

<p>PRESENT: Gillian Coates, Ian Green (Chair), Sarah Hendriks, Penelope Lenon, Margaret Maden, Thelma Martin, Vernon Porter, Ian Salusbury</p> <p>By invitation: Unnati Gaikwad</p>		
1.	<p>Welcoming everyone on a very wet evening, the Chairman recorded his particular thanks to his wife Ruth who had cycled over in the rain to bring the NOCC keys which he had left at home.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Richard Dodd, Nigel Fulford, Liz Grosvenor, Tim Stevenson, Louise Thomas</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</p> <p>The minutes of the <u>Executive Committee meeting on 5 March</u> were AGREED to be an accurate record.</p> <p>The draft minutes of the <u>AGM on 27 March</u> (see also 6.2 below) were deemed to be an accurate record and will be presented to the next AGM for approval</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING: none</p>	<p>Action by</p>
5	<p>PROGRESS REPORT</p>	
5.1	<p>Communications Group</p> <p>Further to the PR, TM reported that UG would be joining the Group’s meeting on 16 April to discuss her ideas for an <u>Instagram</u> feed. UG explained that she had only found out about OCS by chance and felt there were many others like her who could be reached through Instagram. Above all, she saw it as a way of getting into the university populations.</p> <p>Having created a profile, interest could be stimulated by pictures of events and even group meetings. It would probably take time to build a following, but hashtags would help broaden the audience. Comments could be switched off to avoid publication of negative feedback, but Direct Messaging could be used by anyone wanting to ask questions.</p>	

	<p>Diana Fawcett had cancelled the meeting about the <u>shop window</u>, but had nothing to report about a possible departure date for us. In the meantime, the OxClean display will be dismantled, and we will ask Bravissimo if we may have a couple of the display dummies they left behind, since they appear to have no further use for them.</p>	
5.2	<p>Community Impact Group</p> <p>A combination of illness and holidays had precluded any recent meeting, but GC proposes to convene one when the minutes of the most recent OEIP meeting (which she and IG both attended) are published.</p> <p>She will also be renewing contact with Redevco, the developers of <u>Templars Square</u>.</p> <p>In the light of Transport Group discussions about monitoring the traffic filters (see 5.6 below), IG had suggested to Cllr Andrew Gant that local communities could be involved in monitoring the impact on their particular areas. Gant's reply had been encouraging, but further pressure would probably be needed.</p>	<p>GC</p> <p>GC</p> <p>IG</p>
5.3	<p>OxClean</p> <p>There is a feeling that we have been the victims of our own success, with lower numbers reflecting an increase in "anytime" pickers and also perhaps a greater awareness of the antisocial nature of littering.</p> <p>Jo Cox is coming to the next meeting to discuss resolving the technical issues that arose with registration.</p>	
5.4	<p>Oxfordshire Futures Group</p> <p>OFG is involved with the Planning and Transport group's work towards <i>A Vision for the City</i>, taking a particular interest in the comparison between Oxford and Cambridge. IG is in touch with the CEO of the combined Cambridgeshire authority, who used to work in Oxfordshire and is thus well placed to comment on what is going wrong here and right there. One difference is the better working relationship Cambridge has with central government; another is political consensus across the county, unlike Oxfordshire where the City and Cherwell Councils could not reach agreement with the other districts.</p> <p>In the meantime, IG is preparing a report into the Local Plans to 2040 and their implications for employment and housing. The limitations of sewerage, electricity generation and water supply were all identified some time ago but are now coming to the fore. IG is hoping Oxford East Labour MP Anneliese Dodds will put him in touch with those likely to take on relevant ministerial posts after the next General Election.</p> <p>VP noted that the failure to plan ahead properly will have a major impact on Oxford University, and the Vice Chancellor is in a position to bring pressure to bear. IG agreed that she seems keener than her predecessors</p>	<p>IG</p> <p>IG</p>

