

**Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee
held on Tuesday 4 May 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	Nigel Thorpe (NT)	
Laurence Marsh (LM)	Vice Chair	Annie Gelly (AG)	
Martyn Hall (MH)	Treasurer	Lin Proctor (LP)	Observer
Carol Boucher (CB)	Secretary		
Ros Glover (RG)	Membership Secretary		

Apologies were received from Henry Ferguson and noted from Jackie Plumridge. RT introduced LP as an Observer to the meeting.

2. Minutes of April 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 2 - RT confirmed that a date has now been agreed to meet with Helen Hayes MP, Bil Harrison, our transport expert and others from the Committee to discuss local transport issues.

Item 4 - A working group has now met to start planning an initiative to generate Legacies to the Society and this will be promoted through all of our media outlets.

Item 5 - AG reported a positive response from the Friends of Carnegie Library committee to the idea of promoting our publications at the library when fully open and this will be followed up.

Item 6 - RT will write to the Life member who will be donating £50 a year to the Society to thank him for his contribution and to clarify his Gift Aid status.

Item 11 – CB reported that the location of the Patricia Jenkyns memorial tree in Brockwell Park has been identified and that the Friends of Brockwell Park still intend to hold a commemorative event when circumstances allow.

3. Finance and Performance Statistics

MH had circulated the income and expenditure account for the first quarter of 2021 with comprehensive notes so there were no questions arising. Arrangements are in hand to alter the Officer signatories to the bank account following the AGM in March which will also give the Membership Secretary (RG) access for checking subscriptions and donations. MH is also progressing the process to convert the bank accounts to online use.

Action: MH

RG presented the Performance Statistics report for the year to April. A point of note is that not all members open the e-Newsletters which may be because these are going into spam/junk folders. It was agreed to include a note about this in the next issue of the magazine to encourage members to check this.

Action: RG

4. Magazine and Publishing

July is the target date for the next magazine issue and the editorial team will meet shortly to progress the content. RT reported that a member had expressed interest in volunteering for the Society and she has agreed to look out for things that are happening in the area which could be topics for articles in the magazine.

LM reported that progress on the John Ruskin book, 'Sunset over Herne Hill', continues to go well and it is anticipated that the final design and editing will be completed by the end of May. At this point a working group will be established to decide on the size of the print run with its associated production costs as well as starting work on a marketing plan which will include a launch event. It was noted that the arrangement with Lambeth Archives is that they receive 50 free copies given that their staff member is the principal author of the publication.

Action: RT/CB/NT/CW/LM

5. Recruitment and Membership

RG reported that membership stands at 335 (including 72 Life members) which includes 22 members who have yet to renew for 2021, and a final reminder has been sent to them. There are now 11 members who have not altered their Standing Orders to reflect the current membership rate despite a number of requests to do so. It was agreed that they will now receive an electronic magazine only rather than a hard copy.

Action: RG/MH

6. Planning and Licensing

LM reported that there were no new applications to consider at this time.

It was noted that the organisers of the proposed Open Arms activity over the summer in Ruskin Park had withdrawn their application to Lambeth Council as advised by Cllr Jim Dickson.

LM confirmed that there was no news about the Dorchester Court planning application and that the controversial 'Twin Towers' application at Loughborough Junction would appear to go against Lambeth Council's own strategic plan although approval could be sought from the Mayor of London if the plan was turned down by Lambeth's Planning Committee.

7. Strategy Plan including Herne Hill Awards

RT had circulated a draft Business Plan which has been drawn up from the recommendations of the working groups on Publications, External Focus, Planning and Events and asked that Committee members consider this in detail ahead of a discussion to be held at the next meeting.

In a slide presentation RT outlined her proposal to launch 'Herne Hill Awards' in our 40th anniversary year to recognise both individual and organisational contributions to the community in Herne Hill. This would be included in the Business Plan and would be another way of raising our profile in the area. There was a discussion around adapting the Society's logo next year to include '40th' in it and it was suggested that local schools be involved in creating this design. Both this idea and the HH Awards would be explored in more detail and a paper produced for the next meeting.

Action: RT

8. Herne Hill Forum Project

NT has made contact with the Project Manager of HHF to progress the project. The map artwork that we hold is not of sufficient quality to produce the large-scale maps required for the tunnel so we are awaiting feedback from the original designer to see if she can supply appropriate artwork.

Action: NT

9. AOB

CB and MH outlined the sponsorship agreement with the Herne Hill Music Festival and confirmed that the financial support that was given for the 2020 Festival, which was cancelled, would now be used in 2021. This sponsorship helps to raise our profile as the Society is listed as a supporter on all of HHMF's publicity materials. HHMF would like to submit an article about the Festival for the magazine and have requested details about this.

Action: LM

There is a facility on our website for people to get in touch with us by using a contact form which comes in to the Chair and Membership Secretary. To ensure that these are dealt with and not missed RG agreed to be responsible for following these up.

It was agreed to alter the start time of Committee meetings from 5pm to 6pm to make it easier for all members to attend and this will start in June.

10. Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 June 2021 on Zoom, starting at 6pm.