



Minutes of Oxtun Society Committee Meeting 2nd July 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)
Annette Capper	(ACa)	(Friends of The Arno)
Dominic Wilkinson	(DW)	(Planning Lead)
Dwain Chong	(DC)	(Tree Group)
Allan Brame	(AB)	(WBC)
Rowena Beighton-Dykes	(RBD)	(History group, in place of Bob Knowles)
Steve Weber	(SW)	(Planning)

1. **Apologies** were received from Heather Alcock, Carla Walker, Bob Knowles, George Harrison, Don Firth-Williamson, John Field

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

3. **Conservation.** See report attached to the end of these minutes.

a. Enforcement (Victoria Mount and Hughes Lane) – These to be chased up with WBC
Action DW

b. Alan Chape circulated minutes of a recent meeting between WBC conservation officers and CAW. In this the Article 4 Directive project has been stood down until new staff are embedded in the conservation section.

c. Heritage lamp posts. JH still waiting for a quotation from a contractor painting company.

d. Replacement concrete flags in Templemore Road: JH to write to WBC to ask them to reconsider reinstatement with tarmac. **Action JH**

e. Tree Group. (DC) As per report submitted. DC stated that new process for handling applications is now working. DC's intervention in one case of a suspected diseased tree resulted in the tree being saved.

DC to expand the current report format to include the WBC outcome of applications

4. Finance

a. GR stated that payments to Secret Gardens 2024 charities had started.

b. Payments to Friends of the Arno, as previously agreed by committee, could now go ahead as permission to alter the Society's constitution had been received from the charity commission. **Action JH:** Publish the charity commission decisions (see end of these minutes)

c. Payment to Callister Trust. CJ to contact Cathy Warren to arrange visit with GR and

agree terms of payment. **Action CJ**

d. Need for a policy on making payments to any charitable organization (except Secret Gardens charities where a process already exists). Discussion of this subject. The Society needs to be able to follow a policy and process before making any further payments to any interested party, in light of the recent payments just awarded to Calister Trust and Friends of The Arno. Points made: Conservation comes first; we do not have a limitless budget; recent payments were perhaps a one-off; need to bear in mind diversity; the policy is there to ensure governance, and is not necessarily there to be used on a regular basis. A draft policy is to be drawn up and taken to committee for approval (**Action JH**). RLB to send JH an example of a working policy.

5. AGM.

a. Timeline:

30th August. Agenda agreed

2nd September. Start preparation of annual Report

23rd September. Print invitation notices for non-email members

7-10th October. Deliver paper invitation notices. Send out email notices. Update website.

14th October. Annual report completed. Publish on website. Email to members.

21st October. Print Annual report.

7th November. AGM

b. JH to invite a member of the Conservation department at WBC to speak at the AGM. Subject matter would be the activity of the conservation department / its influence / local plan etc. **Action JH**

6. Community items

a. **Communications.** Next newsletter to go out late July. Carla Walker drawing up final copy for approval.

b. **Business update.** JH updated the committee on a recent survey that Don Firth Williamson arranged to be completed by all businesses following Secret Gardens.

c. **Hanging baskets.** Baskets are up, thanks, again, to John Booth. Contact has now been made with Carl Baxter from Contour garden services for them to take up future arrangements on this project. It was noted that the current supplier of baskets might not wish to carry on with a similar order in 2025. **Action JH** to check with Carl Baxter/John Booth.

d. **Secret Gardens.** (GR) GR and CJ met with Kirsty Cotton and Lisa Stafford for a final de-brief on this year's event. Charities for 2025 agreed in principle.

e. **Blue Plaques.** (RLB). Sir Peter Faulkner Shephard progressing.

f. **Xmas Lights.** (JH). Still awaiting quotation from contractor on new format for lights

7. Sub-group reports:

a. **Friends of The Arno.** (ACa) Little Arno progress made with help from Contour (Carl Baxter).

b. **History Group.** (RBD) As per report.

c. **Membership.** (JW). New database is much improved from previous. Lapsing members will receive a second reminder with next newsletter.

8. AOB.

a. Oxtou Cricket Club 150 years (2025). The CC have asked if they can be a hub (of some kind) at the next SG event. Kirsty Cotton to be informed.

9. Date of next meeting

Agreed to be Tuesday 3rd September 7pm at St. Saviour's

The meeting finished at 9pm

Planning report.

Planning Application APPH/24/00831 at Oxtou Hall, 3 Talbot Road, Oxtou, Prenton, Wirral, CH43 2HJ

Replacement of timber single glazed windows with double glazed UPVC – Not visible from public areas, no comment.

Other issues:

We have been asked to comment on the discharge of a planning condition for raising of the boundary wall to mask a single storey extension at the top of Village Road, after some discussion it was felt that once planning permission had been granted the discharge of conditions was not for the society to comment upon and should be taken up with the relevant planning officer.

Enforcement outstanding actions:

14 Hughes lane removal of section of sandstone wall.

Victoria Mount - Planning Enforcement case ENF/24/00116 at 10b, Victoria Mount, CH43 5TH unauthorised widening of drive entrance in sandstone wall.

Dominic Wilkinson. 2nd July 2024

Notifications received from Charity Commission:

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You;johnheathman@live.com

Thu 06/06/2024 13:23

Dear John Heathman

THE OXTON SOCIETY - 511130

Thank you for submitting the application to change your charity's dissolution clause. Your request has been successful and you now have the formal consent from the Charity Commission to amend the dissolution clause to read:

The Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of members voting at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society confirmed by a simple majority of members voting at a further Special General Meeting held not less than 14 days after the previous meeting. If a motion for the dissolution of the Society is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting this motion shall be referred to specifically when notice of the Meeting is given. In the event of the dissolution of the Society the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects similar or reasonably similar to those herein before declared as shall be chosen by the Executive Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Society at which the decision to dissolve the Society is confirmed. On dissolution, the minute books and other records of the Society shall be deposited with the appropriate local borough council and national charity governing body.

The trustees should ensure that they retain a copy of this consent for the charity's records.

You will now need to make the change which will normally be at a general meeting of the charity.

Next Steps:

- You will now need to pass the resolution to make the change.
- You should then access the amendment service on our website and provide the date that the resolution was passed.
- You will then be prompted to upload a pdf copy of the resolution.

Yours sincerely

Charity Commission

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To: You; johnheathman@live.com

Thu 06/06/2024 13:22

Dear John Heathman

THE OXTON SOCIETY - 511130

Thank you for submitting the application to change your charity's objects. Your request has been successful and you now have the formal consent from the Charity Commission to amend the charity's objects to read:

- (i) To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.
- (ii) To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit.
- (iii) To secure the preservation protection development and improvement of features of public interest in or affecting the area of benefit.

The trustees should ensure that they retain a copy of this consent for the charity's records.

Next Steps:

- You will now need to pass the resolution to make the change.
- You should then access the amendment service on our website and provide the date that the resolution was passed.
- You will then be prompted to upload a pdf copy of the resolution.

Yours sincerely

Charity Commission

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