

FEDORA

The Voice for Oxshott

Minutes of the 33rd AGM of FEDORA and the inaugural AGM of FEDORA - the Voice for Oxshott CIC held on Thursday 30th September 2021 at 7.30pm at the Oxshott Village Centre, Steels Lane

1. Present

FEDORA Directors

- Anthony Wolfe (Co-Chair & Treasurer) – meeting chair
- Carmen Robinson (Co-Chair)
- Ian Dilks (Roads)
- Mike Wheeler (Planning)
- Sandra Elmes (Membership Secretary)

FEDORA Members and Supporters (approx.80)

Local Councillors

- David Lewis, Surrey County Councillor and Elmbridge Councillor for Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon
- Andrew Burley, Elmbridge Councillor for Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon
- Alan Parker, Elmbridge Councillor for Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon
- Mark Sugden, Surrey County Councillor for Oxshott

Oxshott Village Retailers

- James Davies – Clay Hair Salon
- Sharn Dev – Oxshott Pharmacy.

2. Apologies for absence received from

- Keith Chapman
- Hugh Tompkins
- Keith Lester
- Richard Lynagh
- Helen Mason
- David Basham
- Elizabeth Chovil

3. Introduction- Anthony Wolfe

Anthony Wolfe welcomed the members present, the local councillors and representatives of the local businesses.

It was explained that the formalities of the meeting would be split into two, reflecting the fact that the old FEDORA had in effect ceased to exist with the incorporation of FEDORA - the Voice for Oxshott CIC, a Community Interest Company limited by guarantee.

For the old FEDORA, it was required to approve the minutes of the AGM held via Zoom on 10th September 2020 along with the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020.

For FEDORA - the Voice for Oxshott CIC, it was necessary to declare whether or not there was the necessary quorum of members attending the meeting, and if so, to approve the appointment of the directors of the CIC.

4. Approval of Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes for this meeting, held via Zoom on 10th September 2020, were unanimously approved
Proposer: Alec Robinson, Seconder: Alan Parker

5. Approval of Accounts

The accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020 were unanimously approved
Proposer: Quentin Aylward, Seconder: John Bushell

It was noted that it was planned that the assets of FEDORA would be transferred by Deed of Transfer to FEDORA – the Voice for Oxshott CIC, when the latter was incorporated.

6. Quorum

As required in the Articles of Association of FEDORA - the Voice for Oxshott CIC, it was recorded that with some 80 members, and so more than 5 percent of the membership, the meeting was declared quorate.

7. Appointment of Officers

The meeting duly approved unanimously the appointment of the following to serve as officers of FEDORA - the Voice for Oxshott CIC until the 2022 AGM:

- Anthony Wolfe
- Carmen Robinson
- Ian Dilks and
- Mike Wheeler

Proposer: Quentin Aylward, Seconder: Philip Davies

8. Thanks were expressed to...

- Alec and Carmen Robinson for their long service on behalf of Oxshott residents, not only for their work with FEDORA but also their past endeavours of running the Oxshott Christmas Fair and the Oxshott Village Day.
- David Cooke, for his continued work on the Oxshott magazine, which is produced and delivered to all Oxshott households twice a year; an edition is due imminently.
- The Green Oxshott Team – Carmen Robinson, Lindy Wheeler and Heather Mason.
- Sandra Elmes, who has taken on the role of Membership Secretary.
- Mark Cooke for leading the Oxshott Community Speedwatch initiative, for which there are some 13 volunteers.

9. Other Initiatives – Anthony Wolfe

- Oxshott Volunteering has been set up by Lindy Wheeler in conjunction with Surrey Highways because SH are stepping back from undertaking some of the smaller jobs and issues around the village. Working with SH it will be agreed what jobs can be carried out by this group.
- SH will be cutting back on verge maintenance next year, so we will all have to take responsibility for keeping our frontage tidy.
- Hugh Tompkins was thanked for organising Sandy Lane residents to prioritise their concerns (over 100 responses to his survey), liaising with Cobham & Downside RA, Reeds School, Surrey Highways and our local councillors, resulting in 4 priorities:
 - Repair and replace tarmac surface
 - Improve pedestrian access
 - Reduce the speed limit from 40 to 30 mph
 - Address the width of the lane and improve the junction with the A244

AW noted that this initiative proves that we must prioritise, be patient, and persevere.

