



Dulwich Society 557th Trustee Meeting

Monday 20th January 2025 at Bell House

Attendees:

President

Kenneth Wolfe

Officers

James Thompson – Chair

Sue Badman - Vice-Chair

Russell Lloyd – Treasurer

Heather Stubbs– Secretary

Activity Group Chairs

Patsy Bramble – Licensing

Laurie Johnston – Environment

Ian McInnes – Local History

Jeremy Prescott - Gardens

Peter Roseveare – Wildlife

Penny Stern – Planning & Architecture

Christine Brandon – Membership Secretary

Sharon O'Connor – Communications and Media Lead

Claire Richards - Journal Editor

Richard Wingfield – Development

1. Apologies

None. Claire Richards to join the meeting late

2. Register of Interests

Claire Richards is Secretary of the Herne Hill Music Festival.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of 18th November 2024 were approved for signature by JT.

Action: HS to post the approved minutes of 18th November on the website.

4. Matters Arising

Minute 5c) The planting of pines at the Calton Avenue Junction has been queried. The Chair has asked Southwark for a full planting list.

5. DS Matters

a) Chair's Report

The Chair's Report was received.

Streets for People Phase 3: The Chair said that he is aware of very positive feedback on the development of the public realm at the Calton Avenue Junction.

Estate Issues: The Chair expressed concern at the reduction in meetings of the Dulwich Estate Advisory Committee from 3 to 2 per annum without consultation, particularly as the meeting to be removed is the Summer meeting where the budgetary basis for charging is considered.

Action: RW to draft a letter to DE on behalf of Trustees expressing concern about the reduction in Advisory Committee meetings.

Richard Wingfield has been briefed on his role as Dulwich Society representative on the Dulwich Estate Advisory Committee taking over from James Thompson, who has completed his term of office.

Women and Politics: Ticket sales are going well and a meeting with Alleyn's (the venue) is scheduled to discuss the pupil workshop and promotion of the event with parents at Alleyn's and other schools involved.

SGM follow-up: There has been no further correspondence.

3rd Party meetings: Useful meetings have been held with Beth Ambrose, Sustainability Manager at DE, and Ellie Reeves, MP for Lewisham West and East Dulwich, among others. Ellie Reeves was well-briefed on the poor postal service in the area and asked for complainants to send her their postmarked envelopes.

Action: LJ to invite Beth Ambrose to an Environment Group meeting.

b) Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair's report and list of issues discussed with the Dulwich Estate at a surgery on 2 December were received.

SB provided an overview of local issues including:

- No movement on the Grove Tavern.
- The DE has confirmed that staffing levels are almost back on track.
- The DE will permit Majestic West Dulwich to install bike stands but parking of e-bikes such as Lime is not permitted
- SB will arrange a meeting with DE regarding security for the Edward Alleyn statue.
- DE has emphasised that residents' surgeries are not for the discussion of decisions made by the Scheme of Management Managers. Queries about SoM Managers' decisions should be raised with the SoM Office.
- SB is working on a list of Society assets. JP offered to assist.

Action: PS and RW to ask the SoM Advisory Committee what action residents should take if unhappy with a SoM decision, as the process is not clear.

c) Streets for People - Phase 3

This was discussed under item 5a)

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

It was reported that multiple tickets had been issued in Calton Avenue following implementation of the CPZ which is limited to school hours. Vans are out in force. For the initial period tickets are not enforced but are issued as a warning.

Action: SB to contact Councillor Margy Newens about the size and placement of the CPZ signs in Calton Avenue as, although complying with national standards, they are easy to miss.

e) Hunts Slip Road Works

It was noted that there are lamp-posts in the cycle lane causing cyclists to pull into the pedestrian space. A sign saying the cycle lane is not operational has been there for 3 months. Parking bays are variable in size and below the recommended size of 2.4 metres. If cars are parked in the bays it is impossible for 2 cars to pass each other. Dangerous driving by those dropping off has been observed. Concern was expressed that child cyclists cannot easily cross the road.

Action: JT to raise areas of concern with the Dulwich Estate.

f) AGM 19th May 2025

(i) Venue

The AGM will take place at the Crown and Greyhound at 8pm on Monday 19th May.

(ii) Notice of AGM 2025

The draft Notice of the 2025 AGM had been circulated. Some minor amendments were made.

It was noted that following some administrative delays, the new Rules approved at the 2024 AGM have been accepted by the Charity Commission and registered on their website.

Two Special Motions to amend the Constitution were proposed for the agenda at the 2025 AGM as follows:

Special Motion: That clause 9(2)(b) of the Society's Constitution be changed to replace 16 with 18, so that the sub-clause now reads: 9(2)(b)(i) "No-one may be appointed as a charity trustee: (i) if he or she is under the age of 18 years; or"

This change had been discussed at the 2024 AGM and the Trustees had proposed to bring this amendment forward at the next general meeting of the members.

