

Dulwich Society Executive 538th Meeting Monday 15th November 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom videoconference

Attendees:

President

Kenneth Wolfe

Officers

James Thompson – Chair

Sue Badman– Vice-Chair (from 8.30pm)

Heather Stubbs– Secretary

Russell Lloyd – Treasurer

Committee Members

Diana McInnes - Membership Secretary

Sharon O'Connor - Communications and Media

Brian Green - Journal Editor

Sub-Committee Chairs

David Beamish – Trees

Patsy Bramble – Licensing

Ian McInnes– Local History

Jeremy Prescott – Gardens

Penny Stern – Planning and Architecture

Peter Roseveare – (Co-opted Member) Wildlife

1. Apologies

Harry Winter – Travel and Environment; Sue Badman to join the meeting at 8.30pm

2. Register of Interests

See Appendix 1. There were no additional Declarations of Interest.

It was noted that it was not necessary to declare attendance at the Friends of Dulwich Square AGM as an observer or being on their mailing list for information purposes only but being on the mailing list as a member or membership of their Management Committee should be declared. The Friends of Dulwich Square is an Amenity Society, so there is some duplication with DS, but as it is not a campaigning society, membership of the Friends of Dulwich Square does not compromise the impartiality of members of the DS Executive Committee in relation to the LTN.

Action: JT to check with relevant DS sub-committee chairs that members of the Management Committee of the Friends of Dulwich Square declare their interest.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The Minutes were agreed with one amendment. The final paragraph of Section 9 Consultation and Planning to be amended to:

“HW noted that a variety of DS members had raised concerns regarding the display of green and white campaign boards and had asked the Dulwich Society to discuss the consistent application of SoM rules with the Dulwich Estate.

Action: SB to raise this with Dulwich Estate”

Action: HS to amend the Minutes and email to JT for signing.

4. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

- Postcard: KW is completing work on the post card prior to moving it to the Post Office in Alleyn Park.

Action: KW to inform the Committee of the date for moving the post card to the Post Office so arrangements can be made for volunteers to move it.

- Charity Commission: HS has updated the list of Trustees on the Charity Commission website and uploaded the Annual Return and Accounts for 2020.
- Stocks Stone: This is now in its temporary location in the Burial Ground. SB has circulated a photo. It was agreed that a permanent location in the wall of an Aquinna house was not appropriate and that the future location and safekeeping of the stone should be discussed by the Local History Sub-Committee in liaison with SB.

Action: The Local History Committee to make recommendations on the future of the Stocks Stone.

- DMcl, SB and SO’C have identified suitable well-ventilated rooms at Bell House for when the Committee is ready to meet in person.

5. DS Matters

a) Chair’s Report

The Chair’s Report was received.

- Adoption of Telephone Box – JT has taken this forward with Southwark and DE. DE has approved the adoption and Southwark is looking at listed building consent but this should not delay the purchase. BT will maintain power to the site for a minimum of 7 years. A local resident has offered funding towards a defibrillator (which must meet certain standards to be approved as a Community Public Access Defibrillator and to be registered by LAS). Paint for the phone box has also been donated. SO’C has produced a map of defibrillators in Dulwich for the website and notice board. DB said that defibrillators indicated on the map at St Barnabas Church and Hall are not in place. SO’C will check all locations. The approximate cost of the project is £2000 + VAT and some ongoing maintenance costs. It was agreed JT should sign the contract with BT for the purchase of the phone box.

Action: JT to sign contract with BT. SO’C to check that defibrillators on the map are in place.

- Safer Neighbourhood Panel – JT said that as Chair of DS he is automatically a member of the SNP

- Southwark Council – JT has made a request for DS to be a stakeholder in the co-design process for the section of the public realm situated at the junction of Calton Avenue with Dulwich Village and Court Lane that is currently closed to motor vehicle traffic (hereinafter for the purposes of these minutes called “Dulwich Square”). JT attended a Southwark Climate Change conference at which the main issues were electric vehicle charging points and domestic renewable heating solutions in conservation areas.

Action: JT to bring recommendations for how to manage DS’s input into co-design process for Dulwich Square to the next meeting.

- DE Advisory Committee – There are currently 2 representatives from DS and 2 from Residents Associations. At the end of this year, one DS representative and one from an RA will step down and be replaced by new representatives on two year tenures. SB is stepping down as DS representative at the end of 2021 and will be replaced by JT who steps down as an RA representative. JP remains as a DS representative for a further year.
- Friends of Dulwich Square AGM – this was attended by JT as an observer.

b) Vice Chair’s Report

The Vice Chair’s Report was received.

c) Rules Review

PB has sent draft recommendations for the Rules Review to the Chair and Vice Chair.

