

**Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee
held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday 4 February 2025
at the Half Moon Hotel**

Present:

Rebecca Tee (RT) Chair	Laurence Marsh (LM) Vice-Chair	Lyndon Fothergill (LF) Treasurer
Henry Ferguson (HF)	Ros Glover (RG) Membership Secretary	Lin Proctor (LP)
George (G) in attendance		

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies: Susie Perring, Martyn Hall

RT welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them.

2. Minutes of past Committee meetings:

Draft minutes of Tue 5 November 2024 and Tue 7 January 2025 meetings were awaiting approval from RT. **Action: RT**

3. **2025 Excellence Awards:** RT gave a summary of progress. By the closing date of Fri 31 January, 67 nominations, spread across the three categories of Environment, Heritage and Community, had been received. This was a very positive increase of c.100% on the number received for 2023. The Awards Team would be meeting on Thu 13 February to consider the next stage.

4. **AGM:** The Committee was asked to let RT know if they did *not* want to stand again at the next AGM (Tue 25 March 2025). We need to find someone to act as a Returning Officer for the event. Colleagues were asked to submit their annual reports to RT, including updated slides, by Fri 28 February 2025.

Action: LM (planning), **LF** (finance), **RG** (membership), **G** (social media)

5. RT had approached a potential speaker for the AGM and would be meeting her again with LM, to discuss the subject and format of the talk. The AGM Planning Group (RT, CW, HF) would be meeting (date to be agreed) to plan for the evening, including the presentation of the new 'President's Commendation' award. **Action: RT**

6. **Finances:** LF confirmed that the accounts for the year ending December 2024 were ready to be submitted for 'formal checking' (a full audit is not required by the Charity Commission) and would take this forward. He also gave a report on the state of the finances over the next 3-4 years. He predicted that at current levels of expenditure and taking into account the Society's reserves policy, there was a need to build up the Society's reserves. The level of Small Grants awarded continues at c.£1,000 per year. The biggest items of annual expenditure were: printing, storage, PO Box, postage and IT.

i. PO Box: It was appropriate to consider whether this is still necessary/relevant. The Committee was asked to think about not renewing this from 2026. Action: RG (and others) to consider where the PO Box is listed in our publicity and other materials and how much material is actually received by this method.

Action: RG (& all)

ii. Storage: Consideration needs to be given to whether this is still needed. At the moment it houses the gazebo, a trestle table and a display stand. The books are no longer stored there. The gazebo is useful for events like the Ruskin Park Summer Fete (as the English weather is very unpredictable!) The table and display stand are less useful and could be dispensed with. LF will find out how much notice was required if the Society is to cancel the storage unit. **Action: LF**

iii. IT costs: It was felt that these seem high but it was noted that these costs include an website updates, the Zoom ac and the Adobe software to lay out the magazine. Colin Wight would be approached for his advice; no decision on this was taken. **Action: RT**

iv. Printing: The profit on publications should also be considered. The discount offered on retail sales (e.g. to Herne Hill Books) was currently 33%. The Magazine currently cost £1.60 per unit, each edition, to print. Is there scope for reducing these costs?

v: The Committee was asked to think about other revenue-increasing ideas and/or efficiencies, including: suggesting that Members might like to leave a legacy to the Society; increasing the cost of advertising; local sponsorship for the Excellence Awards. **Action: All**

As an aside to this discussion, LF was asked to re-circulate the list of Small Grant awards made over the past few years. **Action: LF**

7. Performance Figures: RG reported that there were 2 new members this month (which will show up on February's figures). The list of those who renew by Standing Order had just come through and next month's figures would reflect this. RG asked to be updated each month on the number of Instagram and Bluesky followers so that this information could be included in the Performance Indicators.

8. Planning: LM reported that there was a new member of the Planning Committee. LM also said that he had attended a meeting of the Dorchester Court Residents' Association. There was an appeal going through which the Society would support. There would be more on that at a later meeting but, at the moment, there was nothing new to report.

9. AOB: no items to discuss.

10. The next Committee meeting will take place on Tue 4 March at 6:00pm on Zoom.