

The Belsize Society

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 19.30 pm on Wednesday 10th March 2021
via Zoom

Present: PV (Chair), NH, PH, MJ, TP, AS, TS, SC

Apologies for Absence: AC, AI, SP,

Minutes of last Meeting:

Minutes of February meeting: agreed

BelSoc Business (1)

1. PV and JF thanked for managing zoom AGM so well.
2. New committee appointments (PV): PV offered to resign as chair after five years but was asked to continue. PV proposed as Chair by AS, seconded by SC. Committee meetings to continue on second Wednesdays evenings of each month
3. Email received from member volunteering to cover trees. PV to follow up and to approach SP re donations.

Finance

1. Accounts for February: agreed
Reserves over £20K for first time

Membership

1. Changes for February:
New members: 6

Events

1. Summer Party: usually 27th June 2021 but first, second or third Sundays of July to be considered and possibility of 30 visitors only. Certainty unlikely before May. PV to locate provisional venue. *c/f to April*
2. Meeting methods: Zoom okay and PV would like to use more, such as consultations with members. Other ideas welcome. MJ suggested etiquette instructions to be circulated.

Publications

1. Newsletter (PV): May issue - more about 50th Anniversary; gift aid article. Additional articles required.
2. TYCT (SC): very few recommendations received following distribution of newsletter. AS to send reminder email about 18.03.21. (closing date 26.03.21).
3. Noticeboards (SC): first time for sharing monitor on Haverstock Hill board and doing well.
4. Website (SC):

Planning

1. Report on planning applications
Comments/objections:
No comments:
2. A few applications being made, including Britannia hotel destruction to be considered, but mainly for extensions and tree trimming. TS will report in due course.
3. Haverstock Hill Cycle Lanes: much discussion as proposals very controversial; committee not against principle but many design problems, potential and seen from experience of

schemes elsewhere, such as;

- a. Crossing cycle lanes to access bus stops, especially on downhill side because of speeding cycling.
- b. Cycle lanes very narrow so cyclists swerve out to avoid pedestrians crossing - and slower cyclists
- c. Prince of Wales Road cycle lanes are littered and dirty because cleaning vehicles unable to access.
- d. Removal of so many parking spaces may adversely affect high street businesses and will affect side street traffic circulation and residents parking availability.

Design strongly favours cyclists but bad for buses/passengers, cars and pedestrians, especially disabled and elderly. Council should obey existing laws and scheme should be provisional and fully monitored for further consultation prior to confirmation.

BelSoc believes that, whilst supportive of environmental and life quality intentions, the council should not proceed until all objections considered and taken into account and also suggests it is possible to design a better scheme to accommodate cyclists. TS to draft response and circulate.

4. King Henry's Road consultation (TS & TP): Purpose is traffic calming & safety. Is outside BelSoc area but may force more traffic northwards into Belsize.
5. O2 centre is AC speciality, so TS will ask him to comment.
6. Hall school re-submitted application comments (AC): *c/f to April*.

Trees

1. Tree monitoring: currently unavailable but TS keeping watchful eye
Comments/objections:

BelSoc Business (2)

1. AGM matters arising (PV)): further to BSP talk, suggestion of coordinating with Belsize Village Business Association as have some interests in common, maybe annual liaison meeting, especially to cover planning issues. PV to speak with BSP before Stretery re-opens.
2. Belsize Community Library update (AI):
3. Friends of BCL (PH): talk programme full until June. Money accumulated for small project; Friends to discuss with librarian, topics could be family difficulty/young people/children.

Community Meetings

Any other business:

1. Keep meeting running order as is for next meeting.

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday, 14th April at 19.30

Location: via Zoom