



## Minutes of Lee Manor Society meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

PRESENT: Charles Batchelor, Barbara Bird (minutes), Grace Blyth, Simon Bucks (chair), David Dannreuther, Mary Donovan, David Ford, Mike Haste, John Higgins, Linda Manzi, Frances Migniuolo, David Plumer

APOLOGIES: Helen Carr, Rita Craft, Karen Pratt

1. Minutes of meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June Approved, with an additional comment on the plant mart that the banners and signage were very good.

2. Tree planting scheme – proposal to match fund money raised by residents We are working in connection with Street Trees for Living, and have £2,400 set aside for tree planting.

The new proposal is to focus on one particular street, Southbrook Road, and contact the residents asking for contributions towards funding new trees. Under this scheme trees will cost £450 each. Charles presented a text for distribution to residents, asking for funding which can be matched. This will offer people a stake in trees in their street, and encourage interest in the Society generally. It was pointed out that the residents need to be told the positions where trees can be planted.

Separately, and not related to the Southbrook Road project, there is an NCIL grant available which we can apply for; applications have to be in by September 23rd.

3. Moving Mary's garden David Ford has been in touch with the garden manager, David Hoy, about moving the plants from the garden at the edge of the Leegate site to the grass area across the road. It's agreed that some grass can be removed to make room for Mary's plants. We'll organise the move jointly, with volunteers helping on the day. Barbara will help Mary and David in arranging this.

4. Review of Manor House Gardens Festival involvement A huge number visited the Ice House. Leaflets were issued there and at the information table, and we received a total of £130 in donations. There was considerable interest in the history of the Ice House and the local area, and we should plan for more walks and other possible events.

For next year we should plan ahead for it more strategically, and for that and in general we should make more use of photographs.

In general it was a successful day for us, and we are grateful to the Friends of Manor House Gardens for holding it.

5. Planning update Mike Haste presented his detailed report on current planning applications. There is only one problematic case, where work has started before a decision has been taken. However we do not object to this development.

In addition there is a proposal concerning the Good Shepherd Church wall, involving rebuilding the whole Wantage Road section. Comments are required by 6<sup>th</sup> August. There is also a proposal concerning the Mayfield hostel redevelopment.

Charles reported that there has been a public hearing about the local plan meeting, to which we were not invited. He will follow this up.

Regarding the Leegate development, current occupants must have left by 1<sup>st</sup> October. Details about the plans, including traffic management etc., should be available. We can take this up at our September meeting.

6. Finances Simon reported that our balance is currently £9,567, and our financial year ends at the end of July.

In this connection it was suggested that minutes from our meetings should be posted on our notice-board, and other groups should be encouraged to use it. The Society can be emailed to do this, and Frances will Email Jim Mallory to advertise it. We should also post the minutes on the Manor House Gardens notice-board, accessed via the cafe.

7. Ice House The current openings, volunteers etc., were discussed.

The issue of insurance was raised. Charles will check on the situation, so as to have it confirmed in writing if there is council/Glendale cover under public liability.

There have been queries about possible school party visits.

8. Tree walks There will be a tree walk on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 11am, starting at the Lee Green crossroads notice-board.

9. AGM planning and speaker This will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October in the Baring Room, Manor House library. Paul Wood will give a talk on 'The Street Trees of London'.

Regarding the annual report, Charles will write on the history of Leegate, and David Plumer will write on a poet and poem about Lee.

Arrangements about providing refreshments etc. will be decided at the September meeting.

10. Website update Simon will work on getting the website up and running asap.

11. AOB

- David Plumer reported that next year it will be 25 years since the restoration of the Ice House and Manor House Gardens, and 49 or 50 years since the Society started. We should consider arranging some sort of celebration.
- David Ford will investigate the closure of the Old Tiger's Head pub. It was supposed to be temporary but looks as if it may be permanent.
- The Management Committee will discuss a statement of the Society's priorities, including for example replacing street trees as a policy.

*Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September.*