

Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee held on Tuesday 2 March 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.

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 (Minutes, CB); Nigel Thorpe (NT)

Apologies:

Annie Gelly (AG); Jackie Plumridge (JP)

2. Minutes of February meeting and Matters Arising

Item 3, 'great' should read 'greater'. With this alteration, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record and all matters arising were discussed under later agenda items. In future, the posting of the minutes to the website will be filed under the 'About the Society' tab for easier access by all.

3. Co-option to the Committee

The proposal to co-opt Nigel Thorpe (nominated by Rebecca Tee and seconded by Jeff Segal) to the Committee was unanimously accepted.

4. Herne Hill Ward Boundary Consultation

A paper on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) consultation on the proposals for a new Ward boundary and change of name to 'Herne Hill and Loughborough Junction Ward' was discussed. It was agreed to publicise this consultation, which ends on 12 April 2021, in our next e-Newsletter.

5. Online AGM Planning for 24 March 2021

CW gave an update on the planning for the AGM which included progress on the preparation of slides and documents and the arrangements for inviting members which includes the setting up of the meeting on Eventbrite and co-ordinating this with both Zoom and the membership list. RT proposed that the existing Zoom account be amended to allow a greater audience capacity and the additional expenditure was agreed. The Committee thanked CW and HF for their work on this.

ACTION: CW/HF

6. Finance

MH had circulated the February bank statement details which reflected many membership renewals for 2021. CW reported that most of the advertisers in the magazine have renewed their advertisements for this year. It was agreed that a 'Donate' page would be added to the website. RT reported on internal discussions about launching an initiative to generate Legacies to the Society and a meeting will be arranged to take this forward. ACTION: RT/MH

7. Magazine and Publishing

LM reported that the 150th bumper (28 page) printed edition of the magazine will be available for distribution to members in the next couple of weeks.

Progress on the John Ruskin book is going well with the aim to launch it in June. The title will be 'Sunset over Herne Hill'.

Publication sales remain buoyant with 19 copies of the 'Herne Hill Heritage Trail' sold so far this year.

8. Recruitment and Membership

RG reported that renewals for 2021 were going well and that follow up to non-renewals is continuing. There have been eight new members since the start of the year. Efforts are continuing to ask members who pay by Standing Order to update their instruction to reflect the current membership rate.

9. Planning and Licensing

LM reported on a decision by Southwark Council to reject a Planning application for a 'near new build house' at the end of Ruskin Walk which reflected the objections that the Planning Group had submitted. There will be a full report on the Planning Group's recent work in the magazine.

10. Strategy Group - Publications

The key recommendations from this strategy paper were discussed - more support for the magazine editorial team together with scheduled use of social media and e-Newsletters to enhance the Society's messaging and profile. RT explained that the work of the individual Strategy Groups would be distilled into a three-year 'Business Plan' with appropriate timescales. Working groups would then be established to implement the Plan. It is anticipated that the Plan will be available at the end of April 2021. ACTION: RT

11. External Relations

RT reported that she had made contact with Helen Hayes MP to discuss the 'unofficial' Cross-Borough Working Group that had been brought to our attention. Helen is keen to meet to discuss, in particular, local transport issues and it was agreed that Bil Harrison, as our transport expert, would be key to such a meeting. ACTION: RT/LM

As agreed at our last meeting, RT has offered Helen 'guest membership' of the Society which she was delighted to accept. This is a non-voting membership.

It was agreed that our Councillors in Herne Hill, Village and Thurlow Park Wards should automatically receive the email version of our magazine to keep them updated on our work.

The Society is registered to be notified about how to take part in the virtual Lambeth Country Show.

Herne Hill Forum has contacted RT about a suggested joint project involving using the grilles in the Station Tunnel to feature maps from our *Herne Hill Heritage Trail* book as a means of encouraging people to explore our area. The cost would be shared with HHF who would organize the making of the panels with oversight from one of our Committee members. This would raise our profile, publicise our book which is also available from Herne Hill Books as well as on our website, and it could help to differentiate the two organisations. It was agreed to go ahead with this project.

12. Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 April 2021 on Zoom starting at 5pm.