Special Motion: That the final sentence of clause 24(4) (namely: "The amendment does not take effect until it has been recorded in the Register of Charities") be deleted, so that the sub-clause now reads: "A copy of any resolution altering the constitution, together with a copy of the Society's

constitution as amended, must be sent to the Charity Commission within 15 days from the date on which the Resolution is passed.”

This change was recommended by the Charity Commission, as the clause to be removed is not relevant for an unincorporated organisation.

These issues have had no impact on the Society for the past year and the changes will have no impact on the Society.

Both Special Motions for amendment to the Constitution were unanimously approved by the Trustees.

It was noted that in the former Constitution, the President, who was not a Trustee, was re-elected each year at the AGM. There is no longer a formal position of President in the new Constitution, and therefore no requirement for an election to this post at the AGM. It was agreed by Trustees that Kenneth Wolfe, who has served as President for 4 years, should be appointed Honorary President of the Dulwich Society.

Action: The Secretary to amend the Notice of the 2025 AGM in accordance with comments from Trustees and re-circulate for final agreement by 25th January and publication in the Spring Journal.

(iii) Election of Officers and Trustees

In line with the new Rules, the nearest number to one third of Trustees (currently 5) must stand down at each AGM. Heather Stubbs (Secretary) and Jeremy Prescott have both resigned, so the 3 longest serving Trustees, Russell Lloyd (Treasurer), Sue Badman (Vice Chair) and Ian McInnes will also stand down and all three have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. All other Trustees will not be up for re-election.

A draft Nomination Form for Officers and Trustees was circulated and with one minor amendment was approved for use in the election process.

Action: The Secretary to re-circulate the Nomination Form for final comments

(iv) Annual Report for 2024

Action: All Trustees to submit the annual report for 2024 for their area of activity to the Secretary by the end of February. The Treasurer to finalise the draft budget for the year to 31 December 2024. The Secretary to collate the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024 for circulation prior to the Trustee meeting on 17th March and publish the final draft on the website by 12th May.

g) Development/Member Engagement

The Development Report was received.

(i) Strategy Day

RW said he will convene a half-day Strategic Planning event to be held at Bell House, probably in February.

Action: RW to issue a Doodle Poll to identify the best date/time for the Strategy Day.

h) Society Events

(i) Local History Talks

IMcl said a number of local history talks are planned. The online talk on West Norwood Cemetery attracted 69 attendees. 10 walks are being organised for the Dulwich Festival.

(ii) Garden events

A talk on Front Gardens and a coach trip are scheduled.

(iii) Women and Politics

This event will take place on 4th March with a number of distinguished women politicians contributing.

(iv) Possible Meet the Explorers Event with Margaret Evison

No further progress to report.

It was noted that events are a very important element of the Society's work. A further visit to Southwark's waste recycling plant was recommended. A social event for volunteers is planned to take place after the AGM.

i) Membership Report

The Membership report was received.

CB reported that membership stands at 1319 members. A recent leaflet drop and the reduced rate for the Women in Politics event had attracted new members. Some Trustees offered to complete leaflet drops in their areas. **CB has reduced the postal list by 100 members generating a saving of £800pa for the Society.**

j) Editorial Committee/Journal

The Journal Editor's report was received.

CR said she has not received much feedback on the Winter Journal. Another article on front gardens is expected. The Police have asked for a PDF of the article they featured in. An article on heat pumps is needed for a future edition and CR said she would like more input on East Dulwich and Planning.

k) Policy Review

- Privacy Policy – deferred to next meeting.
- Termination of Membership Procedure – It was agreed that there was no further need for a separate Termination of Membership Procedure as it is spelt out in the new Constitution.

Action: HS to remove the Termination of Membership Procedure from the website.

6. Communications and Media Report

The Communications and Media Report was received.

SO'C said the Society has transferred from X (Twitter) to Bluesky. It is harder to retweet now as the Council remains on X (Twitter).

Action: SO'C to encourage members to follow the Society on Bluesky in eNews.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Reports were received.

The Treasurer said the Society has a balance of c £57k following receipt of subscriptions. Donations and grants need to be updated. The draft 2025 budget shows a surplus of £4-5k. No COIF interest has been accounted for yet.

Action: All Trustees to send RL feedback on the draft 2025 budget.

- (i) Review of Internal Controls

Action: RL/JP to circulate the internal financial controls paper to Trustees.

