

Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee held on Tuesday 2 February 2021

Government restrictions on groups and social distancing are 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 (Acting Chair, RT); Laurence Marsh (Vice-Chair, LM); Martyn Hall (Treasurer, MH); Henry Ferguson (Secretary, HF); Rosalind Glover (Membership, RG); Colin Wight (CW); Val Suebsaeng (VS); Pat Roberts (PR); Carol Boucher (CB); Annie Gelly (AG). Observer: Nigel Thorpe.

Apologies: Jackie Plumridge (JP)

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

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

3. AGM planning and preparation

The AGM has been agreed for Wed 24 March. Date of the event has been advertised to the members in the e-newsletter sent to all members. And on the website. Decision needs to be made on using EventBrite or manual registration; whether we need to upgrade our Zoom licence to accommodate greater numbers; and which voting method to choose. An initial run-through will take place before the end of February, with a final rehearsal just before the AGM in March.

4. Herne Hill magazine and publishing

CW has written to the current advertisers about costs. So far about half have agreed to pay their 2021 invoice and none yet has cancelled. The magazine is far advanced, with the intention to publish in paper format.

The text of the John Ruskin book is with CW for copy editing. Sales of published books have risen considerably, probably due to recent marketing efforts.

5. Recruitment and membership

11 more renewals since last report.

6. Finance

MH went through the latest bank figures, answering queries on some of the entries. A copy of the statements will be sent to RG. The draft annual accounts were presented. Questions were asked about payments and income.

7. Planning and licensing

There is a major planning application by National Grid on a Bengeworth Road site in Loughborough Junction which will cause considerable disruption. Views from Ruskin Park will be affected. The Society will investigate.

A planning application by Lambeth Council to demolish and develop Roper's Walk in Cressingham Gardens has been objected to by the Society. LM to voice our objections at the forthcoming online meeting.

8. Strategy Group - External Focus

The Society needs to do more to become better known, separate and distinct from the Herne Hill Forum. It was felt that we need to find and make use of someone who could investigate and report on events occurring across the length and breadth of Herne Hill. The Society should make greater use of information boards, WhatsApp, nextdoor, Twitter and other social media platforms. This External Focus strategy group will continue to meet.

Date of next meeting

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday 2 March 2021 on Zoom, starting at 5pm. It will be chaired by RT.