

**Minutes of The Walworth Society Committee Meeting: Thursday 22nd Feb - 7pm. Venue:  
28 Sutherland Square SE17 3EQ**

**Present:** Shelagh Kavanagh, Kevin Williamson, Gary Malloy, Diana Cochrane, Vince Brown, Norma Lawrence, Jeremy Leach

**Apologies:** John Whelan, Peta Steel, Christy Burdock.

1. Minutes of last committee meeting (7th Dec 2017). No matters arising.
2. Walworth Society AGM - Thurs 1st March - review of 2017 accounts and report from the Chair.
  - Vince ran through the accounts and stated that the significant amount of uncommitted funds (£1,278) is down to the amount of sales that we had made of merchandise in 2017 and the meeting thanked those involved with the production of this merchandise.
  - There is an issue of £5,000 that appears to have been overpaid by Southwark Council in relation to HSC (Round 5) that we are seeking to repay. Now that the accounts of HSC (R5) are completed this matter will be taken up with Southwark.
  - The meeting unanimously accepted the 2017 accounts and thanked Vince for his work as Treasurer.
  - Vince will now submit the 2017 accounts and the accounts for 2018 up to 1st March to the AGM.
3. Proposals for changes in WS structure and governance - Vince.
  - Vince went through the reasons for these proposed changes which focus on the amount of income that we are now experiencing as a society and which are in excess of the £5,000 threshold that requires these levels of income to be reported to the authorities.
  - Vince suggested that we act along the lines of the proposals that were in the report which had been circulated to the committee members in advance of the meeting. A key benefit of incorporation is that the committee members would not be personally liable for any negligence by the society. Incorporation would ensure that the society itself would be liable rather than the committee members as individuals.
  - Being incorporated as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with members would allow us to retain the same structures as we have at present. We would need to adopt the model constitution for small charities but this is extremely close to what we do at present and would not require significant changes to our purposes and structure.
  - It was agreed that were we to take this forward, we would review our aims and objectives and in particular item viii in our constitution in the proposed constitution of the new body.
  - It was agreed that there were clear benefits from incorporation and we would take that forward to the AGM.
  - It was agreed unanimously that we wished to retain the wider membership and that we would therefore seek to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with wider membership and to take these proposals forward to the AGM for further discussion and ratification.
  - It was agreed that objective viii would be reworded along the lines of. 'viii. To encourage local and national agencies at all levels to take into account the interests and needs of the area of benefit in line with the objectives of the Walworth Society as set out above.'

- The changes proposed to improve our financial governance were all unanimously agreed. These were:
  - Requiring two authorisations for all payments from the bank account.
  - People would not be able to authorise payments to themselves from the bank account.
  - That we follow the recommended/required guidance about members of the organisation benefiting from the work of the organisation.
  - Our accounts would be independently verified for the annual accounts.

4. Walworth History Festival 2017. Diana and Shelagh described the activities that were planned for the festival which is planned to be held in the former Newington Library building from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September; the final weekend will co-incide with the 2018 Open House. There appear to be lots of ideas that members wish to research and there has been an extremely encouraging level of interest in the project to date. Films that were mentioned that we might show included The Last Tram and one about Walworth School called Two Bob's Worth of Trouble (and how progressive the school was at the time),

5. Walworth Town Hall. People are keen to continue to press for the re-opening of the garden space in front of the Town Hall.

6. Local Elections - WS issues. The meeting was happy to take part with other amenity societies the campaigning themes of urging Southwark to develop and adopt a Local List and Heritage SPD.

7. AOB. It was agreed that the WS would support two Community Infrastructure Levy bids from other groups in the Newington area:

- Proposer: Alberta TRA. Project: Transform Albert Wescott Communal Gardens. Description: transforming the underused Albert Wescott communal gardens to remove off putting railings, landscaping to make more accessible and add facilities for children and older residents such as play furniture, seating and accessible walk ways. Making this space more accessible will provide green space for a new generation of estate residents in a dense area where many residents do not have access to garden.
- Friends of Pasley Park application for children's playground equipment for the park.