Dulwich Society 561st Trustee Meeting

Monday 15 September in the Macandrew Room, Bell House

Attendees:

Officers
James Thompson – Chair (via Zoom)
Sue Badman – Vice Chair (chairing the meeting)
Jane Jones – Secretary
Russell Lloyd – Treasurer

Activity Group Chairs
Peter Roseveare – Wildlife & Trees
Penny Stern – Planning & Architecture
Ian McInnes –Local History
Patsy Bramble – Licensing (via Zoom)
Celia Randell – Gardens (CCR)
Laurie Johnson - Environment

Sharon O'Connor - Communications and Media
Richard Wingfield – Strategy & Development
Claire Richards – Journal Editor (CR)

The meeting started at 7.34pm.

1. Apologies

   Kenneth Wolfe – Honorary President
   Christine Brandon – Membership
   Kimberly Mears – Community

2. New declarations of interest

   No new interests were declared – see current Register of Interests attached.

3. Approval of the minutes of the trustee meeting on 14 July 2025 and matters arising

   The minutes, as circulated, were approved.
   Action: JJ to post approved minutes of 14 July 2025 on the website.

Matters arising:

§ 4 & 5 The approved minutes of the trustee meeting of 12 May 2025 and the draft minutes of the AGM of 19 May 2025 have been posted on the website.

§ 7.c A grant application for the maintenance of the white posts and chains will be made to the Neighbourhood Grants by the deadline of 12 October 2025. SB asked the trustees if they had any other projects for which an application could be made and offered to help with the process. In response to questions from

IMcI and LJ, respectively, SB confirmed that projects should be submitted by the individual groups and that the decisions would be made by the corresponding ward councillors, e.g. Councillors Andy Simmons and Catherine Rose for Dulwich Wood Ward. JT and JJ should be informed of any grant applications submitted. *Post-meeting Note: the deadline was moved to 26 October.*

Action: See Item 5 below.

§ 8 JJ has confirmed the financial figures with the Treasurer and submitted the 2024 Annual Return to the Charity Commission

§9 See item 12 below for the detailed Wildlife & Trees report and item 7a) for the West Dulwich report.

§ 10 Ian Jones has produced photos of East and West Dulwich and sent them to CB.

§ 14 PB reported that the representation against the opening hours of the Londis shop on Melbourne Grove had been successful and the hours were now reduced. The question of vape advertising and sales remained, but changes may come with new legislation.

§ 15 RW has drafted a letter to DE trustees regarding the terms of reference and tenure limits for the Advisory Committee and circulated it to trustees for comment. SoC has circulated a list of residents' associations on the Estate to the trustees (there is also a list on the DE website).

§ 16 JJ has made a provisional booking with the Crown & Greyhound for the 27 April 2026 for next year's AGM.

Action: JJ to confirm the AGM booking with the Crown & Greyhound and set meeting dates for 2026.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the points covered are dealt with under the respective items below.

5. Vice-Chair's report

a) Assets: a meeting with the DE on maintenance of the Edward Alleyn statue has still not been secured but SB has identified a foundry that may be able to assist with 3D imaging.

b) Neighbourhood Grants: SB had attended a meeting of the Neighbourhood team on 11 September. For the time being, separate documentation would be required for each submission and SB offered to assist with this for any other DS applications. The request by the Friends of Dulwich Square (FoDS) for the DS to act as sponsor for any application for funds for events raised no objections and SB will inform FoDS.

SB to make the grant application for the maintenance of posts and chains, and fingerposts by 12 October 2025.

c) Safer Neighbourhood Dulwich Village Panel: SB continues to represent the DS at the Cuppa with a Coppa (CWAC) events. Residents are being encouraged to sign up to the Met Engage initiative to receive direct updates on crime in the area and prevention advice. Herne Hill and Village residential roads remain a hotspot for phone-snatchings, robbery and vehicle crime, and the focus is on high-

visibility patrols. Abstraction of officers to cover Central London protests is a concern. SB had reported suspected drug users in the vicinity of Herne Hill station.

d) The DS had been approached by residents of blocks along Farquhar Rd to support their campaign to halt felling of trees by DE around their flats until proper consultation had taken place. SB sought the advice of the Wildlife and Trees group before attending a site meeting on 3 September with residents and members of the Estate management team, including the new Estate Tree Manager, Philip Louis. Key issues appeared to be delays in communication and costs arising from the works, rather than doubt about the justification for the removals. The Estate will shortly be publishing a new tree and land management strategy.

