

Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee held on Tuesday 1 June 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	
Martyn Hall (MH)	Treasurer	
Carol Boucher (CB)	Secretary	
Ros Glover (RG)	Membership Secretary	

Apologies were received from Henry Ferguson, Annie Bright and Lin Proctor (observer) and noted from Jackie Plumridge.

2. Co-option of new Committee Member

It was proposed by RT that Lin Proctor be co-opted to the Committee and this was unanimously agreed. Nomination papers for co-options to the Committee are held by the Secretary.

3. Minutes of May 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:

RT confirmed that she had written to the Life Member who will be donating £50 annually to thank him for his contribution and RG will follow up with him to clarify his Gift Aid status. **Action: RG**

RT confirmed that the meeting with Helen Hayes MP, Bil Harrison (BH), our transport expert, and NT from the Committee to discuss local transport issues had taken place.

The discussion centred around the operation of the controversial Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes, particularly in Southwark, and it was noted that Southwark are belatedly consulting with residents on this issue. It is not known whether Lambeth intend to consult their residents.

BH had prepared a paper ahead of the meeting and this will be circulated to Committee members for information. Within it the point is made that due to the different traffic circumstances related to Covid, it would not be possible to collect meaningful data as to the effectiveness of these schemes in reducing road traffic. This will only be possible when travelling patterns return to more normal levels. **Action: RT**

NT reported that the issue had become problematic for the Dulwich Society due to its committee supporting the Dulwich LTN, initially without consulting its members. There were no specific outcomes from the meeting other than for us to keep members informed on any developments as advised by BH, Helen Hayes and the local Councils.

4. Finance and Performance Statistics

The Performance Statistics for May were noted with the exception of income and expenditure for the month which will be added once this information is available. **Action: RG**

MH had circulated the April bank statement and questions were asked about that month's expenditure. MH confirmed that the alterations to the Officer signatories to the bank account, following the AGM, have been completed. The Membership Secretary also has access to the account for checking subscriptions and donations. MH has actioned the process to convert the bank accounts to online use and provided an explanation on how the Officer authorisation process will work. This will be tested once the bank has completed the conversion to online banking. As well as saving on cheque-handling costs the online account will also help with accessing current financial information. **Action: MH**

5. Magazine and Publishing

LM reported that the next magazine is on target to be published in July. Edmund Bird (EB) is working on an article about the railway bridges in Herne Hill which will be published in this magazine issue. LM noted that, whilst Lambeth Archives provide support for this series of books by EB, this is not the case with Southwark Council which is disappointing.

The John Ruskin book, 'Sunset over Herne Hill', is in the final stages of editing and layout and will be ready to go to print at the end of July. The working group will now start the process of deciding on the print run, finalising the production costs and approaching potential sponsors to help with offsetting the price. MH suggested that we contact the Timothy Franey Charitable Foundation to this end. It will also work on a marketing plan which will include a launch event.

Action: RT/CB/NT/CW/LM

6. Recruitment and Membership

RG reported that membership stands at 329 (including 72 Life Members) and the 11 non-renewals have now been removed from the membership list. It was noted that one member has died this year.

RG reported that the recruitment activity initiated in August 2020 has been productive with 25 new members joining last year and 30 new members joining this year so far. RT suggested that we refresh the Recruitment Pack project and she will re-run the presentation on this at the July meeting. **Action: RT**

Notes from the Recruitment Group May meeting had been circulated for information. It was noted that a leaflet is now included with every book order and that the design of a bookmark is now in hand and that this will be circulated to the Committee when ready. The final design of the poster will follow. The next meeting of the Recruitment Group will be on 17 June.

Action: RT/RG/MH/CB

7. Planning and Licensing

LM reported a new Planning Application from Lambeth Council for changes to the exterior of Meath House on Dulwich Road. The Planning Group have objected to the application on the grounds that the changes are not sympathetic to the original 1950s architecture and LM expressed disappointment that Lambeth, as the owner of the building, have applied to make such inappropriate changes.

It was noted that David Taylor continues to represent the views of the Society on both the proposed Bengeworth Road and Shakespeare Road projects and we thank him for this work.

8. Strategy Plan including Herne Hill Awards

RT presented a paper entitled 'Herne Hill Society Good Practice Awards' – a suggested title to differentiate this from our Small Grants Scheme – to run throughout our 40th anniversary year from March 2022 to March 2023. The Committee expressed support for this initiative. A number of ideas were discussed as to how to promote this alongside other events to mark the anniversary year. It was agreed that NT would collate these and produce a summary for the July meeting.

Action: NT

9. Herne Hill Forum Project

NT reported that we still await contact from the original designer of the Heritage Trail map artwork before we can progress this project and that the opportunity will be lost if we cannot obtain this soon. NT will follow up again with support from RT.

Action: NT/RT

10. AOB

CB reported that the Herne Hill Community Fund proposal by Fred Taggart has been adopted by Herne Hill Forum and that he will be working on this with them through a sub-Committee of HHF. HHS was approached to see if we held a list of suitable organisations/individuals in our area who could be potential beneficiaries. In the absence of such a list it was agreed that we should work jointly on this with HHF and an initial list has been prepared by CB and NT and will be circulated to the Committee for comment and additional input ahead of a meeting to discuss it with HHF.

Action: CB

RG reported that 'Ways into Brockwell Park' by Peter Bradley is being re-published.

It was noted that the Friends of Ruskin Park have lost two key Committee members – Treasurer and Vice Chair – and are seeking new volunteers as a matter of urgency. It was agreed to include this call out in our next e-newsletter.

Now that the restrictions on meeting in person have relaxed MH suggested that we should consider holding some of our Committee meetings in person subject to finding a suitable venue. This will be considered at the July meeting.

10. Next Meeting

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