

Dulwich Society Executive 536th Meeting Monday 12th July 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom videoconference

Attendees:

Officers

Ian McInnes – Chairman
Kenneth Wolfe – Vice-Chairman
Sue Badman – Secretary
Russell Lloyd – Treasurer
Diana McInnes – Membership Secretary

Sub-Committee Chairs

David Beamish – Trees
Patsy Bramble – Licensing
Bernard Nurse – Local History
Jeremy Prescott – Gardens
Penny Stern – Planning and Architecture
Harry Winter – Travel and Environment

Committee Members

Adrian Hill

Guests (pending AGM)

Heather Stubbs – prospective Secretary
Sharon O'Connor – Social Media Lead

Unable to attend/apologies:

Colin Niven – President
Angela Wilkes – Wildlife
Brian Green – Journal Editor

Register of Interests.

See Appendix 1.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: May 2021 meeting minutes approved.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere: None.

Guests – Post-Meeting Note: Heather Stubbs as the prospective new Secretary and Sharon O'Connor as the Social Media Lead remain as guests until elected formally at the AGM due to limit on Executive Committee membership of 4 Officers and 10 Committee Members (excluding President) (see rule 7 of the Society Constitution). Note the Membership Secretary is not a Society Officer according to the current rules. This can be rectified when the rules are revised.

DS Matters

SGM Follow-up – Publication of Sub-Committee Minutes

After approval, the Executive Committee Meeting minutes are published in PDF format on the Society About webpage.

It was agreed at the SGM that Sub-Committee minutes will also be published on the Society website; we will publish minutes going forward once minutes are approved and there will be no retrofitting. The Chair confirmed that the history of the Sub-Committee minutes starts from now. (All minutes available for publication with effect from July 2021).

Ideally Sub-Committee minutes should be published on each Sub-Committee page where members will expect to find them (Post-Meeting Note: the webmaster has suggested at present that the sub-committee minutes be published on the About page. This will be reviewed when the website is updated).

When minutes are ready for publication, they should be sent to the Secretary. (Post-Meeting Note: The Secretary, Chair and Comms Lead will review the minutes to ensure there are no items that need to be redacted (e.g. for privacy or confidentiality reasons) and will then forward the PDF versions to the webmaster for publication).

Status (subject to Government Covid-19 guidelines)

T&E – is next due to meet & approve minutes in September – date to be finalised for after the AGM (Action: HW)

Licensing – PB will publish the formal minutes submitted to LB of Southwark for approval of support/objections/comments on specific licence applications.

Planning & Architecture – Meets 3 times a year and the next meeting is in late July. Approved minutes can then be published. (Action: PS)

Local History – is next due to meet in October but it may be possible to publish last approved minutes (Action: SO'C to check).

Trees – have not met recently due to members' preference for in-person meetings but DB will verify when a meeting can be held. (Action: DB)

Gardens – plan to meet in September. (Action: JP)

Wildlife – AW not in attendance. (Action: SB will check with AW)

SGM Follow-up – Declarations of interest and “Conflict of Interest” policy.

The Secretary circulated a revised “Conflict of Interest” policy before the meeting and had received comments from members of the Executive. After discussion it was agreed there should be a consistent approach between Executive Committee and Sub-Committee members, and no references to volunteers, contractors or members in the policy. It was agreed that each sub-committee chair should do what is necessary to ensure there were no conflicts of interest in their committees. This includes making a note of memberships of relevant organisations and groups. Declarations of interest should be recorded in the meeting minutes, ideally using a register of declarations as already published in the Executive Committee minutes. This would cover all members of the committee whether they attend a meeting or not.

The definitive version of the updated Conflict of Interest policy will be circulated for approval and will then be published on the website. (Action: SB. Post-Meeting Note: the updated policy was published on 20 July 2021). Sub-Committee Chairs were advised to inform their members of the updated policy and arrange to record declarations at their next meetings. (Action: Sub-Committee Chairs)

Future Society Chair

As announced at the previous meeting, IMCl is standing down as Chair of the Dulwich Society. He has taken steps to hand over the production of the Society newsletter to SO'C.

IMCl announced that it had also been agreed that he would take over as Chair of the Local History Sub-Committee from BN who wished to step down. This would enable IMCl to continue as a member of the Executive Committee.

After discussion of the role and options for Chair, one name emerged as a frontrunner.

Action: It was agreed that IMCl would draw up a job specification and then sound out the potential candidate.

An announcement would be made in the next newsletter about the Chairmanship vacancy with a reminder about the AGM and nomination deadline. (Action: SO'C).

AGM Arrangements – 14 September 2021

Plan A is to have an in-person meeting at the Crown & Greyhound – the venue is booked. There is still a slight concern about the Government's plans to reopen fully on 19th July, and whether masks and social distancing will be required. There will not be a talk but there will be drinks and an opportunity to say farewell to Colin and Ian. Plan B is to have a Zoom meeting. We should be able to have a decision on this in time for the September newsletter and noticeboard (too late for a journal insert). Action: IMCl and SB.

