

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 15 November 2021 at 7.30 p.m.
Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present**

Phil Waters (PhW), Harry Downie (HD), Alan Bunting (AB), Paul Gardiner (PG), Ian Barrison (IB), Chris Armitage (CA), Karl Wingfield (KW) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from Ron Taylor (RT), Alan Jackson (AJ), Jeff Phillips (JP), Penny Ayres (PA), Hester Gabbutt (HG), Anne James (AJa), and John Lowe (JL).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 20 September, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

(a) None.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

(a) The Treasurer's report had been circulated to the committee before the meeting. HD reported that income is slightly more than last year despite membership declining. This is because those members who have been removed from the membership list were mainly ones who hadn't paid their subscriptions last year. JD also reported that this year's expenditure is slightly below budget.

6. **Secretary's Items.**

- (a) The meeting on Air Pollution and Children will now feature Dr Abigail Whitehouse (a colleague of Prof Grigg) and will be held at KW School on the evening of April 21st.
- (b) The meeting on the "green environment" is still being considered for the Spring. This would involve representatives from the county and district together with pupils from the local schools and other local organisations.
- (c) Possible future meeting topics covering Luton Airport expansion, parking in Harpenden, Waste processing were discussed.
- (d) It was agreed that future committee meetings should be held in the mornings or afternoons and because of the sound quality of the room at the Friends Meeting House an alternate venue should be sought. **Action RF.**

7. **Chairman's Items.**

- (a) PhW reported that a letter had been sent to Cllr. Chris White at SADC requesting support in trying to get the banks to open a banking hub in Harpenden. A positive response has been received and this issue needs to be progressed.
- (b) PhW reported that SADC are reviewing the role of the parish and town councils in the District. The Society needs to track what is being proposed and comment when appropriate.
- (c) It was reported that the further meetings to discuss the Town's Conservation Area were being held. PhW is currently the Society's representative at these meetings but would like a committee member to take his place in the future.

8. **Membership Secretary's Items**

- (a) The Membership Secretary's report has been circulated to committee members.
- (b) HG is resigning as the Membership Secretary and a replacement is being sought.

9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

- (a) The Winter newsletter is in progress.
- (b) A person to shadow AB (an ex-journalist would be ideal) is being sought but with no success so far.

10. **Publicity Officer's Items**

- (a) Report circulated to committee members.

11. **Awards.**

- (a) There is still one award to present. PhW to discuss this with PA.

12. **Working Group Reports**

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated by PG.

- (b) **Environment:** Nothing to report.

- (c) **Transport:**

- I. The Transport Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. KW reported that a letter had been received stating that the proposed extension of Luton Airport to 19M passengers per annum was going to be approved by the Luton Council.

- II. An email has been sent to Councillors Heritage and de Kort re: the Station Road pedestrian crossing which is considered to be dangerous. With respect to parking, KW is meeting with Alison Wren (who sits on the Public Realm Committee which deals with parking) in the near future.

- III. The Town Council are proposing to improve access to the Common in the winter months through the provision of gravel paths at various entry points (where historically the ground has become a mud path in winter). It was agreed that the Society should support this initiative and, in principle, even more extensive proposals to improve access to the Common.

- (d) **Education:** CA reported that the Society's writing competition had been received by the secondary schools and hopefully there will be several entries.

- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** The Health Report has been circulated prior to the meeting. IB commented that the Society should consider proposing that Harpenden becomes a non-idling area for car engines.

- (f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report has been circulated by JL.

- (g) **Economic Activity:** The Publicity report has been circulated by RT.

- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment (ALE):** The ALE Report has been circulated prior to the meeting.

- (i) **Sports:** KW reported that the Harpenden Rigby Club were closing their squash courts so that they can build more changing room accommodation.

13. **AOB**

- (a) Nothing to report.

Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 17 Jan 22, 14 March 22

Public Meetings: April 21st 2022 (Dr Whitehouse)

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.