Action: PB, JT, SB and Hugh Bramble to meet to consider the recommendations and report back to the Executive Committee.

d) Society Events

A number of Local History talks have been scheduled up till May and the Gardens Committee has planned talks, a coach trip and local visits.

Other events under consideration include: An event linked to Dulwich Festival, a social event following the AGM in April, event(s) to mark the 60th anniversary of DS in 2023. A tree was planted in Dulwich Picture Gallery Garden to mark the 25th anniversary and there were plaques to mark the 50th.

Colin Niven’s retirement as President had been marked by a speech at the party for Committee Members in September and a piece in the Journal.

Action: All Committee Members to consider events linked to Dulwich Festival in 2022 and the Society’s 60th anniversary in 2023.

6. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s report was received. There is a balance of £8,746 in the Barclay’s Account and £49,202 in the COIF account.

Action: RL to add JT and remove IMCl from bank mandates.

7. Consideration of Applications for Society Grants

The updated list of grants and donations for 2021 was received. JP reported that £1,138 has now been donated to Sydenham Woods for work on the bridge over the Ambrook.

IMCl asked for approval for expenditure of up to £500 on new information signs at Sunray Gardens and the Tollgate for which provision has already been made. This was agreed.

Action: IMCl to initiate installation of information boards at Sunray Gardens and Tollgate.

Alastair Hanton tribute – It was suggested that the phone box/defibrillator could be dedicated to Alastair Hanton with a plaque. JP said the family are still considering the tribute and he would put this proposal to them. If the phone box is not dedicated as a tribute to Alastair, it could be used to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee or DS's 60th anniversary.

Action: JP to discuss the phone box as a possible tribute to Alastair Hanton with the family.

8. Communications and Media

SO'C said the eNewsletter is read by a high percentage of members. She will provide reports on take-up when the new website is in place and will establish a benchmark prior to this. With DMCl's assistance she has identified members who have not provided an email address and will produce a flyer to deliver to their houses encouraging them to provide an email address so they can receive the eNewsletter. DB agreed to assist with this in his area. The Graphic Designer has been commissioned to work on the new logo and is expected to report back in a couple of weeks.

Action: SO'C to establish benchmark for website hits. SO'C /DB to leaflet members not on email.

9. Licensing and Events

PB said Megan's has applied to open a branch in Lordship Lane with the same licensing hours and opening hours as the Dulwich Village branch. It was agreed there is no requirement for DS to make any representation about this.

PB reminded the Committee she is the only member of the Licensing and Events Sub-Committee and constitutionally there should be at least 2.

Action: All members to consider possible recruits for the Licensing and Events Sub-Committee.

10. Consultation/Planning

PS had circulated a list of planning applications. There were only 10 during the relevant period.

DE's newly appointed consultant surveyor had attended the sub-committee meeting and it had been useful to talk through the issues with him. It had been suggested that the guidelines are amended to include retrofit.

PS said the sub-committee is supportive of an application for an ATM in West Dulwich but only if this is part of a building rather than freestanding.

There have been recent applications for secondary glazing, internal insulation and solar panels at Dulwich Library, but insufficient information has been supplied.

JT said DE has now agreed a 2 stage planning application process whereby final approval is withheld until the work is satisfactorily completed. This will be implemented in January. It was agreed this should be publicised by DS to make enforcement easier.

Action: PS to speak to Nina to agree timing of DS publicity on 2 stage process and report back to JT.

11. Travel & Environment

HW had reported there had been no further meetings or actions by the T&E Committee as the recent changes are still subject to formal consultation.

It was reported by several members that there had been a significant reduction in the train services from London Bridge to North Dulwich and Victoria to Herne Hill, particularly in the evenings when there was sometimes over an hour between trains.

Action: HW to raise the issue of the deteriorating train services with the relevant agencies

Santander bicycles: There was support for Santander bicycle schemes at stations but further consideration is required regarding its appropriateness in Dulwich Square.

12. Local History Sub-Committee

IMCl's report on the Local History Sub-Committee was received.

It was noted that there are 5 new books on the local area including East Dulwich, Herne Hill and IMCl's new book.

Action: BG to review all the books on Dulwich in the Spring Journal.

SB joined the meeting

13. Gardens Sub-Committee

JP's report on the Gardens Sub-Committee was received

14. Wildlife Sub-Committee

PR's report on the Wildlife Sub-Committee was received.

PR said the first formal meeting would take place tomorrow. There are some new members and they will review the terms and aims of the Sub-Committee.