Society Archives

SB has produced a list of the sub-committee archive material. SB has written to Jean Cary-Elwes about the Gardens archive. BN is waiting for confirmation from the library concerning re-opening. The library will be interested in the minutes and reports which the public can then access. There is no requirement for private emails. An archiving policy will be drawn up for future reference. The issue will be carried forward to the next Executive Committee meeting. Action: SB/BN

Rules Review

PB will lead a working group to update the rules including Hugh Bramble. Philip Kolvin has offered to look at the rules. The plan is to have a set of revised rules ready for approval at the next AGM in April 2022. Action: PB

New Logo

SO'C circulated a sheet of 20 potential logos with trees, oak leaves, fingerposts and swans predominating. After discussion, it was clear that the Executive Committee was split and there was no single frontrunner though no 3 (tree and posts) and a fingerpost option were well favoured. BN suggested we ought to have a logo that reflected the diverse interests of the Society. It was agreed that i) further work was needed to work up the options ii) we would pay for the graphic design work done so far and iii) we would commission a designer to take the ideas forward. IMCl will also discuss the options with BG.

Society Website

SO'C is organising a meeting with SB, IMCl and James the webmaster to discuss the upgrade of the website. It is dependent on the release of new software which is proceeding slowly. The plan is to produce a beta version of a new website for testing which would run alongside the current website. The Executive Committee will be kept informed of progress but in the meantime SO'C requested members to start collecting images for the website. (Action: All).

Society Events

IMCl will talk on Dulwich's European residents on 5th October via Bell House Events. The plan is to continue with online talks at Bell House through the winter and IMCl asked for suggestions. Nature talks are a possibility and we could explore talks on wildlife (Peter Roseveare), trees (DB) and gardens (JP). Please pass on any ideas for themes.

The Dulwich Park Fair is taking place on 5th September.

Executive Meetings 2021/22

Dates agreed as 15th Nov 2021 then

2022

10th Jan, 14th Mar, 9th May, 11th Jul, 12th Sep, 14th Nov with the AGM on 25th April.

It was also agreed that the meetings would be on Zoom with one meeting in the winter and one meeting in the summer in-person. Action: SB will go ahead and book the November 2021 meeting venue for an in-person meeting.

It was also agreed later in the meeting that we would cancel the scheduled Executive Meeting on 13th September 2021 and reschedule to late September subject to the diary of the new Society Chair.

Alley Statue Maintenance

The maintenance work has been commissioned and the Foundry have proposed an August date subject to Covid-19. The Estate has given permission for the work to proceed. Action: SB

Treasurer's Report and Grants

RL presented the latest budget statement and accounts for FY2021 (Circulated prior to the meeting):

- The bank summary shows £54k in our accounts.
- Payments are c9.7k and receipts c£18k to date for FY2021. Incl £11.5k for subscriptions and £2.8k for advertising.
- Provision for grants so far is £650 (Horniman, Wheels for Wellbeing)
- Noted that postage is high for journal distribution.

Society Grants

- Several projects on hold (Sunray Gardens, St Barnabas fingerpost)
- Listening Post – will now go ahead. Cost (approx.) is £1300 for post, £500 for recording and £300 for installation. The total expenditure of £2100 was approved and SO'C and IMCl will go ahead with the order and plan for installation (via C Johnson). There will be one recording initially with capacity for up to 6 recordings under dual button control (turn on/scroll through recordings). This will come from the Mary Boast fund.

- The Society is willing to support Sydenham Woods but a meeting is needed with Sam Taylor to discuss priorities, timescales and costs (Action: JP/IMcl)

Licensing and events

Premises Licences

No applications need commenting on at present. Noted there is an application from Heritage Cheese and a new application for 27 Dulwich Village (next to Megan's). If there are any concerns about 27 Dulwich Village, PB will circulate a note.

Consultations and Planning

Planning & Architecture Report

Noted there is a lengthy list of objections often due to incomplete drawings. There are several garden applications for offices/garden buildings. Feedback from the SOM has been patchy, and it continues to be difficult to get detail about reasons for refusal or updates in a timely manner.

5G Masts – we have sustained our objection at appeal to the Dulwich Wood Park mast; there is no further news on the Townley Road mast. There is also a mast to be added to the agglomeration of equipment on Dulwich Common near Allison Grove. The Estate has been asked whether there are any off-road sites but given the proximity of other cabinets at the Dulwich Common site, this may be the best position for a mast.

Gilkes – Aquinna Homes acquired the site for an as yet unknown price at end of June 2021 and Helen Hayes MP is seeking a meeting. There is temporary fencing around the site. An ETMO has been implemented to ensure that Gilkes Place remains closed to traffic.