	to get involved with civic matters, and acknowledged that a meeting with her was overdue.	
5.5	<p>Planning Group</p> <p>A sub-group to work on <u>Vision for the City</u> has been established and will have its second meeting on 11 April. John Rowland is its Chair, and GC has asked him to invite Nick Falk to join as the latter is keen to examine why his award-winning 2014 report gained no traction.</p> <p>Central Oxfordshire Movement and Place Framework (COMPF), a joint County/City initiative led by Joaquim Muntane, has almost £1mn to spend on identifying and prioritising <u>public realm</u> enhancements in Oxford and Central Oxfordshire. We are working to influence their identification and prioritisation of suitable projects.</p> <p>Some Group members are concerned about the proliferation of <u>lab space</u> in the city when housing need is more imperative, although Craig Cullimore contends that the space will only be “lab ready” and convertible to housing if expected demand does not materialise.</p> <p>Geoff Randall is hoping to mount a campaign against <u>hips and gables</u>; the Executive Committee was not minded to offer support.</p> <p>The consultation on <u>Permitted Development</u> closes on 9 April – too short notice.</p>	
5.6	<p>Programme Group</p> <p>The visit to <u>Green Templeton College</u> has already sold out, and the <u>Abingdon</u> walking tour has only a few spaces left.</p> <p>Take up for <u>Broughton Grange</u> is slow, with only 8 places taken so far against a minimum of 10-15, possibly because of the cost (even though it includes tea and cake on top of the rare opportunity of being guided by the Head Gardener or his deputy). PL undertook to highlight it in the next e-bulletin.</p> <p><u>Reuben College</u> have suggested a few dates in the very near future, possibly too short notice to advertise to the membership. It was suggested that one such, 2 May, might accommodate a visit by Executive Committee members and/or be advertised under “Stop Press” in the next e-bulletin, offering a limited number of places to members who sign up quickly. IS will liaise further with GC and PL.</p> <p>Rewley House has improved as a venue with the new microphone (despite the most recent speaker’s struggle with it). Magdalen College is undertaking an overhaul of its facilities, including the introduction of live-streaming equipment.</p>	<p>PL</p> <p>IS/GC/ PL</p>

<p>5.7</p>	<p>Transport Group</p> <p>In NF's absence, IG reported that an article proposing the installation of <u>solar panels in carparks</u> is nearing completion and will be offered to the local paper for publication.</p> <p>With the traffic filters set to be introduced towards the end of this year, A sub-group is looking into how best the scheme should be monitored. This may involve a call on the Group's research funds allocation.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE BUSINESS</p>	
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Annual Review and <i>Visions</i></p> <p>The Annual Review had turned out well, with good text and attractive pictures. <i>Visions</i> was thought less successful; more and better pictures and graphics would help lift future editions.</p>	
<p>6.2</p>	<p>AGM</p> <p>As in previous years, the formal business had been handled efficiently and quickly, but IG would have preferred to elaborate further on what we've done and why, thereby perhaps stimulating greater discussion. Other members disagreed: an AGM is not perceived to be an exciting event and spinning out the proceedings would be off-putting. Tacking it on to the end of a popular talk had worked very well this year: the 60-strong attendance had undoubtedly been bolstered by the talk on Pevsner that preceded it.</p> <p>Responding to SH's querying if the AGM might be held later in the year when the weather was better, VP said the timing was set out in the Society's rules and it was in any case sensible to keep it as close as possible to the financial year-end.</p> <p>One suggested possible alternative model for initiating broader discussion of the Society's activities might be to invite the membership to an interesting venue with refreshments on offer, something which might amount to the reinvention of the President's Receptions of the past, but with more than a social purpose. It was AGREED to return to discussion of this in due course.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>6.3</p>	<p>OCS reorganisation and appointment of new Chair</p> <p>IG reported that the President is unhappy about where the Society is and uncomfortable with the way discussions had ended last month. It was important to find a model for the Society which would require no more than a day or two a week from the new Chair; this would necessitate greater delegation to the Groups, and more coordination between them.</p> <p>IG felt that OCS was under-using the resource offered by the Vice Presidents and circulated an organogram which allocated them among</p>	

	<p>three activity clusters (Engagement & Communications, Operations, and Technical Working Groups (TWG)) and also envisaged that each cluster would be overseen by a sub-committee of the Executive. Those sub-committees might meet monthly to coordinate the work of their cluster, with the Executive meeting perhaps every second month.</p> <p>One problem with the clusters was that the TWG would be where OCS policy was formulated, and IG envisaged potential conflict with the new Chair if he were to remain as a policy-maker; he therefore proposed to step down as a trustee, withdraw from running the Futures Group and contribute in a research or consultancy capacity, possibly as a Vice President if that were deemed acceptable.</p> <p>Members welcomed the plans for IG’s continuing involvement, but were not convinced that the three proposed sub-committees would improve the Society’s efficiency. They were also concerned that, while policy could clearly be shaped by the TWG, approval was a matter for the Chair and/or the Executive. If each element in the clusters were chaired by a trustee, as is now the case, they could feed the information to the Chair and the Executive (the trustees of the charity, who have collective responsibility for its running) without the need for an additional layer of meetings. PL observed that the Progress Report could become a more useful and informative document than it currently is: rather than submitting minutes of meetings (which were sometimes impenetrable to non-group members), each trustee coordinator might instead contribute an outline of the issues on which each TWG was currently focused and their proposed direction of travel.</p> <p>It was AGREED that these matters could not be resolved at the present meeting. Members were enjoined to think further about information flows and timings, and suggest modifications.</p>	ALL
7.	<p>There being no FURTHER BUSINESS, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Committee will be on Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 10.30am online via Zoom.</p>	