

**Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee**  
**held on Tue 2 April 2019 at 7:30 PM at Herne Hill United Church**

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Present: Colin Wight CW (Chair); Henry Ferguson HF; Martyn Hall MH; Laurence Marsh LM; Jackie Plumridge JP; Pat Roberts PR (minutes)

Apologies: Val Suebsaeng

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

These were approved.

**3. Matters arising & action points from the last meeting**

The matters arising had already been completed except for one item already on the agenda.

**3. Survey of members**

The survey of members in the run-up to the AGM was briefly discussed. It was noted that the presentation of the survey at the AGM seemed to provoke no surprise and little reaction from those present, even when the Chair warned that many of the present committee, including himself, may not feel able to continue in office beyond the next two years.

The Chair had already issued an email report on the AGM to all members, including the results of the elections, the financial summary and the membership survey (given that only 10% of the current membership had turned out for the AGM). A fuller report of the membership survey would be written for the Summer issue of the Magazine. **Action: PR/CW**

Meanwhile it would shortly be appropriate to resume discussion of the updated Business Objectives bearing in mind that in 12 months' time it was possible that the Committee would need to review the implications of most of their members not willing to stand for the election at the following (i.e. 2021) AGM: what then? It followed from this that the most crucial business objective for the next 12 months was to substantially increase the involvement of members in the Committee and other aspects of running the society. PR proposed that a small working group be set

up, possibly including CW and VS and himself, to amalgamate the findings and action points from both the membership survey and the revised business objectives.

MH suggested that the group might aim to draft and circulate a paper summarising the recommendations, which should then be discussed at length at a future committee meeting, possibly on Tue 4 June. This group could also look at the various tasks that could ideally be performed by/shared with some of the members now volunteering their services. These terms of reference were agreed. **Action:**

**PR, VS, CW**

#### **4. Tree in memory of Patricia Jenkyns**

CW reported on an initiative to commemorate Patricia Jenkyns, a founder member and former Chair of the Society whose death had recently been reported, by planting a tree in Brockwell Park. This had been proposed by Mr Robin Key, who had written to Sheila Northover. Sheila had checked the FOBP website and a tree would cost £350. CW proposed that if Mr Key's initiative went ahead (he felt that he and the family should make the running on this, rather than the Society) the Committee could appeal to members to contribute towards the tree and also make a meaningful contribution from the Society's funds. This was agreed. **Action: CW to further liaise with Sheila Northover**

LM mentioned that the late Ms Jenkyns's family had produced some archive material from her possessions which they were willing to pass on to the appropriate home. He thought that most of this should properly be directed towards Lambeth Archives but there may be some antique postcards of interest to the Society.

#### **5. Contactless payments**

In the light of the general move towards contactless payments in lieu of cash, PR had circulated a paper looking at the implications for the Society. There were obvious advantages, but superficially the complications, given the Society's relatively small volume of sales and reliance on succession of volunteers to man stalls at events, might rule out the use of contactless payment equipment for the moment. However, MH noted that some contactless payment providers seemed to offer the option of a self-contained terminal which did not need to be paired with

individual smartphones. He recommended that the modest cost of this solution, if confirmed, might make it worth trialling. This was agreed. PR agreed to further research this and report back to a future meeting. **Action: PR**

## **6. Remembering Herne Hill - final project report**

CW reported that, in accordance with the conditions of the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, he had submitted a detailed evaluation of the project in addition to a brief online report. The project volunteers had been offered access to the evaluation. LM said that he underlined what a successful project it had been, how satisfying it had been for the volunteers, and the immense volume of work conducted by CW himself. CW noted, nevertheless, as with many comparable volunteer-based projects, not all volunteers had matched their promises.

All the same, according to the methods quantifying the notional “value” of the various volunteers’ input as used by the Heritage Fund, the project had attracted “skilled” and “professional” inputs to a total in-kind value of about £100,000.

## **7. Follow up actions from AGM**

The two minor queries about certain details of the annual accounts, as raised at the AGM, needed a response, which MH would initiate. **Action: MH**

## **8. Recruitment via estate agents**

PR explained the proposed action, as summarised in a paper by VS and himself as agreed with CW. It could be implemented any time, but required a new version of the recruitment leaflet/flyer, which therefore needed revision, redesign (with the valuable assistance of the Sophia Marsh) and reprinting. Supporting this, MH suggested that if they were successful, it could be rolled out to other estate agents in Herne Hill. **Action: PR/VS**

## **9. Next Committee meeting**

To be held on Tue 30 April.

## **10. Forthcoming events**

CW reported that he was in touch with our next speaker, Peter Bradley, for Wed 10 April. He had not yet had confirmation of the Society’s requested stand at the Dulwich Park Fair (Sun 19 May). PR reported briefly on his meeting with members

of the Herne Hill Welcomes Refugees project team about the meeting on Wed 8 May. MH suggested that tea & coffee should be charged. Outstanding issues included: might there need to be a donation box or raffle? were the primary objectives of the meeting entirely clear? was this in fact the first such project to have succeeded in London? key roles on the night for Herne Hill Society/Committee members?

## **11. AOB**

The spring Magazine is with the printers.

Possible forthcoming books: LM reported on a potential book on The Lost Houses of Herne Hill, frustrated so far by the paucity of visual records of the former mansions on Denmark Hill, Herne Hill and Half Moon Lane.

## ANNEX TO MINUTES - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

### ACTION POINTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:

ACTION	DETAIL	TIMING	RESPONSIBILITY
Members survey	Draft report for next Magazine	May/June	PR/CW
Members survey & 2019 business objectives	Arrange working group to recommend responses to members survey and business objectives	April/May - for 4 <sup>th</sup> June meeting	PR/BS/CW
Tree for Patricia Jenkyns	Liaise with Sheila Northover on next steps	When convenient	CW
Contactless payments	Circulate revised recommendation	For 30 April meeting	PR
AGM follow-up to queries	Write to John Brunton and Bill Kirby	When convenient	MH
Recruitment via estate agents	Prepare revised membership recruitment flyer	May/June	PR/VS