

The Belsize Society

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 9th September 2020
via video/audio conference

Present: PV (Chair), NH, AI, TP, SP, AS, SC

Apologies for Absence: AC, MJ, TS

Minutes of last Meeting:

Minutes of July meeting: agreed

BelSoc Business

1. Memorial for Consuelo Phelan: ashes to be scattered at St Peter's with short, discreet service. AS & SC to meet with St Peter's warden re donation of tree, shrubs and maybe plaque plus video of service for family. Balance of family's donation to St Peter's and RFH for front of Pears building. AS to approach Royal Free Charity.
2. Streatery in Belsize Village: NH says resounding success with no imposition on residents.. NH to contact one of councillors involved and maybe attend any review meeting. Suggestion of short article and photos for November newsletter.
3. Camden proposal for Haverstock Hill bicycle lanes (AS emails 02 & 04.09.20) plus any response from councillors: TP to progress.
4. Managing day to day communications: Three categories to be transport, planning and general. TP will cover transport. PV to approach other committee members re remaining categories.
5. Camden consultation on two CPG drafts: SP, TS, AC, TP and PV(?) to respond to Camden. Response required by 09.10.20. New drafts on Home Improvements and Housing and updates on Amenities (air quality; basements; community, leisure and pub uses; design; employment, energy efficiency and adaptation; planning for health and wellbeing; town centres; transport). SC to add link to website.
6. Camden Council has put a regulation 7 direction in place, banning estate agent boards in all Camden Conservation Areas from 10.07.20. SC to add to website.
7. Belsize Community Library update: librarian now employed three days a week from grant by Arts Council. Book club re-started, yoga and children events are on Zoom, coordinated by library. BCL will open physically for book borrowing once social distancing organised. Tom Selwyn, who started public assemblies on environment and Brexit, now thinking of starting mini citizens assemblies entitled "Is a better society possible after Covid?". BelSoc awaiting involvement of events side to provide sponsorship. Friends of BCL: meetings start on 17th Sept 19.30-21.00 with Tudor Allen speaking about History of Swiss Cottage (will be in library but not necessarily with audience). Ideas for talks from October to December TBC. New email address TBC, meanwhile contact AI to be added to Friends mailing list.

Community Meetings

Planning

1. Report on planning applications
Comments/objections: 3
2020/2353/P 21 Lambolle Place
2020/2172 39A Fitzjohn's Avenue
2020/3782/P Flat 2, 7 Buckland Crescent

No comments: 23

Trees

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

Publications

1. Newsletter: excellent August newsletter with high quality contributors.
November issue: NW3CLT article from SP; review of Belsize Streatery;
2. TYCT: printing okay so far, single complaint of some blank pages. Very few overs.
3. Noticeboards: both boards updated with TYCT 2020 poster. Few more posters on email. KF kindly looked after BV board during all Covid as BP caring for mother out of town. JS helped out for couple of weeks when KF unwell.
4. Website: "Features & Comments" added to accommodate some NL articles. Minor changes to popular Notable Residents page. Newsletter posts have increased page views and reduced bounce rate over last three months.

Events

1. Possible events via Zoom:
 - Autumn tree walk by BM. JF to approach.
 - Talk by David Percy on "Harlots of Haverstock". JF to approach
 - Talk by Tom Parkes of Camden re air quality survey results (can be recorded and put on website). TP to check. If confirmed AS to email members together with notification on website including requesting more members' email addresses.
2. Carols: MW to continue as music director. Date depends on social distancing rules.

Finance

1. Accounts for July & August 2020: agreed
2. Donations: £1000 already given. new ideas required by October meeting. NH to send round recent gifts and suggestions for further donations this year. So far, Camden Giving, Marie Curie and Chalk Farm Food Bank.
3. Gift aid claim to be made by end of September. Only one response to newsletter request, agreeing to gift aid.

Membership

1. Changes for July & August:
New members: 3
2. Now about 500 members remain after clearing out non payers. Notifying letters being sent to comply with Charity Commission regulations.

Any other business

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday, 14th October at 19.30 by audio/video conference

Location: N/A