



## Minutes of Oxton Society Committee Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> May 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)
Heather Alcock	(HA)	(Planning)
Dwain Chong	(DC)	(Tree Group)
Don Firth-Williamson	(DFW)	(Business liaison)
Allan Brame	(AB)	(WBC)
John Field	(JF)	(Blue Plaques)
Helen Danson	(HD)	(History group, in place of Bob Knowles)

1. **Apologies** were received from Steve Weber, Carla Walker, Bob Knowles, George Harrison

2. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### 3. **Presentation from Cathy Warren: Chair of Callister Trust**

Cathy outlined the role and aims of the Callister Trust. She also explained their current financial situation with regards to the project to build a new pavilion in their centenary year. A discussion followed amongst members present (except for Dominic Wilkinson and Allan Brame, who both declared an interest), on whether the society should financially support the pavilion project. The unanimous view, proposed and passed by the committee was that the Society will support this project to the value of five thousand pounds, on 2 conditions:

1. The money can only be used on the assumption that full funding for the project has been received and the project will definitely go ahead.

2. A donation will only be made after receiving the necessary approval of changes to the Society's constitution allowing financial support outside the conservation area, currently being considered by the Charities Commission.

Proposer: Griff Round

Seconded: Alan Chape

### 4. **Conservation.** See report submitted

a. Ashton House. AB updated that a decision is imminent from Wirral Borough Council (WBC), not by committee, but by a delegated officer reviewing the case.

b. A meeting between the Society with WBC traffic officers has been scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> May to discuss parking issues in the village centre.

c. A meeting between the Society with WBC officials to discuss planning issues and enforcement has been postponed to August 2024 to allow new conservation staff at WBC to attend.

d. Heritage lamp posts. Paul Graves at WBC has approved our proposal to refurbish the posts at the Society's cost. JH has requested a quotation from a contractor painting company recommended by WBC.

e. Tree Group.(DC) As per report submitted. Discussion on our approach to allowing tree felling on the lines of whether we were compliant with the WBC policy on this subject. It was felt that we cannot advance our thinking further until an answer from Erik Bowman is forthcoming on the proposed TPO review project.

Dwain Chong will take over the Co-ordinator role of the tree group. Dave Coombes has volunteered to join the tree group.

## 5. Finance

End of year accounts were presented by GR. Approved by committee.

## 6. Community items

a. **Communications.** Next newsletter to go out late July. Date for last copy to Carla Walker to be advised (**Action JH**)

b. **Business update.** (DFW). Relevant business reps to procure gifts from businesses for secret gardens raffle.

c. **Hanging baskets.** Baskets have been ordered. A potential new co-ordinator to organize collection of baskets and installation has been identified.

d. **Secret Gardens.** (JH) Planning continuing OK.

e. **Blue Plaques.** (JF). Sir Peter Faulkner Sheppard progressing. Likely to do unveiling ceremony in October a) to coincide with national architecture celebration and b) to allow planning permission to be obtained to install the plaque.

## 7. Sub-group reports:

a. **Friends of The Arno.** (ACa) As per reports sent out. Discussion with WBC on care and maintenance for Little Arno ongoing.

b. **History Group.** (HD) As per report. Digitization of photographs - issue of ownership / copyright needs to be resolved.

c. **Membership.** (JW). We have acquired two new newsletter distributors. It was suggested that it would be useful to have an age profile of members so we can track any potential 'fall of the cliff edge' time in the future where we lose membership.

## 8. AOB.

a. **Constitution.** JH reported that Charities Commission is working on a back-log of cases and that their latest estimation of dealing with our constitution changes is likely not to happen for another 4 weeks.

b. JW stated that the need for a website owner was an essential imminent requirement. **Action ALL** to ask friends for any likely candidates.

## 9. Date of next meeting

Agreed to be Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 7pm at St. Saviour's

The meeting finished at 8.45pm