Dulwich Society Executive 549th Meeting Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm at Bell House

Attendees:

Officers
James Thompson – Chair
Russell Lloyd – Treasurer
Heather Stubbs– Secretary

Sub-Committee Chairs
David Beamish - Trees
Patsy Bramble - Licensing
Jeremy Prescott - Gardens
Penny Stern - Planning and Architecture
Claire Richards - Journal Co-Editor

1. Apologies
   Kenneth Wolfe - President
   Sue Badman - Vice-Chair
   Diana McInnes - Membership Secretary
   Ian McInnes - Local History and Journal Co-Editor
   Peter Roseveare - Wildlife
   Harry Winter - Travel & Environment

2. Register of Interests

   David Beamish has resigned as Chair of Dulwich and District U3A

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

   The Minutes of 10th July 2023 were approved and signed by JT.

   Action: HS to post the Minutes on the website.

4. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

   Item 4) Internal Controls

   Action: the Treasurer to respond to action points in Minutes of 13th March

   Item 5k) Lone Volunteers Policy - it was noted that this policy will satisfy insurers that we are reducing risks for volunteers.

   Action: JT will circulate the Lone Volunteers Policy to Journal deliverers

5. To note Executive Committee approval of the minutes of the AGM on 24th April 2023

The Minutes of the AGM on 24th April 2023 have been approved by the Executive Committee by email and posted on the website.

6. DS Matters

a) Chair's Report

The Chair's Report was received.

Rules -The consultation on draft new Rules has been publicised on the website and in eNews and the Journal, but no comments have been received to date. Following an approach from the Chair, a member with relevant experience, Tristan Honeyborne, has agreed to comment on the draft Rules. The deadline for comments is 23rd October and an open meeting for members at Bell House is scheduled for 12th October.

Streets for People Phase 3 - JT is in communication with relevant individuals in the Council, DE and Helen Hayes MP to ensure high quality public realm design for Dulwich Square and has proposed that plans are reviewed by Southwark's Design Review Committee. Southwark still expects the Phase 3 consultation to commence this autumn.

IT – A "Welcome to Dulwich" webpage is planned for people new to the area and will be developed with estate agents who advertise in the Journal although there will be no estate agent branding. Some estate agents have agreed to distribute copies of the Journal to new buyers/tenants.

Action: CR to include a QR code and more information on membership in the Journal

Travel & Environment Sub-committee -JT reported that Harry Winter has expressed the wish to resign as Chair of the T&E Sub-committee due to work commitments. JT has held individual discussions with the T&E Chair and almost all members of the Sub-committee, and in the light of these discussions, JT recommended that:

- The T&E Sub-committee is wound up.
- A new Sub-committee, with a new remit (including environment and sustainability, public transport and home energy efficiency issues), a new Chair and a new name, will be launched.
- Members will be appointed, including some members of the existing Sub-committee whose expertise corresponds to the new terms of reference.

Following discussion of the remit of the proposed new Sub-committee and the need for it to work closely with the Planning and Architecture Sub-committee, Executive Committee unanimously approved these proposals.

Action: JT to work, with the help of Laurie Johnston, to draft terms of reference for the new Sub-committee and recruit members with appropriate expertise. Aim to have the new Sub-committee constituted before the next AGM. JT to invite LJ to the next Executive Committee meeting.

Southwark Land Commission meeting – JT is attending on 12th September

Dulwich Estate – JP reported an issue with the new DE Portal which prevented residents setting up or accessing an account.

b) Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair's report was received.

Aquinna - PS reported that there has been no interest in the wheelchair accessible unit and Aquinna is seeking to drop the requirement for this unit.

Grove Tavern – Stonegate is not communicating with Southwark or DE so the lease may not be ceded until its termination in 2025. In the meantime, DE is developing a master plan and a site has been identified for the skateboarders, who are putting a business plan together.

Fencing on South Circular/Gallery Road -DE has requested further information about the shortcomings.

Action: JP to supply photographs or video of problem areas on South Circular/Gallery Road

Peckham Town Football Club (PTFC) - PS reported that in order to move up the league, PTFC need to upgrade their facilities, including floodlighting and improvements to the stands. PS said DS would make no objections in principle but would wish to see limits on the hours of the floodlighting, stands which are as discreet as possible (e.g. green rather than red and blue), better planting and landscaping, a bat survey and a public consultation. DS has offered to arrange a room for this. SB and Sharon O'Connor have offered to assist.

North Parade development – PS said that DE's planning application has been approved.