PR said the Wildlife, Gardens and Trees Sub-Committee should work more closely together on topics such as re-wilding, hedges in Gallery Road and the loss of songbirds. JP and DB welcomed this suggestion.

The distribution of birdboxes and batboxes was recommended. This could be an initiative for the Platinum Jubilee.

PS reported a tree felled by DE in Frank Dixon Way with no prior notice.

Actions: Wildlife, Gardens and Trees Sub-Committees to consider ways of working more closely together. PS to send JP a note on the tree felling, so it can be raised at DE Advisory Committee. DB and JP to raise the issue of tree felling with Oliver Stutter and Simon Hall when they meet. PR and JP to send signed Minutes of their Sub-Committees to HS.

15. Trees Sub-Committee

DB's report on the Trees Sub-Committee was received.

DB was pleased to report that the newly planted tree within the Mark Evison bench in Dulwich Village does not require a cage so the bench can be replaced quickly.

It was noted that Glynis Williams has been a member of the Trees Sub-Committee for 40 years. It was agreed that other members who have not been active for some time and who have not responded to the request for Declaration of Interests should be removed from the membership of the Committee.

Action: DB to let DMCI know the final membership of the Trees Sub-Committee.

16. Dulwich Estate Advisory Committee

This item was covered in the Chair's report.

17. Other Dulwich issues and points from Sub-Committee Reports, AOB

a) LTN Demonstration Article

JT has received 4 emails of complaint and SB has received one telephone complaint about the eNewsletter article regarding the LTN demonstration on 16 October 2021. One of the complainants has resigned from DS. JT has replied to all the emails. The event and the associated anti-social behaviour were discussed at the last committee meeting and the subsequent article had been carefully considered by an editorial team before publication and the Committee felt that the demonstration was reported on fairly and was consistent with reporting of other demonstrations both for and against the LTN. The Committee agreed that the eNewsletter is balanced in its reporting and an excellent read.

b) Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022

The Dulwich Village roundabout was discussed as a possible location to mark the Platinum Jubilee, but the memorial there was refurbished a few years ago and it is impossible to get water there to create a fountain.

Action: All members to continue to consider ways in which the Platinum Jubilee could be marked.

c) Recycling Bin at Burial Ground

Electrical goods continue to be left in the surrounding area and the burial ground. Councillors and the MP have spoken to Southwark about this to no avail.

Action: JT/SB to raise the matter again with Councillors

d) Alastair Hanton Blue Plaque

SB reported that the application to Southwark for a blue plaque for Alastair Hanton is eligible for reconsideration next year.

e) Edward Alleyn Statue Security

The statue is insured for £70,000. Smartwater marking (£60pa), cameras and a 3D scan (£3k) were discussed. A previous camera had not worked well but technology may now be improved.

Action: SB to seek security advice from the Police and Dulwich Picture Gallery and obtain a quote for a 3D scan (including costs of creating a new mould) and explore camera options.

f) White Posts

SB reported that a number of white posts in Dulwich Village have fallen down and BG reported one being knocked down by a car. Some white posts are maintained by Southwark and some by DE. DS has made donations in the past to assist. It was agreed we could offer to do so again (for a time limited period). It was suggested we could consider linking such an offer to action on the Recycling Bin.

Action: JT to speak to Southwark and DE about maintenance of white posts.

18. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 10th January at 7.30pm. Location to be decided.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

Heather Stubbs, Secretary – The Dulwich Society

J C Thompson

10/01/2022

Appendix 1

Executive Committee - Register of Interests (as of 15 November 2021)

Kenneth Wolfe (President) – Member of the Friends of Dulwich Square

James Thompson (Chair):

- Amenity society member of the Advisory Committee of the Scheme of Management of The Dulwich Estate
- Member of the Safer Neighbourhood Panel of Dulwich Village
- Chairman of the committee of the Stradella and Springfield Residents Association (Stradella and Winterbrook Roads and parts of Burbage Road and Half Moon Lane)
- Honorary Independent Examiner of the Dulwich Festival
- Anne, my spouse, is the Bursar of Herne Hill School

Heather Stubbs (Secretary) – Member of Dulwich Picture Gallery Friends Advisory Panel and organiser of Walks and Tours for Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery

Ian McInnes – 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.

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

Patsy Bramble – Member of Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Forum

Penny Stern – Chair of Frank Dixon Way & Close RA

Sharon O’Connor – Trustee of Bell House

Sue Badman and Jeremy Prescott - Dulwich Society-nominated members of the Advisory Committee of the Scheme of Management of the Dulwich Estate

For Information The Trees Sub-Committee has membership of The Woodland Trust and Dulwich Park Friends.