

THE BELSIZE SOCIETY

Belsize Society (BelSoc) Committee Meeting Minutes April 14th, 2026

Time: Meeting started 19:34, concluded at 20:53

Attendees: Alan (Chair and Trustee), Prabhat Acting Treasurer and Trustee), David (Trustee), Chris, Sanya (Trustee), Peter, Diane, Laurel Herman (prospective committee member). Introductions were made for Laurel's benefit.

Apologies: Helen Stevens (prospective Treasurer)

Thanks to Diane for hosting.

1. Previous Meetings

AGM March 2026 The draft minutes were agreed subject to minor corrections:

Clarity amendments and names noted. To be submitted at next AGM for adoption.

Action: Alan to update the corrected AGM minutes before formal adoption at next AGM.

Committee Meeting March 2026 The minutes were agreed.

Matters Arising / Actions from Previous Minutes

- 1) **Council Communications** Alan discussion with Councillor Tom Simon who agreed poor communication processes. No action possible before local elections. If re-elected, Councillors to prioritise seeking improvements.
- 2) **Library Postal Basket** Alan liaised with Alice Robson (Winch) who will arrange for one to be fitted after Easter
- 3) **CIL Funding Application for phone box** Grant application delayed due to pre-election restrictions.
- 4) **May Newsletter** in progress
- 5) **Mailchimp re Hustings** Prabhat sent Some members denied receipt.
Action: Alan to investigate with Prabhat .
- 6) **New Members' event** Alan liaising with Anne Stevens – lack of suitable May dates
- 7) **Charity Commission** trustees updated, HMRC address and personnel changes awaited
Action: Prabhat to amend HMRC details once treasurer adopted
- 8) **Local History Walk** date arranged with Averil Nottage May 17th and Sept 27th
- 9) **Garden Party** date arranged with Deborah Buzan – June 21st

2. Planning Matters

a) Recent planning applications and current matters

- i) **Application Objections** raised to 3 applications (47C Netherhall Gardens – rear extension impacting light. 7 Belsize Park – poor-quality plans for garden studio. Netherhall Gardens – retrospective structure with inadequate drawings
- ii) **Tree Application** 1 objection from Barbara Abrahams Wedderburn Road – objection to unnecessary tree removal

iii) **Safer Healthy Streets Scheme** highlighted by Lawn/Fleet/Parkhill Roads proposal

Key Issues: Lack of coherent overall strategy. These schemes appear to be planned in isolation without consideration of knock-on effects, especially in relation to other nearby schemes. Seemingly poor local publicity and uncertain consultation process. Parkhill scheme likely to increase congestion and would appear to worsen the problem it seeks to address. No consideration on nearby South End Green bus and traffic redesign issues. Insufficient evidence base for safety claims. BelSoc objection sent and we'll pursue these schemes with councillors.

Similar concerns from residents around Eton Avenue proposals though those changes are slightly different and will affect residents in different parts of the scheme differently.

Additional concerns were raised by Laurel concerning business parking restrictions impacting livelihoods

- iv) Chris raised the issue of **confused parking and dumping of dockless hire bikes** around Belsize Park Station. Inadequate signage allegedly due to conservation area planning constraints. He has been liaising with Camden officers a) Sarah Slade – Principal Transport Planner (Parking Policy, Projects, and Shared Mobility) 5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG, Address: 5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG Tel: 0207 974 6119. Or Tel: 020 7974 5120. Email: sarah.slade@camden.gov.uk Her boss seems to be: Sam Margolis, Head of Transport Strategy and Projects
b) And William Okpoho. email: william.okpoho@camden.gov.uk
He is the project officer for the Haverstock Hill works. He agreed to meet in March onsite.

Action Chris will be writing to William Okpoho for an update.
Issue could be addressed at Hustings
Engage with councillors post-election
Seek meeting with project leads e.g. Sarah – Safer Streets lead
(the contact info. was added after the meeting)

b) 100 Avenue Road Development

Monthly Construction Working Group (online) meeting attended by David. Minimal progress on site. Concerns regarding coordination with HS2 works. No other issues

3. Retrofit / Sustainability

Increased interest in retrofit due to energy concerns. Chris reported a future programme of events being developed by Retrofit Kentish Town focussing on flats and Camden-wide engagement.

4. Finance Report

a) Q1 accounts Presented by Prabhat: attached. Membership income strong (~£4,400 this quarter). Telephone box costs shared with Library group. Santander Bank charges introduced (£4/month)

b) Gift Aid: Further claim submitted for 2021 by David. Accounts need an additional line. Missing member address data preventing full claims.

Actions: Prabhat to seek missing member details

Prabhat to Improve financial reporting format (year-on-year comparison requested)

c) Treasurer Succession Helen Stevens identified as strong candidate and willing to join committee (not as trustee)

Decision: Proceed with co-option. Alan will inform her.

5. Events

a) Hustings (26 April 2026) Alan and Diane to co-chair. Invitations have been sent to major parties. Format as per our policy. Pre-submitted questions only. No open audience questions. Strict chair control of discussion.

b) Historical Walks Averil Nottage to lead a walk May 17th ('Artists, Refugees & Spies') Eventbrite already set up.

Action – Alan to discuss with England's Lane teas for the afternoon walk. (Library another possibility but more complex). Tea tickets will be booked to assess numbers.

c) Summer Garden Party Deborah Buzan confirmed June 21st in her garden, she will arrange catering

d) Historical Walk Averil Nottage offered Sept 27th for 'Pond St and beyond'

6. Belsize Library and Partnership with Friends

Proposal to collaborate more closely with Friends of Belsize Library Potential benefits: Shared resources, we can access funding to aid events and improving the facilities (esp. seating, AV, storage arrangements etc), Gift Aid for donations, Greater community impact, better governance.

Challenges: Resistance from some Friends committee members, Concerns about loss of independence, Concerns about additional work, Lack of clarity on benefits

Agreed Approach: Prepare short presentation for meeting this week to focus on practical benefits and collaboration (not structural change). We can help with the 90th anniversary

celebrations. Practical example is the way in which we have facilitated moving the phone box project forward (took >2yrs to go nowhere until our involvement).

Actions: Alan to prepare presentation

7. Phone Box

We have some estimates around £3.5-5k for restoration, may well be more. Cannot apply for CIL or other Camden funds until after the election.

8. Publications

Newsletter ready for printing, TYCY nearly finalised . Distribution to be organised before May.

Action: Arrange envelope stuffing and mailing team

issue	Approx copy deadline	To printers Monday	Printers to BelSoc Thursday
August	15 Jul 2026	3 Aug 2026	6 Aug 2026
November	18 Oct 2026	2 Nov 2026	5 Nov 2026

9. Membership

Four new members added since AGM Online joining working well

10. Any Other Business

Parking restrictions raised as a serious issue affecting local businesses as discussed earlier.

Action: To be escalated via councillors. (Possibly Laurel to lead?)

17. Date of Next Meeting

12 May 2026 7.30pm– at Alan’s home

Subsequent dates: 9th June, 14th July, 8th Sept., 13th Oct., 10th Nov., 8th Dec.