Golf Club proposals – PS said there is likely to be a feasibility study.

c) Streets for People - Phase 3

JT said that DS is endeavouring to ensure that plans for Dulwich Square are compatible with DE's plans for North Parade. Southwark is developing traffic proposals and will issue to DS ahead of publication.

d) Streets for People – Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs)

SB had circulated comments she had collected from members of Executive Committee, Sub-committees and other members regarding the proposed CPZs, with particular emphasis on how these could address the needs of Blue Badge holders, older residents, parents, tradespeople and shop and restaurant owners and the Dulwich Picture Gallery, as well as preserving the heritage appearance of the area.

It was noted that there was a legal challenge to the proposals from a group of local residents who had taken expert legal advice.

Following discussion it was agreed that:

Action:

- **All members to forward any further comments on the CPZs to SB as soon as possible.**
- **PB to provide further information on the legal position.**

- **JT/SB to draft a letter to the Council, requesting an assurance on the legal status of the proposals and setting out the comments and recommendations of members as to the operation of the CPZs.**

- **JT/SB to circulate the draft letter to the Council to Executive Committee prior to issue to Southwark.**

e) North Parade Proposals/Tulip Tree

North Parade proposals were dealt with under a previous item. The Tulip Tree has been fixed temporarily on the Estate side pending new plans.

f) Charity Commission Annual Return

HS now has all the information required to submit the CC Annual Return.

Action: HS to submit CC Annual Return by the deadline of 31 October 2023.

g) Rules Review

This item was dealt with under the Chair's Report.

h) 60th Anniversary Party – Publication of History Boards

DB congratulated those involved in planning the 60th Anniversary Party which had been a very successful event.

The History Boards displayed at the 60th anniversary party had received many positive comments and requests for them to be published more widely. Accordingly, they will form a central section of the Winter Journal, replacing some of the history pages to reduce the environmental impact and cost.

Action: HS/IMcI/CR to oversee the publication of the history boards in the Winter Journal.

i) Society Events

(i) A Fungus Walk by Daniel Greenwood is planned for 5th November. In response to a request in the Trees Report, a payment of £150 to Daniel Greenwood was agreed.

(ii) An opening ceremony for the Cox's Walk Listening Post will take place on Sunday 24th September at 11am. This has been promoted via eNews and Journal.

Action: JP to trim foliage next to the Listening Post. A volunteer is sought to cover graffiti in the area with black or dark green spray paint.

j) Membership

The Membership Report was received.

8 new members have joined in the last 2 months. Recruitment is always low at this time of year as prospective members wait for the 3 free months in October.

All but 4 of the almost 100 new members this year have joined via the website.

It was agreed that membership fees would need to increase in the future in line with inflation and that a campaign to encourage existing members to transfer to direct debit should wait until this happens.

Methods of recruiting new members were discussed including: QR codes on Information Boards; advertising in SE21/SE22/Dulwich Diverter/East Dulwich Forum; Welcome to Dulwich initiative with estate agents; stalls at local fairs and Dulwich Festival events, possibly jointly with Dulwich Park Friends.

Action: JT to work with Sharon O'Connor on the recruitment of a volunteer Development Director.

k) Editorial Committee/Journal

CR reported that the Editorial Committee was proving helpful in suggesting content for the Journal.

l) Archiving Policy

HS has circulated the final version of the Archiving Policy together with an action plan.

Action: HS to save all Executive Committee, AGM, SGM Minutes, Agendas, Reports, Annual Reports and Accounts since 2015 to the Dulwich Society hard drive, investigate means of digitising earlier documents and storing hard copies of older documents.

All Sub-committee Chairs and Officers to keep the website updated with minutes and email any documents for the DS hard drive to HS. RL to investigate storage of Accounts prior to 2015.

m) To review our current Reserves Policy

It was unanimously agreed in line with a proposal from JP and RL that the current Reserves Policy of retaining 12 months of normal expenditure (currently £23k) and a further £10k to cover unplanned major projects should be amended to retaining 9 months of normal expenditure (15k in 2022) plus £10k for unplanned major projects. In practice, the reserve is always exceeded, and the new figure of 9 months will enable the Committee to finance more projects. SB had asked for assurance that the reserve would cover maintenance of assets such as statues and benches and it was confirmed that this was the case.

Action: HS to post new Reserves Policy on the website.

n) Dulwich Society Expenditure Approval Guidelines

Following a project overspend, JT had asked JP to develop new guidelines for approving expenditure. The proposed new guidelines are similar to current practice, which has generally worked well, drawing on the expertise of Executive Committee members. The proposed new Expenditure Approval Guidelines include safeguards to ensure that overspends are anticipated and prevented where possible. New capital or revenue projects should be approved at an Executive Committee meeting, or where time does not allow this, by email, by at least two thirds of those present or responding. In future, the Treasurer will prepare a draft budget for discussion at the January Executive Committee meeting.

