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FULHAM HOUSING IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY LIMITED
Minutes, Reports and Accounts, 1927-1968

The impetus for the improvement of housing conditions in Fulham arose out of the publication, in October 1927, of a report by Irene T Barclay and Evelyn E Perry compiled at the request of a small group of social workers connected with the Bishop Creighton Settlement and the Fulham Christian Social Council. At the instigation of the Bishop of London, a large meeting was held at Fulham Palace on 18 November 1927 at which the Fulham Housing Association (FHA) was launched.

The Fulham Housing Improvement Society (FHIS) was a public utility offspring of the FHA, becoming a registered company on 15 March 1928. Its objects were "to carry on the industry, business or trade of providing housing and any associated amenities for persons mainly of the working classes in Fulham and adjoining districts." The phrase "of the working classes" was substituted in 1963 by "of limited means upon terms appropriate to their means".

The FHIS issued shares and loan stock at a low rate of interest and with the income built new housing and re-conditioned old property which was then let at affordable rents. Properties were administered by lady managers on the principles laid down by Octavia Hill. A Committee of Management, elected annually by shareholders, met regularly, first at Bishop Creighton House, then, from December 1930, at the FHIS offices at 91 Dawes Road.

Among the early properties built by the FHIS were two blocks of flats, Rosamonds at Parsons Green, opened in 1929, and Brightwells, Clancarty Road, 1936. Individual freehold and leasehold properties were purchased for re-development and refurbishment, some of which were destroyed during the war.

In 1952 FHIS acquired a large house, Royston, 55 Putney Hill, which was opened as an Old People's Home in the following year. Although FHIS was responsible for the financial and general administration, day to day management was entrusted to a Home Committee representing the society, Bishop Creighton House and Fulham Old People's Welfare Committee, the last named being wound up in 1965. Loan and maintenance grants from the London County Council were supplemented by a public appeal. Accommodation for old people was expanded in 1963 when Wickham House, a building of twenty one flatlets, was constructed at the Kersfield Road end of the garden at Royston.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s the FHIS lost a number of its properties by Compulsory Purchase Orders. By 1966 a re-appraisal of the administration led to the conclusion that such a small society could not be run economically. Negotiations began for the amalgamation of the society's smaller properties with the Rowe Housing Trust, a process completed by 1 January 1968. A separate organisation was set up for Royston and Wickham House when the existing Old People's Home Committee constituted itself as Fulham (Royston) Housing Association.

See also: DD/193 correspondence from A M Lupton, Hon Sec FHA, 1928; F331.83 BAR Report on Housing Conditions in the Metropolitan Borough of Fulham, Barclay and Perry, 1927; F331.83 FUL, F333.324 FUL, scrap-book, cuttings, leaflets, including Fulham Housing Week, 1928-35, FHA annual reports, 1928-38, The Phoenix, A Journal of Housing, 1932-39.

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|------------|---|-----------------------------|
| DD/761/1/1 | Minute book

Management Committee meetings.
Signed.
Enclosed: list of rents to 29 September 1928,
(DD/761/1/2) | 22 Mar 1928-
18 Apr 1929 |
| DD/761/2/1 | Minute book

Management Committee meetings and second Annual
General Meeting, 27 March 1930.
Signed.
Enclosed: list of rents, September 1930, (DD/761/2/2) | 2 May 1929-
5 Feb 1931 |
| DD/761/3 | Minute book

Management Committee meetings.
Signed. | 19 Feb 1931-
30 Nov 1933 |

DD/761/4/1-6	Minutes	13 Feb-6 Mar 1933
	Finance Committee meetings, including reports on need for financial policy and terms of issue of loan stock and shares. Signed.	
DD/761/5/1	Minute book	14 Dec 1933- 28 Nov 1935
	Management Committee meetings. Signed. Enclosed: list of tenders, on headed paper, presented at meeting 28 November 1935, (DD/761/5/2)	
DD/761/6/1	Minute book	28 Nov 1935- 9 Dec 1937
	Management Committee meetings. Signed. Enclosed: typed copy of minutes of meeting 9 December 1937, (DD/761/6/2-3)	
DD/761/7/1	Minute book	6 Jan 1938- 7 Mar 1940
	Management Committee meetings. Signed.	
DD/761/7/2	Report of subcommittee formed to consider subject of expenses, adopted at meeting 23 February 1939. Signed. (Originally enclosed in DD/761/7/1)	1939
DD/761/7/3-5	Report by Miss A Lupton on consultations with A.R.P. office concerning shelters. (Originally enclosed in DD/761/7/1)	[Feb 1939]

DD/761/8/1	Minute book	4 Apr 1940- 14 Jun 1945
	<p>Management Committee meetings. Signed. Enclosed: lists of rent arrears, 1940, 1941; letter concerning compensation claims under War Damages Act, 21 August 1941; report by Miss Lupton on share dividend, 15 December 1942, (DD/761/8/2-10)</p>	
DD/761/8/11-16	<p>Minutes of Tenants' Committee meeting, 25 April 1940; lists of properties, tenants, rents and rates, 1939-1940. (Originally enclosed in DD/761/8/1)</p>	1939-1940
DD/761/9/1	Minute book	12 Jul 1945- 9 Jul 1953
	<p>Management Committee and subcommittee meetings. Signed. Enclosed: minutes of special committee meeting, 3 December 1948; accounts for Putney Hill Home, 26 June 1952; newspaper cuttings of obituaries of John Henry Palmer JP of Parsons Green, member of Management Committee 1928-49 and Chairman 1937-48, June 1952, (DD/761/9/2-7)</p>	
DD/761/10/1	Minute book	30 Jul 1953- 10 Sep 1959
	<p>Management Committee and subcommittee meetings, including quarterly reports of Putney Hill Home Committee (called Fulham Old People's Home from September 1957), some of which are enclosed (DD/761/10/2-14) Signed.</p>	

DD/761/11/1	Minute book	8 Oct 1959- 12 Mar 1968
	<p>Management Committee meetings, including quarterly reports of Old People's Home Committee. Signed. Enclosed: reports and correspondence concerning Old People's Home; accounts, 1962; newspaper cutting of obituary of Miss Ethel Watts, society's auditor, 1963, (DD/761/11/2-9)</p>	
DD/761/12/1	Minute book	29 Mar 1933- 27 Jun 1968
	<p>Annual General Meetings from 5th-40th (last) and special general meetings. Signed. Enclosed: notices and rough minutes, (DD/761/12/2-10) <u>Note</u>: minutes of 2nd AGM, 27 March 1930, see DD/761/2/1</p>	
DD/761/13-52	Annual reports 1st-40th, 1928-1967	28 Jan 1929- 27 Jun 1968
DD/761/53	Ledger Indexed.	15 Dec 1927- 27 Dec 1934
DD/761/54/1	Ledger With notes of transfer to Rowe Housing Trust at 31 March 1968. Enclosed: trial balance at 1 January 1968 (DD/761/54/2)	1 Jan 1963- 31 Dec 1967
DD/761/55	Sealing book	12 Mar 1964- 25 Sep 1968