e) Closure of shops: Heritage Cheese, Dalloz, D.Village in Dulwich Village and The Chutney and Peachy Goat in Herne Hill. The former Romeo Jones unit is pending refurbishment.

f) Brockwell Park Events: there will be a feedback meeting in October and the legal campaign is continuing.

g) Regarding a resident's enquiry concerning the condition of the Village Pond, the SOM office informed SB that it is currently being surveyed.

h) Other communications with council/councillors regarding: overhanging vegetation in Gallery Rd and Dulwich Common; removal of weeds on pavements and kerbs; damaged fingerpost at junction of Eynella Rd/Court Lane; blocked drains along Half Moon Lane; leaf-drop clearance and update on 5G phone masts.

i) Other events attended by SB: Quarterly SNP meeting; opening of the Open Art/ArtPlay Pavilion at Dulwich Picture Gallery by HM Queen Camilla, followed by the evening party with KW, PS and LJ (The Dulwich Society's sponsorship is marked by the 'petals' at the new entrance); St Christopher's annual champagne event at DPG; Village Books 100th anniversary party.

6. Treasurer's report

RL presented a summary of the accounts as at 27 August 2025 showing total funds of £46,871. The Monmouthshire BS account had been closed and a new interest-earning deposit account opened with Barclay's Bank. Prior to the meeting, RL had also circulated the detailed budget, list of payments and receipts, and a summary of the Mary Boast fund, which had a remaining balance of £3,762.48. The first Gift Aid payment had been received from HMRC.
Trustees were requested to keep RL informed of any new deposits into the accounts.

All grants and donations made in 2024 had been included in the Annual Return to the Charities Commission completed by RL and JJ.

7. Development & Strategy

RW, KM and SOC had met with Anna Skipwith, author of This Is Dulwich Village on Instagram and Facebook, to discuss ideas for building the Society's social media presence. The question was raised of the internal capacity to cover this expanding presence and it was decided one or more new volunteers would need to be recruited.

Anna Skipwith would be willing initially to support this volunteer base. SOC commented that a strategy was needed for the medium term, if necessary paying someone to work on social media for half a day a week, for example.

Action: All trustees to make enquiries among contacts to identify possible volunteers to cover social media by the next meeting.

Events: RW reported that Dulwich Social, which organised local social events and workshops, was willing to hold a joint coffee morning with the DS. Any other suggestions for events would be welcomed.

Action: RW to liaise with Dulwich Social on a joint coffee morning.

a) West Dulwich report: JJ had interviewed four local restaurant/café owners in West Dulwich to produce an article for the Journal. The possibility of a DS stall at the West Dulwich Christmas Fair had been raised and JJ had sent RW and JT the contact details of the organiser. JJ commented that a coherent description of the Society, its activities and benefits would be needed by those manning the stall. PB raised the question of what the society can offer West Dulwich.

Action: RW to contact Lisa Nugent, the organiser of the Love West Dulwich events.

8. Membership

CB had provided the membership report prior to the meeting. Membership currently stands at 1,331. Work has continued on Mailchimp, with a mailshot of over 200 letters aimed at members with missing or invalid email addresses, or members who had unsubscribed by mistake. These addresses are needed for receiving statutory notices under the 2024 constitution update. So far, around 80 positive responses have been received. A further push to encourage members to change from standing order to direct debit (with Gift Aid) will be made for next year's subscriptions. The meeting thanked CB for her work on this.

Action: CB and JT to continue work on the directory and membership leaflet.

9. Society events

See Group reports.

10. Journal report

CR was very pleased with the quality of articles for the Autumn edition of the Journal and thanked new trustees JJ, KM and CCR for their contributions. As well as demonstrating our expertise in specialist areas, the contents encourage a sense of community and give support to local businesses, this time giving more prominence to West Dulwich. This issue included write-ups of several Society events demonstrating the benefits of active membership. CR was, however, disappointed with the colour printing of this issue and had taken the matter up with the printers. Philip Louis, Tree and Landscape Manager for the DE, has offered an article on the SOM's tree strategy for a future issue.