The proposed new Expenditure Approval Guidelines were unanimously agreed by the Committee.

m) Proposed Dates for Executive Committee and AGM 2024

The circulated dates were agreed as follows with the exception of Monday 6th May which is a Bank Holiday, so the meeting will now be held on Monday 13th May. The agreed dates for Executive Committee/AGM 2024 are:

- Monday 15th January
- Monday 11th March
- Monday 13th May
- Monday 20th May (AGM)
- Monday 8th July
- Monday 16th September
- Monday 18th November

Action: HS to circulate the final dates for 2024

7. Communications and Media Report

The Communications and Media Report from Sharon O'Connor was received.

Sharon O'Connor was commended for her most excellent work in media and communications for the Society.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Reports were received.

RL reported that the Society has £44k in funds, but noted that this is likely to decrease due to forthcoming expenditure on the Listening Post and other items.

9. Consideration of Applications for Society Grants

The Grants List for September 2023 was received and approved.

It was noted that:

a) The Chair had approved an additional £1000 expenditure on the Cox's Walk Listening Post (total cost £2,750), due to additional costs for the post and recording. An urgent decision had been required due to a recording studio booking and advertised opening ceremony. The Committee approved the additional expenditure of £1000.

b) The Committee had decided by email exchange not to approve a grant to the Resilient Dulwich Development Phase Project, but wish to be kept informed of developments.

c) The Committee has decided not to donate to the LWT fundraising initiative for Sydenham Hill Wood/Dulwich Wood improvements at this stage, having donated £5k last year.

d) The Committee approved a donation of £250 to the Bell House Pottery in recognition of its value to the local community.

Action: RL to organise payment of £250 to Bell House Pottery Crowdfunding Appeal.

10. Other Dulwich Issues and Points from Sub-committee Reports

    Reports were received from Licensing and Events, Planning and Architecture, Local History, Gardens, Wildlife and Trees. There was no report from the Travel & Environment Sub-committee.

    CR asked for an update on the Green Dale Wildlife Project.

    Action: PR to update CR on the Greendale Wildlife Project

11. Dulwich Estate

    JT said the next DE SoM Advisory Committee is on 21st November and asked for any comments on agenda items well in advance of this.

    JT and SB attend surgeries with DE every two months. Updates from the September surgery are in the Vice Chair's Report.

12. AOB

    There was no other business

13. Date of Next Meeting:

    Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Macandrew Room at Bell House

The meeting ended at 9.50pm

Heather Stubbs, Secretary

Signed: ***James Thompson*** **Date: 13th November 2023**

(James Thompson, Chair)

Appendix 1

Executive Committee - Register of Interests (as of 11 September 2023)

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

James Thompson (Chair):

Dulwich Society nominated 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

Sue Badman (Vice Chair) - Safeguarding Officer and Member of Parochial Church Council, St Simon Zelotes, Chelsea, SW3; also member of Chelsea Safeguarding Group; Teacher of English as a Second Language (Chelsea – part of All Souls Church Free English group); Member of "Re-imagining Herne Hill" working group (Part of the Herne Hill Forum); Member/Attendee of Dulwich Village Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel.

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, Vice-Chair of the Parochial Church Council; Dulwich Deanery Synod (Member); Southwark Diocesan Synod (Member); Member of the Southwark Diocesan Council of Trustees and Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance; Volunteer at Dulwich Picture Gallery; Volunteer at Dulwich Village Infants School.

Harry Winter - Safe Routes to School (DS Rep); Stradella and Springfield RA (Committee member responsible for Environment).

Patsy Bramble – Member of Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Forum

Peter Roseveare is a member of the Burbage Road Residents Association.

Penny Stern – Chair of Frank Dixon Way & Close RA; Dulwich Society-nominated member of the Advisory Committee of the Scheme of Management of the Dulwich Estate

Jeremy Prescott - Wife is a committee member of the Dulwich Park Friends.

Claire Richards - Chair of Lambeth Wind Orchestra and a member of Dulwich Symphony Orchestra.

For Information

The Dulwich Society is a member of the London Forum. The Trees Sub-Committee has membership of The Woodland Trust and Dulwich Park Friends. The Dulwich Society through the Gardens Sub-committee has affiliated society membership of the Royal Horticultural Society