

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee**

**held on Tuesday 2 June 2020**

*Due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic the Government Lockdown has been eased but social distancing is still in force. The meeting took place on Zoom and was Chaired by Rebecca Tee.*

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Attendees: Colin Wight (Chair, CW); Laurence Marsh (Vice Chair, LM); Martyn Hall (Treasurer, MH); Henry Ferguson (Secretary, HF); Rebecca Tee (Meeting Chair, RT); Val Suebsaeng (Membership, VS); Rosalind Glover (RG); Annie Gelly (AG); Pat Roberts (PR); Carol Boucher (CB).

Apologies: Jackie Plumridge (JP) and Dave Gelly (DG).

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the May meeting and all matters arising were discussed under later agenda items.

### **3. Publishing**

The survey of members, after the last magazine, gave a result of approx. 3 to 1 in favour of the printed magazine over the online version. The Society is moving to a cycle of three magazines a year, with the next issue scheduled to be published in August. An initial editorial meeting is proposed for late June. Committee members were invited to suggest articles. As the last issue was online only, and in support of local businesses during the pandemic, the Society did not charge advertising fees. This will probably be extended to the next issue.

The Ruskin book is currently being written by LM and Jon Newman (the principal writer). It should be completed soon.

### **4. Planning and Licensing**

LM has sent a full legal argument to Lambeth Council objecting to the planning application concerning Dorchester Court. Representatives of the residents of Dorchester Court were consulted. They appreciated the support that the Herne Hill Society has given. They are themselves very well organised and are proceeding with their own campaign against the development plans.

LM gave an update on the plan to place an electrical sub-station in one of the shops in Station Square, Railton Road. Lambeth did not have enough time to discuss this

application at their last planning committee. David Taylor, who is representing the Society, has sent an objection to Lambeth. The hearing will be held next week. In addition Councillor Becca Thackray is spearheading our proposal to make Station Square a Conservation Area. If successful this should put a stop to this planning application.

The Peachy Goat late licence application has been reduced to slightly longer than Southwark's standard hours for this particular type of establishment. The Society will object to anything in excess of standard hours. There has also been opposition to the granting of a late licence expressed in the Dulwich Society newsletter.

## **5. Small Grants Scheme**

The Small Grant Scheme donation to the Brixton Advice Centre was unanimously approved. A cheque for £500 will be sent. (MH)

CB proposed a donation should be given to the Norwood and Brixton Food Bank. CB will request that an application form be filled in by the charity for the Committee to assess.

The Small Grants Scheme's terms and conditions has come under closer scrutiny due to the pandemic. Should it be for "projects and amenity" only or to help in the ongoing costs of local charities? RT and MH will see if the terms can be tweaked to widen and clarify the purpose of the scheme. RG stressed that any changes should use precise language, so as not cause any undue expectations such as automatic approval or ongoing support for operational costs. (RT and MH)

Other local ideas and initiatives for charity funding were discussed. Any thoughts and ideas to be communicated to the whole Committee.

## **6. Finance**

MH to send out the latest bank statement when he receives it.

## **7. Membership**

VS, RG, RT and CW have discussed the handover of Membership Secretary responsibilities. VS will pass the membership spreadsheet to RG by 15 June. RG will input any new data from that date. VS will retain printing labels and envelope duties for the next hard copy of the magazine, which is of course subject to pandemic restrictions. A handover of this activity will take place later. PayPal payment information has already been directed to RG.

## **8. Recruitment**

RT has ideas for campaigns to increase recruitment. Committee members to pass on any ideas of their own to RT.

### **9. Date of next meeting**

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday 7 July 2020, starting at 5pm. It will be Chaired by RT on Zoom.