10. Green Oxshott – Carmen Robinson

Carmen Robinson explained that the purpose of the Green Oxshott initiative was to take care of our green public spaces. Some of our successes include:

- Station Road triangle – cleared, exposed a pavement, planted spring bulbs
- Village centre - planter tidied and spring bulbs planted
- Village sign on Steels Lane – planted spring bulbs underneath
- Wrens Hill/A244 junction – large area cleared, with another hidden pavement exposed, reseeded with grass and hawthorn planted
- Spring bulbs planted on green space opposite Danes Hill entrance on A244.

Additionally, others undertake local initiatives – for example, Bevendean undertook tidying of their own public green spaces.

11. Roads – Ian Dilks

The petition, held a year ago, had generated nearly 1,000 responses, leading to 5 priorities:

1. Night time HGV ban
2. Deployment of average speed cameras
3. Reduce speed through the centre of the village to 20mph and possibly other areas, such as Steels Lane/Blundel Lane, including a pedestrian crossing between the village community centre and the church
4. Continuous footpaths from the south of the village, driven by the large Merrileas development now underway
5. Improve village parking, so that the parking at the shopping parade has a dedicated disabled space with provision for vans to unload in the morning and 30 minute parking slots during other hours. The current 2 parking spaces for the disabled at the top of Steels Lane will be made available to all for 30 minute parking slots

It was to be noted that Surrey Police do not support the HGV ban and deployment of average speed cameras due to cost and difficulty of enforcement. Additionally, although Oxshott has received little or no funding from Surrey CC or Elmbridge BC in the past few years, there is insufficient budget for all these initiatives.

Other

There is concern about the lack of a continuous pavement from the new Merrileas development to the village centre.

The village's Community Speedwatch initiative will commence, subject to completion of police training. Surrey has published their 2022 – 2032 Transport Plan. FEDORA will respond but you can read it here: <https://surreyltp4.commonplace.is>.

Question: Can builders help with costs?

Answer: They do through CIL, providing it has been built into the planning permission process.

Question: What has happened to the proposed A244 footpath improvement over the railway bridge?

Answer: Network Rail would permit such footpath but it would need to be freestanding. A feasibility study is required (at a cost of £200k - £300k), which will be challenging to fund.

12. Planning – Mike Wheeler

The biggest issue facing Oxshott is the aggressive housing target set by the government on Elmbridge, which is 630 new dwellings each year for the next 15 years, which is double that set for previous years. Whilst FEDORA – the Voice for Oxshott, and others such as the Elmbridge Alliance, are campaigning for a lower target, we have to accept greater densification in our village.

With the current target, developers are winning planning for higher density developments, where before these would have been rejected. However, it is still worth fighting the more outrageous proposals, and our local councillors help us but Oxshott is vulnerable, with some previous refusals being approved on appeal.

Question: Is the 630 dwellings target an annual target?

Answer: The 630 target is EACH year, for the next 15 years.

Question: Is there an Infrastructure Plan to compliment this increase in densification?

Answer: Although there is such a plan, not much is happening and in practice any new infrastructure lags behind the new building.

Question: What makes up the 630 dwellings – detached houses/flats?

Answer: A flat or a detached house would each be classed as a single dwelling.

13. Plans for Oxshott Village – James Davis

James Davis explained that he has lived in Oxshott for over 13 years, opening Clay Hair Salon. Recently, he has been involved with opening Munch & Wiggles and started the Oxshott Delivery Service to help the village retailers during the COVID lockdown.

He and his backers had now acquired three sites, with the aim of totally revitalising the village centre. He was hoping for more independent retailers to move into the village centre.

Plans were still in the concept stage; where buildings could be refurbished, they would. However, Heath Buildings would probably need to be demolished and a new building erected in its place.

He would be using the old Trenchard Arlidge Estate Agent windows to communicate their proposals.

Question: I live behind Heath Buildings and am concerned about what will be built in its place.

Answer: Any new building would be in keeping with the overall look and feel of the village centre, but at this stage, although there is no intention of building a high-density block of flats. At this point in time it was not possible to define precisely what would be finally proposed and stressed that the benefit of any new building had to outweigh any issues.

Alan Parker: Commended James Davis for the Oxshott Delivery Service and welcomed James Davis' enthusiasm, which is good for Oxshott.