11. Communications & Media report

SO'C reported that our Bluesky following is slowly building, with 202 followers for the main account and 863 for the Local History account. DS events are publicised via social media platforms, the East Dulwich Forum, the Local News section of the DS website

and the popular eNews. Press releases are also sent to local and London publications. DS Posters or notices for the DS noticeboard in Dulwich Village should be sent to SO'C.

12. Focus on the Wildlife and Trees Group

PR presented a special report on the Wildlife and Trees Group, circulated prior to the meeting and covering the group's terms of reference, members and their respective specialist areas, activities and aspirations. The separate Trees Group had amalgamated with the Wildlife Group in May 2024.
Activities: The Group proposes suitable funding projects to the Trustees and participates in planning consultations, where appropriate. Guest speakers are invited to the bimonthly meetings and the group's membership itself is very eclectic covering a broad range of interests. Recording and monitoring local wildlife is another important role. A principal aim is to encourage local residents to be aware of and take an interest in their natural surroundings and wildlife so they can participate in their preservation. The group has shared its knowledge through many walks and talks, organised both by group members and in association with outside groups such as the London Wildlife Trust, through Journal articles over many years and regular reports in the eNews. PR felt that more events such as the popular walks and talks were needed to achieve the group's aims and increase this engagement.
The meeting thanked PR for his very informative presentation.

Action: JT to approach KM to present a similar Community overview for the November meeting.

Action: LJ to present a report on the Environment Group for the January meeting.

13. Group reports

Wildlife and Trees Report:
PR reported two successful events this summer: a walk led by Steven Robinson for Swift awareness week, and the opening of Harry Rutherford's moth-trap. Hobbies had returned to breed this year and raised one young. Concerns had been expressed about the health of street trees following the summer's drought. A report on Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods from the LWT warden spoke of enforcing lead control of dogs to preserve the integrity of paths and prevent disturbance of wildlife.
SB commented that the group could promote involvement in citizen science projects. The recording of wildlife losses was very important and the Group's 20 years of articles were a valuable source of reference.
PR spoke of his intention to retire shortly as Chair of the group and the challenge of finding a replacement with the energy to address the increasingly important issues for local nature and wildlife resulting from the changing climate.

Licensing:
PB gave details of the DS representation to Lambeth Licensing regarding the opening of Brockwell Hall: overall support, but with extra conditions relating to public safety and prevention of noise nuisance.

Environment:
LJ commented that with most members having young families, timing of meetings and activities could be difficult. Guest speakers were invited to every meeting and a talk on retrofitting for energy efficiency was in the pipeline. SB had assisted with safeguarding preparations for the Group's children's event at Bell House. LJ had attended the London Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Conference.

Planning & Architecture:
PS had provided a comprehensive list of licence applications (DE-SOM) and planning applications prior to the meeting. PS and SB had attended the London Forum Summer Drinks.

Local History:
IMcl listed eight recent local history queries that had been received. The Group is liaising with Charter School East Dulwich about a possible information sign next to the East Dulwich Hospital War Memorial and Brian Green is working on the content. A sub-group has been set up with a view to producing online research/articles on local churches, and the Group is discussing ideas for a Local History Day to take place provisionally in September 2026 and centred on Bell House.
The monthly online talks are scheduled through to April 2026, with the subjects for October, November and March already decided.

14. Dulwich Estate
The next meeting with the DE is on 1st October. As a result of comments made by PS, RW and SB via the Advisory Committee, the SOM charging letter had been made clearer.

15. Dates for 2026 meetings and AGM

JJ had provisionally booked the Crown & Greyhound for 27 April 2026.

Action: JJ to confirm booking for the AGM.

The proposed dates for 2026 meetings are:

19 January
16 March
27 April – AGM
18 May
20 July
21 September
16 November

16. A.O.B.

JT thanked SB for chairing the meeting in his physical absence.

17. Dates of Next Meeting:

Monday 17 November 2025 at 7.30pm. Macandrew Room, Bell House

The meeting ended at 9.45pm

Jane Jones, Secretary **November 2025**

Signed: ***James Thompson*** **Date: November 2025**

(James Thompson, Chair)

Appendix 1 Trustee Register of Interests (as of 15 September 2025)

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

James Thompson (Chair) - 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.

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

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

For Information

The Dulwich Society is a member of the London Forum and the Aviation Environment Forum. The Wildlife/Trees Group has membership of The Woodland Trust and Dulwich Park Friends.