

**Minutes of Oxton Society Committee Meeting**

**January 6th, 2025, 19.00 St. Saviour’s**

# Present:

Chris Jarrey (CJ) Chair

Jeff Willis (JW) Conversation and Planning

Alan Chape (AC) Conservation and Partnership / Vice-Chair

Paul Smith (PS) History Group

Annette Capper (ACa) Friends of The Arno

Dominic Wilkinson (DW) Planning Lead

John Field (JF) Blue Plaques

John Heathman (JH) Secretary

Allan Brame (AB) WBC

Alistair Beattie (ABe) Website and media

Hugh Owen (HO) Membership

Carla Walker (CW) Newsletter and PR

Griff Round (GR) Treasurer

**Hugh Owen** was welcomed to the meeting as our new membership secretary. **Paul Smith** attended for the History Group in Bob Knowles’ absence.

1. **Apologies** were received from Steve Weber, Dwain Chong, George Harrison, Heather Alcock, Bob Knowles.

### Approval of minutes. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### Conservation/Planning

* 1. No new planning applications of note
  2. Ashton House. Decision is imminent and being held up by a section 106 agreement being made.
  3. Local Listing. Alan Chape updated the meeting on this recently published initiative from WBC. The Conservation/Planning Group will meet as a matter of urgency **(Action DW)** to decide on approach, and to propose approx. 10 properties to be put forward to be ‘Locally Listed’. Debate on exactly how these properties should be chosen without incurring any negative comeback from property owners whilst achieving the maximum impact on all property owners in the conservation area. A website article to be prepared on this subject (and for next newsletter) **(Action AC to prepare)**
  4. Street name signs. JH continuing with initial survey phase. It was noted that the Willan Street heritage sign has disappeared. **Action JH** to contact Street Team at WBC to see if this was their doing.

1. **Finance** See Reports doc sent out with agenda. It was agreed by all present to send all monies collected from the Xmas Lights Santa grotto to charities, split 50/50 between the Salvation Army and the Mayor’s charity fund **(Action GR)**
2. **Communications**. Next newsletter to go out to members late April; copy to be sent to CW by 31st March **(Action All).**

**6. Sub-group reports:**

a. **Friends of The Arno.** See **r**eports sent out with agenda. 125th anniversary of the Arno this year. Friends are deliberating on ways of celebrating this.

b. **History Group.**

Walks programme is being prepared.

History Fair at Hulme Hall 22nd March

Blue plaque Peter Sheppherd. Spring 2025 subject to agreement on copyright of photographs.

**7. Community items**

a. **Business update**. Don FW has recently sent out his latest business bulletin outlining the Xmas Lights event costs and inviting feedback from the businesses. This generated a debate on the Xmas lights event strategy and particularly why the society burdens itself with the financial loss that is traditionally made each year. Further debate on this subject will ensue.

b. **Hanging baskets**. We are still seeking an overall co-ordinator for this project.

c. **Green areas in the village (3).** Development (maintenance) of these sites subject to permission being granted by WBC.Allan Brame agreedto contact the relevant department at WBC.

**9. Date of next meeting**

Proposed to be Tuesday 4th March 2025, 7pm at St. Saviour’s

The meeting finished at approximately 8.45pm