

THE BELSIZE SOCIETY

Belsize Society Committee Meeting Minutes June 9th 2026

Time: Started 19:35 Ended 21:04

Attendees: Alan (Chair and Trustee), Prabhat (Acting Membership Secretary and Trustee), David (Trustee), Chris, Sanya (Trustee), Peter, Diane, Laurel.

Thanks to Peter for hosting.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Minor numbering inconsistencies identified in Matters Arising, to be corrected. No factual inaccuracies raised and Minutes otherwise agreed .
- Outstanding actions:
 - Library mailbox – completed; keys obtained and first mail has been delivered.
 - Other items discussed on agenda

2. Planning

a) Planning Applications

- Four planning matters returned:
 - One appeal (Leapman House).
 - Three objections submitted (details on Google sheet): Garden room. Large children's playhouse. Raised front boundary fence.

b) Trees

- Three tree notices reported by Barbara.

c) 100 Avenue Rd. Construction Working Group

- Members reported on recent monthly meeting.
- Concerns raised by residents regarding dust from construction works: contractors have installed additional screening and committed to improvements.
- Suggestion made for site hoardings to include a timeline and explanation of current works.

3. Retrofit and Sustainability

- Camden retrofit and solar event at the WAC Centre noted 23rd June 5:30pm.
- Discussion of adaptation measures, air conditioning applications (recent rule changes allow combination heating/cooling units without planning permission).

4. Finance

a) Accounts

- Further discussion required with Treasurer regarding banking arrangements
Trustee and bank account signatory arrangements remain to be completed.
[Action – AS /PV to arrange a date with Helen.](#)

- Transfer of funds between current and charity accounts to be reviewed.

b) Payment approvals

- none

c) Gift Aid

- £361.49 received from HMRC (thanks to David) – year attribution unclear (2022?)
- Further claims remain under review.
- [Action: Next newsletter item to be prepared encouraging members to complete Gift Aid declarations \(DT\).](#)

5. Events

a) Historical Walk May '26, review

- Event considered successful and well received. Approximately 40 am and 35 pm attendees participated despite higher booking numbers.
- Audio equipment experienced drop-outs. [Action: AS to investigate.](#)
- Tea and cakes event attracted fewer attendees than expected - 22 people selected this but maybe around half turned up, yet cost was £80.29p. Reconsider next time.

b) Garden Party

- Scheduled for 21 June.
- Mailshot to be issued.
- Committee members asked to assist with membership checking and event support.

c) Future Historical Walk

- Next walk scheduled for 27 September around Pond St.

d) Public meeting or private committee meeting

- Meetings; either single issue or 'Question Time' type format eg. possible future public engagement event with councilors and officers on specific subjects.
- Proposal remains under consideration.

6. Belsize Community Library

a) Relationship with the Friends

- Further discussions planned with Friends representatives - Anthony (Friends Chair) proposed a working group involving representatives from both organisations to review and refine the Memorandum of Understanding to lead to a 'merger', now approved by the Friends Committee, though which model is apparently open.
- Members discussed broader questions regarding:
 - Purpose and future role of the library.
 - Relationship between the Friends and the Winch.
 - Library governance, funding, and strategic direction.

b) Library 90th anniversary

- Celebrations begin in October to run 6m – details still being worked on.
- Concerns raised regarding presentation and projection equipment at recent events. Suggestions for improved technology and support have been provided but no clear steer from The Winch or Friends.
- Discussion of proposed “90 Champions” fundraising initiative. Concerns expressed regarding clarity of objectives and fundraising structure.

c) New over-75s social activity group announced.

- For information only.

7. Telephone Box Library Project

- Discussions ongoing with local councillors regarding funding. Potential funding through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) programme would probably be shared between Belsize/ Gospel Oak ward councillors.
- Future maintenance and management arrangements still to be clarified.

8. Councillor Engagement

- Newly elected councillors contacted and informed of Society activities and annual councillor / committee meeting planned for October 18th.
- Committee agreed importance of improving communication between Camden Council and local residents, particularly on planning and transport issues.

9. Eton Avenue / Swiss Cottage Developments

- No significant updates received.
- Meeting with Irene Dorner, Chair Hampstead Theatre Trust, to be facilitated.
- New strategic planning exercise “Swiss Cottage Vision” imminent. BelSoc intends to engage with consultation process.

10. Communications – new Ham & High Column

- Society invited to provide a regular 400 word ‘opinion’ column approximately every six weeks for local organisations : first article published May 26th with concerns about local street schemes ‘Safe & Healthier Steets’. Other dates July 3rd, Aug 14th, Sept 15th. Suggestions welcomed.
- Potential future topics:
 - Parking policy and vehicle size.
 - Telephone box library project.
 - Community-led development projects.
 - Retrofit and sustainability initiatives.

11. Newsletter

- Next issue scheduled for August. Copy deadline: approximately 15 July.

- Contributions requested. Suggestions include, Freud Museum exhibition, Retrofit initiatives.

12. Membership

- Membership increased by 7 members.
- Historical walk believed to have contributed to recruitment.
- Further membership drive discussed.
- Possibility of wider leaflet campaign explored. Delivery volunteers to be consulted
[Action: Prabhat to report back.](#)
- Alternative distribution methods through local groups and events considered, possibly a stall – are there any street fairs planned?
- Discussion of possible discount card with local cafés and businesses. Further enquiries to be made. [Action: Peter to report back](#)

13. Any Other Business

- New pub/restaurant opening noted: Belsize Bar & Brasserie (formerly Haverstock Tavern / Load of Hay).

14. Date of Next Meeting

- **14th July 7:30pm** to be at **Prabhat's flat 14C Belsize Square**
- Note: no meeting in August