

## Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee held on Tuesday 6 July 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, and noted from Jackie Plumridge.

### 2. Minutes of June meeting and Matters arising

The minutes were accepted, subject to one amendment being made, as an accurate record and all matters arising were discussed under later agenda items *with the exception of*:

LM agreed to discuss with Edmund Bird how best to engage Southwark Council Archives with our publications work and to encourage their involvement with future publications.  
**Action: LM**

Following the meeting with Helen Hayes MP, Bil Harrison (BH), our transport expert, and NT from the Committee to discuss local transport issues, RT will circulate the paper written by BH to Committee members for their information.  
**Action: RT**

RG confirmed that she now has online access to the bank account and MH will explain the online access process to Officers shortly.  
**Action: MH**

### 3. Finance and Performance Statistics

The Performance Statistics for June were noted, with the exception of income and expenditure for the month which will now be added to the report. In future, online banking access will mean that up to date income and expenditure figures will be available for the monthly Performance Statistics which are presented to the Committee.  
**Action: RG**

It was noted that about half of members opened the recent e-Newsletter, although clarification is needed on what constitutes an "opening". Colin Wight (CW) to advise.  
**Action: RT**

RG highlighted a recent issue with cheque processing whereby a member's account had been closed by the time a batch of cheques had been banked. As well as a bank charge being levied for the returned cheque this presents a difficulty with communicating with the member concerned to rectify the situation. In future, it would be advisable to bank cheques on receipt.  
**Action: RG/MH**

MH presented the Income and Expenditure Account for the first six months of 2021 which showed strong performance in terms of both new memberships and publication sales. It was noted that there will be significant expenditure on the production of the Ruskin book as well as the contribution to the joint Herne Hill Heritage Trail project with Herne Hill Forum later this year.

#### **4. Magazine and Publishing**

LM reported that the next magazine is on target to be published in July.

The John Ruskin book, *Sunset over Herne Hill*, is in the final stages of editing and layout which is taking a little longer than anticipated but it should be ready to go to print over the summer. LM confirmed that it should be possible now to obtain at least two ball-park quotes for the production of the book to enable work to start on developing a marketing plan which will include identifying potential sponsors and a launch event.

**Action: LM**

Following the suggestion made by MH that we contact a local charity for their support CW has met with them and, as a result, the charity will be donating £1,000 to the production cost of the book. Our thanks go to CW for this successful approach. RG suggested that it might be appropriate for a contribution from our Small Grants scheme to be made towards the cost. It was also suggested that our members be approached for donations to support this publication.

#### **5. Recruitment and Membership**

RG reported that membership stands at 338 (includes 72 Life members) which includes five new members joining since the June report. The addressed envelopes for the next issue of the magazine have already been prepared for the distribution team.

RT proposed that she organise a separate session to re-present the Recruitment Strategy slides to those Committee members who are interested. This was agreed.

**Action: RT**

The design of the bookmark is now ready and will be circulated to the Committee prior to printing. Help will be sought from our contacts in terms of adding the bookmark to our website and also with the production requirements.

**Action: RT**

LM offered to progress the design of the poster.

**Action: LM**

#### **6. Planning and Licensing**

LM reported that the Mayor of London will not be calling in the Lambeth Council decision to refuse Planning Permission for the proposed "Two Towers" development at Loughborough Junction which has been welcomed by us and other groups locally, who have objected to the impact that the height of this development would have had on our local environment.

The Planning Group registered objections with Lambeth Council to two proposed roof terrace planning applications in Railton Road.

Lambeth Council's application to move a waste recycling plant from Shakespeare Road to a site in Norwood has been met with objections from Norwood residents and, until this application is determined, the proposed housing development application on the Shakespeare Road site cannot be progressed. David Taylor continues to keep us updated.

## 7. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ideas

NT presented a paper summarising the six ideas put forward for events to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society in 2022. The principal idea behind three of the suggestions is a collection of photographs charting how Herne Hill has changed from 1982 to now which could be the basis of a magazine article and an exhibition at the Carnegie Library, as well as photos being placed in the Station Tunnel grilles. LM agreed to approach a member who has a large collection of local photos as well as contacting the Archive Departments of the two Councils. A 'call out' to members in the next magazine and to e-Newsletter recipients will also be made. **Action: LM**

The Good Practice Awards together with a guest speaker event and a celebratory cake ceremony will also feature in the anniversary celebrations.

It was agreed that a schedule should be drawn up to chart the stages of the anniversary year and identify what preparations need to be in place. **Action: NT**

## 8. Herne Hill Forum Project

NT reported that the original designer of the Heritage Trail map artwork has now been in contact and that she has been very helpful. We now await contact from the HHF Project Manager to discuss the detail of the production of the maps and it was agreed that the Chair of HHF will be contacted to see if he can assist with progressing this. **Action: NT/RT**

## 9. AOB

The Friends of Ruskin Park will be holding their Summer Fete on Saturday 4 September. It was agreed that we should have a stall at this event on the basis that we have sufficient volunteers to staff it. Contact will be made with FoRP to check timings and logistical arrangements. A "call out" for volunteers could be included in the August e-Newsletter. **Action: CB**

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 and it was agreed that an initial list be prepared and this was circulated to the Committee. It was agreed that this list will now be passed to HHF, but it was not considered necessary to meet with HHF to follow up on this at this stage. **Action: CB**

RG suggested that it would be a nice idea if the Committee could meet socially in August using the second Tuesday as the date to get together in person. She will check with both current and recently retired Committee members on their availability. **Action: RG**

A discussion about holding the next Committee meeting in person has been postponed as the priority is to find a suitable date for the next meeting given that several members will not be able to attend the 7 September meeting. An alternative date will be sought.

**Action: CB**