8. Consideration of Applications for Society Grants

- (i) The Grants List for November 2024 was received.
- (ii) The Grants List for YTD January 2025 was received.
- (iii) Sydenham Hill Woods Unite the Woods Project: Sydenham Hill and Dulwich Woods "Reunite the Woods" project has secured National Lottery Heritage Fund funding. The Society will be contributing £5,000 and seeking matched funding from members in the Spring Journal.
- (iv) Kingswood Arts Youth Club and Recording Studio Crowdfunder: A donation of £1,500 to Kingswood Arts Crowdfunder to create a Youth Club and Recording Studio in their basement was agreed.

Action: RL to organise a payment of £1,500 to Kingswood Arts. SO'C to promote the Crowdfunder in eNews and if needed in a mailshot.

- (v) Donation to Barry House for clothes and shoes for residents including children: A proposed donation of £1,000 to Barry House Home Office initial accommodation in East Dulwich was not approved on the grounds that it did not fully align with the Society's objects to enhance amenities for Dulwich, as clothes are a revenue item and could not be defined as amenities. It was also noted that Southwark Asylum Seekers Day Centre and St Barnabas are engaged in work with Barry House and raising funds for them.

Action: HS to seek alternative ways of supporting Barry House. JT to write to Ellie Reeves about facilities at Barry House.

- (vi) Dulwich Picture Gallery Open Art Project: It was noted that the £5,000 donation to the Dulwich Picture Gallery's Open Art project agreed at the November meeting should be attributed to 2024. An article on the donation will appear in the Spring Journal.

Action: RL to organise a payment of £5000 to Dulwich Picture Gallery. HS to draft an article on the donation for the Spring Journal.

9. Wildlife/Trees Group arrangements

The Wildlife Group Report was received. PR had reported that the Wildlife Group is very willing to incorporate trees into the work of the Group and some additional trees expertise has been recruited. It is proposed to rename the group the Natural History Group.

- (i) Planning/Wildlife Group recommendation to object to East Dulwich Sidings development as it impedes the maintenance of a corridor important for the survival of dwindling urban wildlife.

Due to lack of time, further discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

10. Other Dulwich Issues and Points from Activity Group Reports

Reports were received from Planning & Architecture, Local History, Environment, Gardens, and Licensing & Events.

11. Dulwich Estate

This was discussed under previous items. The next DE Surgery will take place in February/March.

12. AOB

The Chair expressed his thanks to Heather Stubbs for her service as Secretary and to Jeremy Prescott for his long service as a Trustee and Chair of the Gardens Group. Both will be stepping down at the AGM. He said they had brought greatly-valued skills and experience to the Society and will be missed. Jeremy, in addition to his chairmanship has had a huge visible impact on Dulwich with his physical work, including the bulb planting. Also his representation of the Society on the SoM Advisory Committee has been exemplary. Heather has been a pillar of good governance and has maintained a calm and ethical approach to the challenges of the role, particularly over the past year.

13. Dates of Next Meetings:

Monday 17 March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Macandrew Room at Bell House.

Monday 12 May 2025 at 7.30pm. Room to be confirmed.

Monday 19 May at 8pm (AGM). Crown and Greyhound Function Room.

Monday 14 July at 7.30pm. Crown and Greyhound Function Room

Monday 15 September at 7.30pm. Crown and Greyhound Function Room.

Monday 17 November at 7.30pm. Crown and Greyhound Function Room.

The meeting ended at 10.10pm

Heather Stubbs, Secretary

January 2025

Signed: James Thompson

Date: 17 March 2025

(James Thompson, Chair)

Appendix 1 Executive Committee - Register of Interests (as of 20th January 2025)

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

James Thompson (Chair) - 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; Lay member of Chelsea Deanery Synod; Teacher of English as a Second Language (Chelsea – part of All Souls Church Free English group); Member/Attendee of Dulwich Village Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel.

Heather Stubbs (Secretary) –Organiser of Walks and Tours for Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery; Member/Attendee of Dulwich Hill Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel

Ian McInnes – Son Tim McInnes is Chair of the Herne Hill Velodrome Trust.

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 Dulwich Park Friends.

Claire Richards - Member of Lambeth Wind Orchestra and a committee member of Dulwich Symphony Orchestra; Secretary of the Herne Hill Music Festival.

Laurie Johnston - Volunteer Chair of Southwark Living Streets; Volunteer Secretary of London Living Streets, the national charity which campaigns for everyday walking and wheeling.

Richard Wingfield - Chair of Southwark Liberal Democrats; Dulwich Society nominated member of the Advisory Committee of the Scheme of Management of The Dulwich Estate

Christine Brandon is vice-chair, publicity officer, events manager and website manager for The Arts Society Dulwich.

For Information

The Dulwich Society is a member of the London Forum. The Wildlife/Trees Group has membership of The Woodland Trust and Dulwich Park Friends. The Dulwich Society through the Gardens Group has affiliated society membership of the Royal Horticultural Society