

Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee

held on Tuesday 7 July 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)

Dave Gelly (DG) has withdrawn from the Committee, due to time constraints not allowing him to devote as much attention to the affairs of the Committee as he would like. Dave is a long-standing and valued member of the Herne Hill Society. We thank him for his time and support on the Committee and we will gladly accept any help that he may be able to give in the future.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

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

3. Publishing

The Ruskin book is currently being written by LM and Jon Newman (the principal writer). Though there is no fixed deadline it is hoped to publish by the end of this year.

The magazine will be published in September. Fingers crossed, it will once again be in hard copy form (also available on the internet). As restrictions ease distribution by hand is expected to be feasible.

4. Planning and Licensing

The Dorchester Court representatives have put in a very good and detailed objection to the planned development.

An electrical sub-station in one of the new shops in Station Square, Railton Road, has been approved by Lambeth. This will obviously mean one less business on the square.

The Peachy Goat late licence application has been approved.

5. Membership and recruitment

The Society currently has 255 members (including 81 life members). No corporate members have renewed for this year, and the scheme has been closed. 66 people have not renewed their membership. An email will be sent to these lapsed members asking if they wish to renew (RG).

6. Finance

Income is down across the board, although expenditure is also reduced. MH to send out half year figures.

7. Links with local organisations

The possibility of and technical options for holding events online is being investigated (CW). It is hoped that these will also encourage new membership applications.

LM's talk with Ian McInnes in September will be our first online event. (LM/CW)

CW will contact Dan Townsend, history teacher at Charter School, to look into having a talk on Herne Hill's links with slavery (to be hosted online). Fred Taggart will be contacted about writing an article for the magazine on his proposal for a Herne Hill Community Fund.

An approach by a new group calling itself the Herne Hill Solidarity Fund, requesting that we advertise their initiative, has been rejected. The Committee feels that it lacks control mechanisms on its distribution of funds. An email will be sent by CW, rejecting collaboration until such changes have been made.

The review of the Small Grant Awards policy has been undertaken (RG, MH and RT). All comments and recommendations should be sent to RT.

8. Herne Hill Speed Reduction Scheme

CW has informed the Committee that speed detectors and signs will be placed in Village Way and Half Moon Lane, following an award of £10k from Southwark's CGS scheme.

9. Next meeting: TBA