

**THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 12 July 2021 at 7.00 p.m. by Zoom video conference**  
**MINUTES**

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1. **Present (by video)**

Phil Waters (PhW), Alan Jackson (AJ), Hester Gabbutt (HG), Alan Bunting (AB), Penny Ayres (P), Jeff Phillips (JP), Ian Barrison (IB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from Ron Taylor (RT), Paul Gardiner (PG), Karl Wingfield (KW), Chris Armitage (CA), Harry Downie (HD), Anne James (AJa) and John Lowe (JL).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 10 May, 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. No issues were raised.

6. **Secretary's Items.**

(a) A discussion took place about possible future public meetings. The subject of the September meeting will be the AGM with a speaker from SADC to present the current state of the Local Plan. The councillor responsible for the planning portfolio (Jamie Day) has been contacted but has not yet confirmed his attendance.

(b) A meeting on the "green environment" is being considered for Oct/Nov. This could involve representatives from the county and district together with pupils from the local schools and other local organisations. It is hoped this meeting will be organised in co-operation with Rothamsted.

(c) The Dec 9<sup>th</sup> meeting on Air Pollution and Children with Prof Grigg is provisionally arranged.

(d) An early 2022 meeting on "integrated health care" is being considered and a Spring 2022 meeting on the Luton Airport was proposed.

(e) A meeting on parking and the state of the pedestrianisation of the town is also a possibility as is a meeting on the progress of the new Arts Centre ("What do you think of it so far").

(f) It was agreed that a meeting with JP, KW, RF and RT will be arranged to discuss the Society's media strategy. **Action RF.**

7. **Chairman's Items.**

(a) An Annual Report is required for the AGM. It was proposed that the input into the Annual Report from the committee members should be submitted by Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. **Action All**

(b) It was agreed that the Society should set objectives for the next 12 months in order to demonstrate to our members and the wider community our value. These could be compiled into material and campaigns which can help drive membership. A good way to start would be for each committee member to prepare a few sentences on the objectives they see should be set out in their area of responsibility and for those to be passed to Hester and Ron by 31 July who will compile it for consideration by the committee. **Action All**

(c) The Society reception for the library volunteers and newsletter distributors is now being arranged for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September at Park Hall.

(d) A meeting to discuss the Town's Conservation Area will be held with HTC and some interested local residents is going to meet on either 10 or 11 August and on our suggestion the meeting will be joined by the Local History Society. HG and PhW will attend the first meeting of the group.

(e) It was reported that the Society has approached the Harpenden Trust to see if they can trawl their volunteers for any interest in resuming the library volunteer scheme.

#### 8. **Membership Secretary's Items**

(a) The Membership Secretary's report has been circulated to committee members. Membership is now 869.

#### 9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

(a) The Summer newsletter is in progress and is expected to be delivered at the end of July. The Beginner's Guide is being distributed with the Summer Newsletter. An interview with the head of KW School, Tony Smith, is also included.

#### 10. **Publicity Officer's Items**

(a) Report circulated to committee members.

(b) A discussion took place on the pedestrianisation proposals for the Lower High St and the parking issues. There was a diversity of views about the pedestrianisation proposals, the survey seems to be showing a preference to keep the parking restrictions but there is strong push back from the retailers. It was suggested keeping the restrictions may be sensible if there were increased parking elsewhere, including limited time free parking. Also suggested that herringbone parking outside Marks & Spencer's may be an improvement. Also suggested that the Sensory Gardens needs looking at as it seems to be rarely used.

#### 11. **Awards.**

(a) PA reported that the Certificate of Merits to the Salvation Army and Skye Opticians had not yet been presented.

#### 12. **Working Group Reports**

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

(b) **Environment:** It was mentioned that there seems to be a lot of graffiti in the town. This could be raised at the upcoming meeting with HTC.

(c) **Transport:** The Transport Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The situation regarding the parking at the bottom of Station Rd causing traffic hold ups was mentioned.

(d) **Education:** It was reported that the KW School is now over-subscribed.

(e) **Health & Social Welfare:** IB reported that he and RT were going to the Red House on August 12<sup>th</sup> to take some photographs of the recent upgrades. IB reported that the consultation was now out for the Urgent Care Centre in St Albans. The CCG preferred option is for booked appointments only, no walk-ins allowed. This new Urgent Care Centre could be up and running by April 22. However, it was mentioned that the Urgent Care Centre in Hemel will remain operational and it was questioned whether funding be available for both.

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

(g) **Economic Activity:** The Publicity report has been circulated by RT. It reported that the Halifax Building Society is closing.

(h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment (ALE):** AJ reported that the third meeting of the EMC User Group is expected some time in July. This will be called by SADC. It was mentioned that the issues regarding scenery access and disabled access had still not been resolved.

(i) **Sports:** Nothing to report.

13. **AOB**

(a) Nothing to report.

**Dates of the next meetings:**

**Committee Meeting dates:** 20 Sept, 15 Nov, 17 Jan 22, 14 March 22

**Public Meetings:** September 23<sup>rd</sup> (AGM)

The meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.