

THE BELSIZE SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19.30 pm on Tuesday 10 January 2023
at 15 Howitt Close

Present: PV (Chair), BA, NH, AS, TS, DT

Apologies for Absence: AC, SC, SP.

Minutes of last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 December were approved.

Belsoc Business.

1. The Queen's Canopy. The deadline for planted trees to be included in this scheme has been extended to 31 March 2023. Councillor Kirk has been active in pushing for a response on this from the council and BA continues to liaise with him.
2. Camden Local Plan consultation. Following an extensive discussion, the outline of a response to this consultation was agreed. It will be as an email, copied to the relevant ward councillors. PV will circulate a draft for additions or corrections before submitting it by the deadline of Friday 13 January.
3. DT will respond to the consultation on climate change. The deadline is 23 January 2023.
4. Noted that the consultation on the Haverstock Hill and Rosslyn Hill trial Walking Cycling and Road Safety scheme remains open.

Finance

1. The accounts for December were approved.
2. The end of year statement was approved. It was noted that there was a deficit (easily covered by the Society's reserves) which was due to a number of unusual factors including
 - a. HMRC has been most unusually slow in providing the gift aid refund, which had still not arrived.

- b. The postal strikes and consequent mail delays meant that subscription renewal cheques had not reached our account until after the New Year
- c. There had been unusually large expenditure on the noticeboards, which were now refurbished and looking good

Membership

There had been 6 new members since December 2022

Events

1. Christmas Carols at Belsize Terrace on 17 December 2022 raised £254.85 for the Marie Curie hospice.
2. The AGM will be on Sunday 12 March. PV has booked the synagogue.
3. The evening event at the “SuperHome hosted by John Doggart will take place after March.

Publications

1. Newsletter (PV): 2023 copy dates and delivery will be 22 Jan for 11/12 February; 9 April for 13/14 May; 16 July for 12/13 August; 22 Oct for 11/12 November
2. TYCT 2023. A new editor will be needed for TYCT. This is a significant task.

Planning

1. TS had looked at nine applications and raised no objections
2. The renewed application for an extra storey on Howitt Close.
 - a. The Council Officers had indicated that they were minded to approve the application
 - b. It will be considered on Thursday 19 January. Objectors will have a total of 5 minutes to make presentations. It was expected that there would be three speakers: one for the residents, BA for Belsoc and DT for the Conservation Area Advisory Committee. Further meetings, with TS’s assistance, would coordinate efforts.

- c. If the principal objectors agree that this would be useful AS will email the membership with the meeting details and encourage attendance.
- d. BA will apply to English Heritage for grade 2 listing under the fast-track procedure of buildings at risk, noting the Belsoc support for this.

Trees

BA has reviewed a number of applications, with no objections.

Any Other Business

AS circulated a draft text of an urgent appeal for volunteers to take on committee roles, several which had fallen, or shortly will fall, vacant. It was approved with minor emendation. She will email it to members in the week beginning 16 January, so that it is not overshadowed by an early email about Howitt Close and other matters.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 7 February 2023 at 19.30.

Location: Flat 1 20 Netherhall Gardens NW3 5TH