

**Minutes of a meeting of the Herne Hill Society Committee
held on Tuesday 4 June 2024
at Elmwood Road**

Present:

Rebecca Tee (RT) - Chair

Lyndon Fothergill (LF) - Treasurer

Susie Perring (SP) – Secretary

Ros Glover (RG) – Membership Sec

Henry Ferguson (HF)

Lin Proctor (LP)

1. Welcome and apologies

RT welcomed everyone to today's meeting and thanked LP for hosting it.

Apologies had been received from: Laurence Marsh - Vice Chair; Martyn Hall.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the May 2024 meeting were approved (with thanks to RG for taking them).

March minutes, once completed, need to be put the website..

April minutes were a de-briefing of the AGM.

Action: RT/RG

I. Item 7 - QR stickers need to be designed for the Shops History Project and then a printing quote obtained.

Action: RT to contact Kate Roncoroni, designer

II. Best wishes were sent to Laurence who was recuperating following his recent operation.

3. Performance Statistics: RG

RG had produced the performance figures. She had deleted from the Membership lists all members who had not renewed (28), despite much chasing up; therefore there is a drop in membership figures. There was a discussion regarding the merits of paying renewal subscriptions by Standing Order vs. Direct Debit. We have 385 members at the moment and it is a lot of work to chase and remind them all to renew each year, whilst Standing Orders renew automatically. RT was in discussion with the Treasurer of the Camberwell Society to have a zoom meeting to get their advice. RG and LF will compile a list of questions for the Camberwell Society about setting up a system of renewal by Direct Debit rather than Standing Order.

Action: RT/RG/LF

e-Newsletter figures are not available as CW is away. There have been no publication sales.

Putting the subscription up from £10 a year to £15 was discussed. This is still a very reasonable figure for three magazines a year. Membership has not increased for several years. If we switch the payment method, that might be the time to raise the subscription. Further discussion needed.

4. Finance: LF

2024 income is projected to go down compared to previous years; this is due to less income from publication sales and a reduction in advertising income- though this is partially offset by a donation from the Franey Family Trust.

Two advertisers have withdrawn so it would be helpful if new advertisers can be found.

Currently the projected overspend for 2024 is £3,100 which would still leave a surplus of approximately £13,500.

5. Planning issues.

The closing of St Saviours Primary C of E school: School rolls are falling and Lambeth has already closed several other schools. Lambeth want to merge it with St John's Angel Town, Loughborough.

RT will pass information to LM for consideration.

Action: RT/LM

6. Updates

We have a possible new member for the Committee who has recently joined the Society and is very keen to help. He has previously been involved with voluntary work elsewhere. RT will meet him.

Action: RT

There will be another Lambeth Local History Fair at St Leonard's Church in Streatham on Saturday 7th September 2024. Previously at this location the HHS did not do very well because of the distance from Herne Hill but it may be worth trying again as the stall we had with them last year in West Norwood was very good.

Action: LM and RT

7. AOB

We need to have a push to attract new members, emphasising the merits of membership. The proposition could be made clearer. We need to look at what we have done, and Lyndon will look at how many grants we have given out since 2019 to support local organisations. It would be good to have younger members: e.g. families with children.

Awards are a draw: showcasing the small organisations doing great work locally. The history of the area is important to people and we could perhaps offer more talks/events? LP would draft some ideas for discussion in September.

Action: LP

The electronic newsletter needs interesting input (3 or 4 stories) each month. Please send ideas to RT.

Two possibilities might be: reviews of the authors' talks at the Carnegie Library? and/or reviews of the U3A talks?

Action: All

There will be a Friends of Ruskin Park Summer Fête on Saturday 15 June. RT will chase up the booking for our stall. We need volunteers to help set up and manage the stall. Please contact RT. **Action:** All/RT

The next meeting would be on Tuesday 2 July, 6.00pm at the Half Moon Hotel. Committee meetings are always held on the **first Tuesday of every month**, so do please enter dates in your diary for the year ahead.