paid by the society. Disappointing JustGiving sum (only c£800) and, again, little communication or financial help from the majority of businesses. More avenues of fund raising to be explored for future.
- b. SG charities. GR outlined the reasoning behind the selection of charities for the 2024 event. A small group consisting of GR and CJ will liaise with the SG team in future prior to charities being confirmed. **Action GR** to publish and distribute new process.
- c. Planters for Xmas tree site. **Action JH** to draw up cost/proposal

**5. Community items**

- a. **Communications.** Next Newsletter last copy date 25<sup>th</sup> January for distribution mid-February.
- b. **Business update.** Business bulletin to be drawn up outlining costs of the Xmas Lights event. Name and shame donors. **Action DFW**
- c. **Hanging baskets.** Co-ordinator still to be appointed – a job ‘advert’ with other tasks requiring outside help to be drawn up and put out in Newsletter/Facebook pages. **Action JW**
- d. **Blue Plaques.** Sir Peter Faulkner Shepheard is the next candidate. Expect to unveil autumn 2024. Cost approx. £800.

**6. Sub-group reports:**

- a. **Friends of The Arno.** As per reports sent out. Some interest from WBC in maintaining Little Arno has been welcomed.
- b. **History.** As per report. Discussion on future of archive. Birkenhead Library not an option; Wirral Archive (at Cheshire Lines building) to be checked out. Archive currently moved to art studios at Wellington Road, but this is not public accessible. This and the digitization needs scoping and scaling. **Action HA/BK** to meet and propose a plan to accelerate the digitization.
- c. **Membership.** (JW). New members received. Still transferring documentation and database from Dave Barden’s files.

**7. AOB.**

The State of Oxton. JF/JH stated that there are things needing to be done by residents, businesses and council workers to keep Oxton looking decent. Thoughts/proposals to be drawn up. **Action JH** to kick off with this.

**8. Date of next meeting**

Agreed to be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7pm at St. Saviour’s

The meeting finished at 8.45pm