T&E Sub-Committee

Dulwich LTN Review

The LTN consultation is in progress and will now continue until 18th July. After discussion about the Dulwich Society response, it was agreed that we should not respond to the survey as a Society. Individual members and committee members are encouraged to respond but the Society will not take a position on the proposals in the survey. Council meetings are planned with residents and stakeholders over the next few weeks, and the Society will be attending these meetings. The Society has been offered a meeting with the Council Leader and Cabinet Member.

Dulwich Estate

JP reported on the June Advisory Committee. We are moving forward positively with the new format of the Advisory Committee (AC). The Scheme of Management (SOM) now produce notes and actions from previous meetings. There was a useful meeting on the format of the accounts and the SOM have agreed to provide costs of applications. The Terms of Reference (TOR) have been agreed though further changes may be needed. The AC is also pressing the Estate and SOM about their green policy which needs to be progressed.

IMCl raised a question about AK's successors and the role of the other trustees on the AC. It is unclear what the other trustees' roles are on the AC and how we can engage with them. A question for the November AC.

Other Issues/AOB

Recycling bin by the burial ground – there has been no progress or new suggestions from the Council. An electoral issue for 2022 perhaps? The Society will keep trying to get the bin moved.

Local Policing – the local police panel is going through change with more street representatives being appointed and a new handbook & TOR. In future, it has been mandated that street and other types of violence would be the number 1 priority for all areas with the other two priorities being selected by the panel. Resourcing remains an issue amidst concerns about split priorities and extraction to other duties. The Society was unable to attend the last SPN but has asked about the resourcing of the e-scooter trial and its enforcement, the justification for sending a large number of officers to attend a Herne Hill incident involving one person and the MPS response to the ongoing harassment and abuse incidents arising from the Dulwich LTNs.

Alastair Hanton – we will be publishing an obituary in the journal and there will be a memorial service, but the Society would like to do something further to mark the passing of Alastair, if possible related to his interests such as active travel. A blue plaque has been proposed but blue plaque voting is currently in abeyance, other suggestions include a statue or special bike stands. It was agreed we would discuss the matter at the next Executive. In the meantime, JP will ask the family what they might like by way of a memorial.

History of Dulwich Park books - there is a stock of 500 copies of "History of Dulwich Park" books at Rosebery Lodge. It was agreed we would purchase 100 copies @ 50p a copy and issue a copy as part of the new members' pack. The £50 will be paid to Dulwich Park Friends. Action: IMCl

Tree Map – no further progress at this stage.

Post Cart – KW has a plan to move the post cart from its current location to a garage in Burbage Road. He intends to wheel the cart manually on a sunny Saturday to coincide with the "Dulwich Square" musical events. The cart will be stationed in Dulwich Square during the entertainment and will then be moved to its new location. KW has prepared a batch of postcards to hand out to onlookers encouraging people to join the Society. No date yet but not before the beginning of August as the Square entertainments do not have permission to start before then. KW also has an idea to park the cart in one of the local restaurants as an alternative. IMCl suggested it might be helpful to get a team together to move the cart and that a date was needed. Action: KW to keep IMCl and Exec informed of his plans.

Date of next meeting – Late September (date to be confirmed) – Zoom meeting, details to be confirmed.

Sue Badman, Secretary – The Dulwich Society

2021 Meetings - 2021 Meeting Dates: Late September 2021 (tbc – on Zoom), 15 November 2021 (in-person)

Appendix 1

Executive Committee - Register of Interests (as of 12 July 2021)

Ian McInnes – Member of Dulwich Village and Dulwich Wood Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panels;
Son Tim McInnes is Chair of the Herne Hill Velodrome Trust.

Diana McInnes - Son Tim McInnes is Chair of the Herne Hill Velodrome Trust.

David Beamish – Parish of St Barnabas, Dulwich (Deputy Churchwarden); Dulwich Deanery Synod (Hon. Secretary); Southwark Diocesan Synod (Member); Member of the Southwark Diocesan Council of Trustees and Vice-Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance; Volunteer at Dulwich Picture Gallery; Dulwich & District U3A Committee Member; Volunteer at Dulwich Village Infants School.

Adrian Hill – Camberwell & District Allotment Society; Stradella and Springfield Residents' Association (Committee Member); Friends of Crystal Palace Subway (DS rep); Abbeyfield Dulwich Society Ltd (Trustee and Executive Committee Member).

Harry Winter – Vice-Chair, Herne Hill Forum; Member of “Mums for Lungs”; Safe Routes to School (attendee); Springfield and Stradella RA (Committee member responsible for Environment).

Penny Stern – Chair of Frank Dixon Way/Close RA

For information: The Trees Sub-Committee has memberships of The Woodland Trust and Dulwich Park Friends.