

**Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee  
held on Tuesday 6 April 2021**

Government restrictions on groups and social distancing are still in force due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic so the meeting took place on Zoom.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Rebecca Tee (RT)	Chair	Henry Ferguson (HF)
Laurence Marsh (LM)	Vice Chair	Nigel Thorpe (NT)
Martyn Hall (MH)	Treasurer	Annie Gelly (AG)
Carol Boucher (CB)	Secretary	
Ros Glover (RG)	Membership Secretary	

Colin Wight (CW), retired Chair, joined the meeting for agenda item 3. Apologies were noted from Jackie Plumridge.

RT reported that a new member has expressed an interest in joining the Committee and that she will be invited to join us as an observer at the May meeting.

RG reported that she had taken over responsibility for the reporting of the monthly performance statistics from the retired Chair and has circulated these for the year to date.

**2. Minutes of March meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and all matters arising were discussed under later agenda items with the exception of item 11 where RT said that she is in the process of arranging a meeting with Helen Hayes MP, Bil Harrison, our transport expert, and others from the Committee to discuss local transport issues. CW confirmed that he would post the minutes under the "About the Society" tab on the website.  
Action: CW

**3. Online AGM – Review and Feedback**

CW and HF gave feedback on their set up and management of the online AGM. Principal points were that the practice runs had led to a smooth event with co-ordination between the organisers and the speakers working well. Voting was managed by using the raised hand facility, although it was agreed that for future events it might be preferable to use the Zoom Poll for speeding up the counting and checking membership. It was noted, though, that the AGM meeting had been completed in an hour. The question of verifying membership in advance of the meeting remains and, to this end, the use of Eventbrite registration would enable this upfront check to be done alongside several automatic reminders of the date being sent to members ahead of the event.

Some disappointment was expressed at the attendance figure of 46 although it was pointed out that the last few physical AGMs averaged about 35 members. It is encouraging, though, that some new members were present. CW reported that our emails were not reaching some members so it was suggested that a couple of lines about this be included in the next magazine to remind members to check in their spam/junk folders.  
Action: CW/RT

**4. Finance**

MH will circulate the March bank statements when these are received. RG stressed the need for her to receive annotated copies quickly for monitoring membership renewals and donations. CW reported that a "Donate" page has now been added to the website. A working group will be set up to plan an initiative to generate Legacies to the Society.

Action: RT/MH/NT

## 5. Magazine and Publishing

The 150th edition of the magazine has now been delivered to members and thanks were given to the editorial and distribution teams for their work on this. July is the target date for the next magazine. The aim is to produce three issues this year.

Progress on the John Ruskin book, "Sunset over Herne Hill", continues to go well with a cover design now available and editing work underway. A marketing campaign needs to be drawn up with a possible launch event through a local bookshop now that the Ruskin Park Fair, originally envisaged as the launch event, is to be held in early September rather than late June. A working group will be set up to produce a marketing plan including how to price the publication.

Action: RT/CB/NT/CW/LM

The "Herne Hill Heritage Trail" continues to sell well and RT suggested that the next book to be promoted should be "Grace's Story" and that this should be featured in the next magazine. AG pointed out that there were regular online book events organised by the Friends of Carnegie Library and Lambeth Libraries and this could be another means of promoting our publications. The use of local WhatsApp groups is another promotional tool to be considered.

## 6. Recruitment and Membership

RG reported that membership stands at 334 (including 72 Life members,) which includes 42 who have yet to renew for 2021. A further reminder will be sent out in April and it will also be included in the next e-Newsletter. Efforts are continuing to ask the 17 members who pay by Standing Order to update their instruction to reflect the current membership rate. The March bank statement will update the situation.

Action: RG/MH

Two members in Ruskin Walk volunteered to leaflet their road and it is hoped that this will generate some new members. Recruitment efforts should be revived by convening a meeting of the Recruitment group soon.

Action: RT/CB/RG

RG reported that a Life member will be donating £50 a year to the Society from this year, which is a very welcome addition to our funds. A thank-you letter will be sent.

Action: RT

## 7. Planning and Licensing

LM reported that there were no new applications to consider at this time. The principal piece of work currently is pressing the Council for an Environmental Impact Assessment on the National Grid work that is planned in Bengeworth Road over the next few years.

An objection to the licensing application by Open Arms for their activity over the summer in Ruskin Park has been submitted to Lambeth. This activity will require temporary structures to be erected in the park and LM pointed out that these would probably need temporary Planning Permission.

## 8. Strategy Plan

The four papers covering Publications, External Focus, Planning and Events produced by the small working groups now need to be condensed into a Business Plan covering the next one to three years and identifying specific actions for 2021. Recruitment activity to be considered within this. Committee members who would like to be involved should let RT know.

## 9. Herne Hill Forum

RT gave an update on her contact with HHF on this joint project which will feature maps from our "Herne Hill Heritage Trail" book in the Station Tunnel as a means of encouraging people to explore our area. The

costs will be shared with HHF who will organise the making of the panels with oversight from one of our Committee members. NT has volunteered to take on this role liaising with LM on the production of the maps themselves and making contact with the Project Manager at HHF.

Action: NT/LM

A member at the AGM asked that we consider sending a representative to the Forum's Committee meetings, but it was agreed that we do not have the capacity to commit to this. We already have good links with the Forum through our respective Chairs and also through our Planning group, and the Station Tunnel project will strengthen those links further.

#### **10. Ward Boundary Changes – Brixton Water Lane**

CB circulated a paper from the residents of BWL which they had submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England making the case for their road to remain within the new Herne Hill Ward and not to be moved into the new Brixton Windrush Ward.

They have asked for the Society's support and, after discussion, it was agreed that we would also make a submission to the LGBCE supporting these residents, this being preferred by the BWL Residents' Association rather than a letter addressed to them.

Action: CB/LM

#### **11. AOB**

RT updated the meeting on a question that had been raised by a member at the AGM as to what had happened about the Memorial Tree to be planted in Brockwell Park in remembrance of Patricia Jenkyns, Founder of the Society. A walk round the park by a couple of members has not identified where the tree is so this will be followed up with the Friends of Brockwell Park to determine the location.

Action: CW

#### **12. Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 May, 2021 on Zoom, starting at 5pm.