Dulwich Society 558th Trustee Meeting

Monday 17th March 2025 at Bell House

Attendees:

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

Activity Group Chairs
Laurie Johnston – Environment
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

In attendance: Jane Jones

1. Apologies

   Kenneth Wolfe – Honorary President
   Sue Badman – Vice Chair
   Ian McInnes – Chair Local History
   Patsy Bramble – Chair – Licensing

2. Welcome to Jane Jones

   The Chair welcomed Jane, who has expressed an interest in becoming a Trustee and the role of Secretary, to the meeting. Jane introduced herself by saying that she has lived in various parts of Dulwich for 38 years and has been actively involved with the Dulwich Players. She is also a Zone Co-ordinator for Journal delivery for the Dulwich Society and proof-reads the Quarterly Journal. It was recommended that Jane be co-opted as a Trustee with immediate effect to assist with the handover of the Secretary role and then seek election by the members at the AGM.

3. Register of Interests

   No new interests to declare.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

   The Minutes of 20th January 2025 were approved for signature by JT.

   Action: HS to post the approved minutes of 20th January on the website.

5. Matters Arising

5a) It is proposed that Beth Ambrose, Sustainability Manager at DE, will attend a future Environment Group meeting.

5b) There is a DE Advisory Committee SoM meeting tomorrow (18 March) at which the issue of number of meetings and terms of reference will be raised.

5k) The Chair noted that now that it has been agreed that the Termination of Membership Procedure is no longer required as it is covered in the Constitution, references to the Termination of Membership Procedure in the Code of Conduct and Complaints Policy and Procedure should be updated to refer to the Constitution instead.

Action: HS to update references to the Termination of Membership Procedure from the Code of Conduct and Complaints Policy and Procedure.

7) RL has received feedback on the draft 2025 budget and amended as appropriate.

7(i) The review of Internal Controls was completed by Trustees and a number of action points for the Treasurer were added as follows:

Action: RL to ensure action points on Internal Controls are completed

6) DS Matters

a) Chair's Report

The Chair's Report was received.

Striding Man Sculpture: A meeting took place today (17 March) with Charter School and Heritage of London Trust (HTL). HTL has agreed a grant. The sculpture must remain on permanent display at Charter School but lectures may be held on site.

Kingswood Arts Gala is on 21 March: Trustees were encouraged to attend.

Mayor of Southwark's Ball: Naima Ali, Mayor of Southwark, following her appearance at the Women and Politics event, has suggested that the Dulwich Society attends the Mayor's Ball on 5 April, on an individual basis or by reserving a table.

Action: JT to send Trustees further details of the Mayor's Ball including the ticket price.

New email system: JT reported that the webmaster has implemented a new email system for Trustees enabling emails with signature and logo. Trustees have received an email about this.

Action: Trustees to log into the new email system and start using it.

Council elections: **Action: JT/SB/HS to develop a protocol for Trustees who put themselves forward as candidates at the forthcoming Council elections.**

b) Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair's Report and a list of issues for discussion with the Dulwich Estate in March 2025 were received.

The following points were raised:

- Wi-fi is now connected and in use in Dulwich Village

- It is possible to pay for parking in Dulwich Village on the parking app and to have a free hour's parking. (Post meeting note - SB has ascertained from Cllr Newens that the service charge payable on the Paybyphone App for the free hour's parking relates to the notifications sent. 20 pence is charged per notification text, so notifications should be switched off to obtain the free hour's parking).
- White posts and chains – need regular monitoring and an article in the Journal.

Action: SO'C circulated a schedule of which white posts belong to DE and LBS. SB to audit. CR to organise a Journal article.

c) Streets for People – Phase 3

It was noted that the pedestrian islands at Red Post Hill are to be removed as part of the ongoing works, to provide a dedicated right turn into East Dulwich Grove. Concerns have been expressed about pedestrian safety. A longer time for crossing has been promised, as has a countdown, but needs to be monitored post completion.

Action: Trustees to send any feedback on the Red Post Hill crossing to LJ.

