

Minutes of the meeting of the Dulwich Society Tree Committee held on Thursday 5 January 2023.

Present: David Beamish (Chair), Mary Poole-Wilson, Glynis Williams.

An apology was received from Patricia Hole.

Declaration of interests: Members' declared interests are recorded in an appendix.

The **minutes** of the meeting on held on 20 October 2022 were approved with the correction of a typo.

Matters arising:

The Chair had circulated an update note covering the rest of the agenda.

Tree walks: Despite wet weather, the tree walk led by Daniel Greenwood in Dulwich Park on 23 October had been very successful. It was agreed that another walk should be arranged for 2023 and that Daniel should be invited to lead it.

Planting a tree to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II: At the October meeting of the Tree Committee enthusiasm had been expressed for a Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*). Subsequently we had been advised that this species was relatively short lived, and it was suggested that a disease-resistant elm would be preferable.

It was agreed that the Chair would recommend a disease-resistant elm to the Executive Committee.

It was suggested that John Welton could be invited to plant the tree (at a suitable event).

Tree articles for the Dulwich Society Journal: Tree articles had appeared in each recent issue of the Dulwich Society Journal, most recently a piece by the Chair on deciduous conifers (*Taxodium distichum* and *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) in the Winter 2022 Journal.

The following topics were proposed for future articles:

- Mimosa (*Acacia dealbata*) (article by the Chair for the Spring 2023 Journal)
- Crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) (article by Glynis Williams for the Autumn 2023 Journal)
- Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) (article by Mary Poole-Wilson for a Winter Journal)
- Mulberry (possible article, but black mulberry was the subject of a 2009 article)
- Stag's horn sumach (*Rhus typhina*) (article by the Chair)

It was noted that two tupelo trees had recently been planted locally; in due course this tree might also be suitable for an article.

Membership of the Tree Committee: An approach to Mark Lane inviting him to rejoin the Committee had led to a helpful reply but polite refusal as he is moving away. It was suggested that Patricia Hole might know of possible new members. The Chair agreed to raise with the Executive Committee the possibility of advertising (probably in the Society's eNewsletter) for volunteers.

Oaks near the Cox's Walk footbridge: The threatened oaks had been saved thanks to a revised plan produced by Southwark Council for making safe the footbridge. The latest development appeared to be a planning application for "The installation of a temporary access service ramp with associated remediation and mitigation for the loss of trees".

Tree maps: At the previous meeting it had been proposed that maps of the Old Burial Ground and Long Meadow should be updated. Glynis Williams explained that all previous tree committee maps were clerically drawn, so needed to be recreated digitally, as well as

being updated. It was agreed that initially David Beamish would seek to produce a digital map of the Old Burial Ground, and Glynis Williams lent her copies of previous maps for scanning. Glynis would seek links to other local tree maps for inclusion on the Society website.

Any other business: Patricia Hole had sent an email as follows to the Chair:

Two points to mentions:

—Long Meadow now looks to have plenty of trees in particular as new oak saplings are growing near the older oak trees. Most new trees look as if they survived the drought last summer and I will look again when spring comes.

—The Council have planted three conifer trees at the Hunts Slip Road end of Bowen Drive. There had been a deciduous tree there but it was knocked down by a car. The trees look great and are obviously appreciated since they have been decorated for Christmas! I have emailed the councillors to ask them to thank whoever planted the trees.

As regards Long Meadow, Glynis Williams noted that the lack of mowing at the upper end of Long Meadow was allowing saplings to predominate rather than wild flowers, and wondered whether they should be thinned to avoid turning that part of the meadow into an oak woodland, which was not our intention when we requested that it be left unmown.

Next meeting: Thursday 27 April 2023 at 5pm.

Declarations of interest

David Beamish: Chair, Dulwich & District u3a. Volunteer, Dulwich Picture Gallery. Member, Dulwich Park Friends. Member, Woodland Trust.

Patricia Hole: No relevant interests.

Mary Poole-Wilson: No relevant interests.

Sam Taylor: Employed by London Wildlife Trust as manager, Sydenham Hill Wood.

Glynis Williams: No relevant interests.