



THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY

Minutes of the **39th Annual General Meeting** held on **Wed 24 March 2021** at **7:00pm** online (Zoom) owing to Government restrictions on gatherings due to the COVID 19 pandemic

1. Welcome

At the request of the Acting Chair, Colin Wight (recently retired Chair) led on the proceedings and presentation.

He welcomed everyone to the AGM and, in particular, new members. There were 46 attendees.

The housekeeping rules for the meeting's conduct online were outlined with a particular request to members to use the Chat facility to ask a question or make a comment.

Apologies for absence were received from Jackie Plumridge and Ian McInnes.

2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

The draft minutes had been posted on our website. The meeting Chair reminded those attending that only paid-up members of the Society were eligible to vote. It was proposed by Sheila Northover and seconded by Rosalind Glover that the minutes of the 2020 AGM be adopted as a true record and the motion was carried. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Retiring Chair's Report on 2020

Colin's key points were:

Membership had increased to 316 at the end of the year. A targeted recruitment campaign resulted in 43 new members and this upward trend continues. Efforts to collect email addresses resulted in only 20 members remaining for whom we do not have addresses, of which 10 do not use email anyway. The next drive will be to ensure that as many members as possible are signed up to Gift Aid, which generates additional income of 25% from subscriptions to the Society (£295 in 2020).

Slides comparing Remembrance Day 2019 with the same event in 2020 illustrated the dramatic changes to our lives due to the pandemic. More online events are planned for 2021, although there will be social meetings as soon as it is safe to hold them.

Two issues of the magazine were produced in 2020, one online and one in hard copy. All back issues are available on our website. Thanks were given to the

editor, Laurence Marsh, and designer Sophia Marsh, for their work as well as to those who wrote for and helped distribute the magazine.

The Planning Group had submitted detailed, authoritative objections on a number of controversial planning applications in our area and thanks were given to everyone on the Group, which continues to be led by Laurence Marsh.

The website had, for technical reasons, to be rebuilt in under a week. The result is a smaller, but still effective, site. Thanks were given to John Conway who provided significant help.

After eight years the retiring Chair stood down at the end of 2020, which was only made possible because Rebecca Tee, currently Acting Chair, had come forward. The new leadership will take the organisation forward and initial results of an increase in membership and book sales are encouraging.

The retiring Chair thanked the many people who had offered help and advice over the years - too many to name - and also for their friendship.

Helen Hayes MP took the opportunity to thank the Society for its important contribution to making Herne Hill a special place with a thriving community.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Martyn Hall, presented slides of the Society's income and expenditure over the last year compared to 2019. The draft accounts had been posted on our website.

Points of note were: no magazine advertising income, no meeting income and reduced publications income - all due to the effects of the pandemic. Similarly, expenditure was down. Overall, the Society's finances are strong and 2021 has started well in terms of both membership and publications income.

Thanks were given to Sally-Anne Jeffries for checking the accounts.

It was proposed by Carol Boucher that the statement of the Society's financial accounts should be adopted and this was seconded by Patrick Roberts. The accounts were adopted unanimously in the subsequent vote.

5. Committee retired

The 2020/21 Committee stood down pending the election of a new Committee.

6. Election of new Committee for 2021/22

The elections were conducted by Dr John Brunton.

The Committee Officers were nominated and seconded as follows:

Chair: Rebecca Tee nominated by Colin Wight, seconded by Laurence Marsh

Vice-Chair: Laurence Marsh nominated by Ian McInnes, seconded by David Williams

Secretary: Carol Boucher nominated by Frances Lamb, seconded by Fred Taggart

Treasurer: Martyn Hall nominated by Robert Holden, seconded by Sheila Northover

All nominees for election as Officers of the Society were elected by a clear majority.

The Committee members were nominated and seconded as follows:

Henry Ferguson: nominated by Patrick Roberts, seconded by Colin Wight

Annie Gelly: nominated by Val Suebsaeng, seconded by Dave Gelly

Rosalind Glover: nominated by Sheila Northover, seconded by Robert Holden

Nigel Thorpe: nominated by Rebecca Tee, seconded by Jeff Segal

Jackie Plumridge: nominated by Carol Boucher, seconded by Martyn Hall

All Committee nominees were elected unanimously.

7. The Year Ahead

The new Chair, Dr Rebecca Tee, a member since 1996 and resident of Warmington Road, outlined her reasons for stepping forward to lead the Society, which covered the significance of the Society as a neighbourhood organisation working to help maintain Herne Hill as an attractive, safe and desirable community in which to live.

The Society continues to be relevant through our key areas of work, namely local history research, articles and talks, publications, providing a balanced view on changes to the built environment, traffic, environmental and licensing issues and linking with other local voluntary organisations and local businesses where appropriate.

Maintaining and administering our membership database and website are key to communicating with our members as well as reaching out more widely through our magazine and social media.

Thanks were given to the retiring members of the Committee - Valerie Suebsaeng, Patrick Roberts and Colin Wight - for their work over the years, and it was pleasing to note that they would all like to stay involved and make contributions as time permits.

Help in running the Society is always needed so we are open to offers, particularly from those with social media, website and licensing expertise as well as more general roles.

The 2022 AGM will mark the start of our 40th anniversary year. By then we hope to have made a start on implementing our business plan for the next few years following strategic thinking sessions on planning, publications, external focus and local history.

Increasing membership and volunteer help will be important in carrying out our plans so do make contact if you are interested in getting involved. Thanks were given to all present for their continued support of the Society.

8. Any other business

Robert Holden encouraged the new Committee to represent the Society at meetings of the Herne Hill Forum.

Dick Tooze asked whether the tree in memory of Patricia Jenkyns, the Society's Founder, had been planted and this will be followed up to provide an answer.

The 2021 AGM closed at 7:59pm.