It was noted that works to install a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Lordship Lane and Dulwich Common, (near the Grove Tavern), have commenced, but are progressing very slowly.

d) Streets for People CPZ

SB has contacted Councillor Margy Newens about the size and placement of notices in Calton Avenue and received a sympathetic reply.

e) Hunts Slip Road Works

PS has raised various issues at the DE Advisory Committee SoM including the state of the unmarked footpath on one side of the road. Nina Rickman of DE said it will be clarified that it is a shared space after a certain point.

f) Grove Tavern

JT referred Trustees to a Press Association article on Grove Tavern which IMcI had significant input into.

g) AGM 19th May 2025

i. Notice of AGM 2025

The draft Notice of the 2025 AGM was circulated to members in the Spring Journal. The introduction to the Notice outlines two minor amendments to the Constitution which are proposed as Special Motions. The Notice states that Nomination Forms for election as an Officer or Trustee are available from the Secretary.

The Function Room at the Crown and Greyhound is booked for the AGM. It was agreed that a back-up venue should be sought in case there is an indication that attendance will exceed 100.

It was agreed that Eventbrite would not be used and registration will be managed on the door.

Action: JT to identify a back-up venue for the AGM.

ii. Election of Officers and Trustees

There are 2 Trustees resigning (including one Officer post) and 3 (including 2 Officer posts) have stepped down in line with the retirement by rotation clause in the Constitution and will re-stand for election. The Nomination Form asks candidates to indicate whether standing for election as Vice Chair, Treasurer or Secretary (the Officer posts where the incumbents have resigned or are re-standing for election) or as a Trustee. Election to Officer posts will be decided on a show of hands. There are 3 trustee vacancies. If there are 3 or fewer candidates, election will be on a show of hands. Further clarification is needed on the electoral mechanism for appointment to the Trustee positions if there are more than 3 candidates. In this instance it may be necessary to announce the results after the AGM.

The deadline for receipt of Nomination Forms is 7 days before the AGM, i.e. 12 May. A list of nominees will be published on the website on 13 May along with short biographies of candidates. Where there is insufficient time for a candidate to produce a short biography, they may introduce themselves in person at the meeting.

Action: JT/SB/HS to determine electoral procedures for Trustee positions in the event of the number of candidates exceeding vacancies.

iii. Updating of website

It will be necessary to post the Notice of the 2025 AGM on the website along with links to the Minutes of the 2024 SGM and AGM, the Annual Report and Accounts (when finalised) and the Constitution. These documents must be available to members a minimum of 14 days in advance of the AGM.

Action: HS to ask the Webmaster to update the website with information on the 2025 AGM.

h) Annual Report 2024

The draft Annual Report has been circulated. HS thanked Trustees for their contributions.

Action: All Trustees to provide any final comments on the Annual Report within the next week. RW to provide a summary of the main objectives agreed at the Strategy Day on 15 March.

i) Development/Member Engagement

RW thanked Trustees for their contributions to the Strategy Day on 15 March and said the objectives agreed would be very helpful in formulating the Development Plan.

He said a local history walk for young people is planned as part of the member engagement strategy.

Action: SO'C to assist with the map for the young people's local history walk.

j) Society Events

(i) Local History Talks

SO'C said local history talks have finished for the Summer.

(ii) Dulwich Festival

13 Local History walks are planned as part of the Dulwich Festival.

(iii) Garden events

A talk on front gardens, a coach trip to Sissinghurst & Pashley Manor and local visits to Southwark Integrated Waste Management facility, Horniman Museum Gardens and Brockwell Park Community Greenhouse are all planned for the Spring/Summer.

(iv) Women and Politics

The event took place on 4th March in Alleyn's MCT Theatre with a number of distinguished women politicians contributing. It was sold out and was very well-received by those attending and by the local sixth formers who had a special workshop with some of the contributors before the main event. Very positive letters have been received from the contributors.

(v) Future Flagship Events

It was agreed that a flagship event should be held at least once a year, preferably with Dulwich connections and possibly linked to International Women's Day. Potential topics included Science and Spying.

(vi) A social event for volunteers is planned to take place after the AGM.

k) Membership Report

The Membership report was received.

CB reported that membership stands at 1324 members. 13 have not paid yet. A sticker is now added to the envelope for those who receive their Journal by post recommending that a payment to cover postage is paid (£8.40pa) and 2 members are now paying.

Using data from the 2021 census for the population in East and West Dulwich, CB has calculated that 5.6% of the population of Dulwich are members of the Society, although additional members of the households mean that the Society's reach is greater than this.

