

THE BELSIZE SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19.30 pm on Tuesday 7 February 2023
at Flat 1. 20 Netherhall Gardens

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

For item 1:2 ponly Robert Stephenson-Padron.

Apologies for Absence: AC, SC,

Minutes of last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 January were approved.

1. Belsoc Business.

1. The Queen's Canopy. Councillor Kirk has now had a response suggesting action will be taken. He will continue to follow up. BA continues to liaise with him.
2. Village Streatery Liaison Group. The Belsize Village Business Association has approached the Belsize Society to request that a sub-committee of the Society's Committee be constituted to act as the liaison group/consultative committee required as a condition of the Camden Council licence for the Streatery. A paper, outlining the background and giving a suggested membership for such a group was presented to the meeting. Following discussions, it was agreed that such a subcommittee might be constituted subject to
 - i) The Committee's approval of the terms of reference for such a sub-committee. PV will liaise with R S-P to draw these up.
 - ii) Agreement that, since
 - a) the reasons for the Camden Council's requirement for a liaison group require an independent chair:
 - b) as a subcommittee of the Society's Committee, the group must be closely linked to the Committee:

the sub-committee must be chaired by a regular member of the Society's Committee. DT is willing to undertake this role.

PV will contact R S-P to ensure that these conditions can be met, draft terms of reference and agree on the sub-committee membership. These conversations will be reported to the March Committee meeting and a final decision on the setting up of such a sub-committee will be taken at that point.

3. Council Consultations on Climate Change and on the Camden Local Plan. It was noted that responses from the Society had been sent submitted for both these consultations.
4. Potential changes of Committee membership for 2023 -24 were noted. A nominations sheet will be prepared for the AGM.
5. The recent email on the Society's need for volunteers for several key roles had produced a very small response, but arrangements will if possible be made for PV and AS to meet with the respondents win the next week or so.

2. Finance

1. The accounts for January 2023 were approved.
2. It was noted that the independent examine had signed off the 2022 accounts.

3. Membership

There had been 2 new members since January 2022

4. Events

1. AGM on Sunday 12 March at 3 pm at the synagogue. Papers were now at the printers and other arrangements in hand.
2. The evening event at the SuperHome, hosted by John Doggart will be postponed until the installation of a heat pump at John Doggart's home has been completed.
3. The Friends of the Belsize Library were keen to collaborate with the Society, and it was thought they might take over the organisation of events for the Society. PV will talk to A I about this.

5. Publications

1. Newsletter for February. This had gone to the printer and would be distributed from the end of this week.
2. TYCT 2023. Whilst a possible volunteer had been found to take on the editorship of TYCT it might be necessary to defer publication by one quarter.

6.Planning

1. There had been 22 applications in the past month. Several of them were for quite major projects. TS was reviewing them all and objections might follow.
2. The renewed application for an extra storey on Howitt Close. It was noted that an application has been made to Historic England for listed status for the building. If that was achieved the tests of the acceptability of an application under the NPPF would differ from those which apply to an unlisted building. Camden Planning Committee had postponed consideration of the planning application until the outcome of the listing request was known.

7. Trees

BA has reviewed a number of applications, and made 4 objections.

8 .Any Other Business

BA reported that she had attended a discussion about the cost of living crisis at Camden library. It was thought that there was a certain amount of hidden poverty in the area. There had been 62 applications for the Council's hardship fund. There were no "warm spaces" in the ward. One source of concern was the hotel in England's Lane which was now being used by Southwark Council to house homeless families. Shopping facilities in Belsize were proving too expensive for them, and the closure of the Launderette meant that laundry facilities were a problem.

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

Location: 79 Lawn Road NW3 2XB