

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

**held on Tuesday 1 September 2020**

Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic restrictions have been eased but social distancing rules for groups 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); Pat Roberts (PR); Carol Boucher (CB).

Apologies: Jackie Plumridge (JP), Annie Gelly (AG) was unable to attend due to technical difficulties.

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

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

### **3. Small Grants Award**

RG has confirmed that the review of the Small Grants Award has now been completed. It is now being advertised on the website.

### **4. Publishing**

#### **a) The Ruskin book**

Expected date of publishing has been affected by the pandemic and is likely to be in early 2021. Writing has slowed down. Also Lambeth Heritage Festival Month is upon us and the efforts of Jon Newman are now divided.

#### **b) Magazine**

It is close to being finalised, but waiting for items, images, etc. It is hoped to send it to the printers in three weeks' time. It is considered that we should set a goal of publishing another issue before the end of the calendar year. (LM)

#### **c) Sales of books online**

The online selling of books is temporarily unavailable. This is due to the transfer of the website to a new platform. They will appear again as soon as possible. (CW) Prior to putting these on the website for sale we need a stocktake to ensure that we have sufficient copies.

We have no copies of HH Heritage Trail. This is our flagship book and it needs a reprint of min. 50.

Measures to push the sales of our books, especially to new members, through the magazine and online will be implemented.

## **5. Recruitment**

### a) Draft leaflet

The leaflet, which can be included in the magazine and delivered through letterboxes, to encourage new membership, has been extensively updated. PR gave the Committee a run through of the sections. Recommendations were made. PR will tweak the final version and send to the Committee for further discussion. (PR)

### b) Recruitment

A presentation by RT was given to the Committee on the subject of a recruitment pack. The pack would be more targeted with a more personal message to local residents to join the Society. The ideas were well received and the recruitment group will carry on reporting on their ideas and progress. The next meeting of the recruitment group will be on 17 September. (RT)

## **6. Membership**

There are now 290 members of which 72 are Life Members. 31 have not renewed. (RG)

## **7. Finance**

Income is higher than expenses by about £1,000. MH will pay £750 for a year's storage to the Arch Company where our publications are held. More than half of the storage is given up to exhibition materials, including a gazebo and tables.

## **8. Planning and Licensing**

The application has been validated for the Shakespeare Wharf/Road waste site. It is a large development of around 200 homes. The Society has not yet taken a position on the application, though there are height issues. The development is linked to the relocation of the waste site to West Norwood, which already has residents' groups opposing the move.

The Dorchester Court application hearing is awaiting a date.

## **9. Links with local organisations and events**

On 19 September there will be a talk by LM and Ian McInnes, as part of the Lambeth Heritage Festival month, sponsored by the Herne Hill Society. It will be an online talk on the history of the lost grand houses of Denmark Hill on the Lambeth side. People who wish to view it can apply and they will be sent a link. So far 40 people have done so and numbers are expected to rise. (LM)

George Hornby, Chair of the Herne Hill Forum, has expressed an interest to attend a meeting and get to know the Committee. An invitation to the October meeting will be sent to George. (CW)

#### **10. AOB**

a) Bill Kirby

A proposal to commemorate Bill's contribution to the Society will be looked at. (CW)

b) The Constitution does not make it mandatory to have a President. The Committee discussed whether to approach members of the Society to fill the position.

c) November Meeting

It was decided that the November meeting should be used as a strategy day.

d) Future Meetings in the Herne Hill United Church

MH will cancel the next three months' bookings.

The next meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee will be on 6 October 2020, 5pm.