CB stressed the importance of social media posts to grow the membership.

l) Editorial Committee/Journal

CR reported that Journal print costs are up by 4%, approximately £100 per edition, which is not unreasonable in the current financial climate. She highlighted the need for reports on East Dulwich, Planning and Traffic issues. The next edition comes out on 1 June.

Action: PS to draft a Planning-related article for the Summer Journal.

m) Policy Review

i. Privacy Policy

SB had circulated the draft Privacy Policy. This was generally approved and it was agreed trustees should have a further week to comment. It was noted that as the Policy provides for membership records to be retained for 6 years from the last contact, that the Archiving Policy should be amended accordingly. It was further noted that the membership website allows for members to unsubscribe from certain communications.

Action: Trustees to provide final comments on the policy within a week. Once finalised, HS to post on the website and amend and circulate the Archiving Policy to trustees.

ii. Review of Investment Policy

The current investment policy was agreed with some minor updates.

Action: HS to post updated Investment Policy on the website.

7. Communications and Media Report

The Communications and Media Report was received.

JT said he had received positive feedback on SO'C's live skeeting (posting messages to the Bluesky messaging platform) during the Women and Politics event.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Reports were received.

The budget for 2025 has been approved. The Treasurer said there is currently in excess of £10,000 in the current account. Over £13,000 has been received in membership subscriptions and gift aid will follow. Total funds stand at over £57,000, but expenditure on the Summer Journal is expected soon. The Society has reserves in excess of the £30,000 required by the Reserves Policy, so there is scope for expenditure on grants and projects, but the Society needs to take a cautious approach.

9. Consideration of Applications for Society Grants

(i) The Grants List for YTD March 2025 was received.

(ii) Sydenham Hill Woods Unite the Woods Project: Sydenham Hill and Dulwich Woods "Reunite the Woods" project met its matched funding target of £5,000 promoted in the Spring Journal within a few days. The Society has made a matched grant of £5,000.

(iii) A donation to Barry House for clothes and shoes for residents including children, was declined at the last meeting as not aligned with the objectives of the Society to fund amenities. HS reported that she has met with a member of the NHS staff based at Barry House who has said that Arts groups that provide classes for the residents would appreciate funding for equipment and materials. HS is seeking alternative sources of funding for this.

Action: HS to seek alternative ways of supporting art classes at Barry House.

(iv) £72 was approved for member, Roger Deason, for two images for use in a PDF Booklet on Dulwich Hamlet Football Club on which he is working with SO'C and a talk on the same subject for DS. It was noted that in future grants of this size may be processed through expenses.

(v) CR raised the issue of a leaking roof at Grafton Dance Centre for which the owner is trying to raise funds. It was agreed that a grant was not appropriate as the business is a private company, but fund-raising initiatives could be promoted in the Journal.

10. Other Dulwich Issues and Points from Activity Group Reports

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

i. The merged Wildlife/Trees Group wishes to be known as the Wildlife and Trees Group. This was approved.

ii. Gardens Group – JP said that the visit to Southwark Integrated Waste Facility and the coach trip to Sissinghurst will sell out soon. 2 local visits are also planned.

11. Dulwich Estate

There was discussion regarding the proposal by the DE to amend the terms of reference. Changes should not limit the opportunity for members to exchange views on the oversight of the accounts and the amenities of the Estate. Nor should they reduce the transparency of the Estate's operations and the chance for stakeholders to make representations. It was agreed that the DS representatives on the Committee, PS and RW, should make the Society's views clear at the Advisory Committee meeting the following day, 18 March.

12. AOB

It was agreed that Zone Co-ordinators would be asked to co-ordinate delivery of membership leaflets by deliverers to non-member houses in their zones.

Action: CB to work with Zone Co-ordinators on delivery of membership leaflets.

13. Dates of Next Meetings:

Monday 12 May 2025 at 7.30pm. Macandrew Room Bell House

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

Monday 14 July at 7.30pm. Macandrew Room Bell House

Monday 15 September at 7.30pm. Macandrew Room Bell House

Monday 17 November at 7.30pm. Macandrew Room Bell House

The meeting ended at 9.35pm

Heather Stubbs, Secretary **March 2025**

Signed: *James Thompson* **Date: 12th May 2025**

(James Thompson, Chair)

Appendix 1 Executive Committee - Register of Interests (as of 17th March 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.