



AGM Minutes
7pm on 19 March 2024
Herne Hill Baptist Church

1. Attendance

About 45 people attended including Councillors Jim Dickson, Deepak Sardiwal and Margy Newens.

2. Welcome

Mary Burguieres, as chair of the meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting and summarised the agenda.

3. Committee Members

The following people were re-elected and confirmed as committee members:

James Leabeater, Giles Gibson, George Hornby and Carolina Fox.

Deborah Roslund was also nominated and elected as a new committee member.

4. Officers

The officer positions were confirmed as follows:

- Chair – Mary Burguieres
- Co-vice Chair - George Hornby (incumbent)
- Co-vice Chair – Giles Gibson (incumbent)
- Treasurer - James Leabeater (incumbent)

5. Finances

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for 2022/2023, including accounts for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, an Examiner's Report to the Committee of the Herne Hill Forum, and Clive Rates' Recommendations to the Committee of the Herne Hill Forum had been circulated to the membership and uploaded to the Forum website prior to the meeting.

James Leabeater reported to the meeting. In summary, he said:

- As recommended by Clive Rates, the Forum has moved to a cash accounting basis. The accounts for 2021-2022 have been restated on that basis, and the accounts for 2022-2023 have been drawn up on that basis.
- At the last AGM it was suggested that the Forum's accounts should be subject to some form of verification. Clive Rates had kindly offered to do this and his examiner's report has been provided to the membership.

- In relation to the Forum's financial situation, there is a historic bank account balance which is being decreased year by year as our outgoings are higher than our income. Steps have been taken to reduce the annual deficit, which has indeed reduced year by year. Our primary outgoings relate to contractor costs. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Alice French and Jasia Warren for the invaluable work they have done. We will seek to try to reduce the annual deficit further.
- One of the Forum's main income sources is from the Herne Hill market, which the Forum set up. We are supposed to be paid £12,500 per year, but in COVID payments stopped. We agreed a reduction to £500/month but actual payments have been sporadic. We received £4,750 in each of the calendar years 2022 and 2023. Payments so far this year (2024) have improved. We are owed about £11,000.

Clive Rates then explained that he had carried out an examination of the accounts. It is not necessary for the accounts to be subject to a formal audit or independent examination, and given he is a committee member he is not truly independent. Nevertheless he is reasonably new to the committee and did not have an involvement during the period with which the accounts are concerned. He found no causes for concern and has made various recommendations to the committee.

The membership was given the opportunity to ask questions and various issues including the market payments and contractor expenses were discussed.

The meeting approved the accounts to April 2022 and April 2023.

6. Review of the year

Presentations were given in relation to the following issues. A copy of the Powerpoint slides is available on the Forum's website.

- Project Teams. Jasia addressed the AGM in relation to some of the smaller projects the Forum has worked on: lights in Norwood Road; traffic monitors; Chariots of Fun; diversity training and the traders' tent at the Lambeth Country Show 2023.
- Retrofit Revolution. Giles summarised this major project, involving 4 events, 17 speakers and 216 attendees which was nominated for the Lambeth Commitment to Climate Justice Award and the Retrofit Academy Social Value Award. More details are available [here](#) and resources, including videos of the event, are [here](#).
- Crime & ASB meeting. This meeting was [held on 5 December 2023](#) and was attended by over 100 attendees. The Forum's website has further details on how to report crime [here](#). The Forum intends to hold a follow up meeting in May or June 2024.
- Halloween 2023. Clive explained that he and Sian had led a team which held the [first live Here Hill Halloween event](#) since the pandemic. It was a great success and we hope to repeat this year.

- Community Stall. The Forum continues to host the fortnightly community stall at the market which permits local groups to reach out to the community – 22 of them in the last year.
- Town Centre. Jasia summarised various Forum activities this year, including repainting and tuning the piano, running a poll for a new tree adjacent to Brockwell Park, maintaining the lights in Brockwell Passage and running a monthly drop in session for traders and others in the market square.

Robert Holden gave a presentation to the AGM on community and subway noticeboards, safer neighbourhood panels, defibrillators, the Lambeth Forum Network and he distributed Lambeth Walks leaflets.

7. Q&A and discussion

The meeting was then opened up for questions and discussion. Issues discussed included (a) the position of the community tent; (b) hustings for the London Assembly elections; (c) the importance of public meetings to discuss crime and other local issues; (d) rubbish in the passageway adjacent to Tesco; (e) moving the bus stop outside the dance school and other issues.

8. Presentation by Claire McDonald from Solve the School Run

Claire McDonald from Solve the School Run explained that the group had been started by parents from different local schools who want a healthy school run. It is clear that school run traffic is a tipping point for congestion on local roads. Other countries do the school run better and so should we. In the local area we have a large number of non catchment schools with high levels of driving. Solutions include electric mini buses and cargo bikes.

9. AOB

The excellent Herne Hill Music Festival will take place from 11 October to 20 October 2024.

The meeting closed at about 8.30pm.

Minutes drawn up 26 March 2024.