

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

**held on Tuesday 3 November 2020**

Government restrictions on groups and social distancing is still in force, due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The meeting took place on Zoom and was chaired by Rebecca Tee.

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

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

Apologies: Jackie Plumridge (JP), Annie Gelly (AG)

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

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

### **3. Strategy session**

An explanation of the purpose and format of the strategy session groups was made by RT and CW. The Committee members then chose the groups they wish to contribute to. Conveners of the groups were also chosen. The conveners will hold Zoom meetings, where the group will formulate plans for the future of the Society, then pull the ideas together for further discussion and agreement by the full Committee.

CW gave a summary of the achievements of the Society so far this year:

- There are now over 300 members, the highest in over 12 months.
- Three books have been reprinted and are available online once again.
- LM has produced two detailed planning reports (Loughborough Junction towers and Dorchester Court).
- Two magazines have been produced under trying circumstances: one online only and one in hard copy. Both very much appreciated by our readers.
- LM's online event with Lambeth Archives was a great success. The audience (c.90) was double that of our most well attended talks.
- Adapting to meetings by Zoom has gone much better than expected.

#### **4. Herne Hill magazine and publishing**

The Autumn/Winter issue of the magazine has been successfully distributed. It is hoped that the next issue will be produced early in the new year. A meeting will be convened to discuss ideas for articles.

LM has finished his contribution to the Society's book on John Ruskin. The text is being prepared for editing.

Some reprinting of books that were low on stock or out of print has been done. They are available for sale online and at HH Books. A tweet will be sent publicising this. ACTION: CW

RG is sent a notification from PayPal when orders for publications come through. A website domain change will be done to copy RT and CB into these notifications.

ACTION: CW

#### **5. Recruitment and membership**

RG sent a membership report. The Society has 303 members, up from 299 at the end of 2019. An email will be sent to non-members who saw the recent online talk by LM, proposing that they join the Society. ACTION: RG/CW

#### **6. Links with other local organisations**

No further issues. The miniature railway in Brockwell Park should be contacted and informed of the Society's Small Grants scheme. ACTION: MH

#### **7. Finance**

MH has sent out the 3rd quarter figures. The Society is running at £480 excess of income over expenditure. Banking charges will increase in January.

#### **8. Remembrance Sunday**

CW and PR are to lay a wreath under the memorial plaque in Herne Hill station at 1pm on Sat 7 November. Helen Hayes MP will also attend (TBC). Due to Covid-19 it will be a very low key event, unlike those of the last two years, and will not be publicised in advance.

#### **9. Planning and licensing**

LM detailed the latest proposals in and around Herne Hill:

An application for the garages near Tudor Stacks to be turned into a three-storey block of nine flats: although the application will not be objected to, suggestions will be made concerning its external finishes.

18 Dorchester Drive: the application will be objected to. The proposed building is very different in character from existing buildings on the road.

The Quadrangle on Herne Hill has been given Grade II listing.

LM and David Taylor had a meeting with the Dorchester Court Residents Association and Helen Hayes MP. Support was given concerning their objection to the planning application.

Comments to Lambeth were made about a studio office proposal, in a back garden of a house in the Poets' Corner conservation area. No planning is needed (permitted development) but if the trend for them continues then the green aspect of the area will be changed.

#### **10. AOB**

A request has been made by a local author for financial support to publish a book. The Committee decided that, for the purposes of transparency and accountability, the author should apply through the Small Grants scheme. ACTION: CW

#### **11. Date of next meeting**

Next month's meeting will be on Tue 1 December 2020 on Zoom, starting at 5pm. It will be chaired by RT.