

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 14 March 2022 at 10.00 a.m.
Salvation Army Hall
MINUTES

1. **Present**

Phil Waters (PhW), Paul Gardiner (PG), Ron Taylor (RT), Karl Wingfield (KW), Jeff Phillips (JP), Neil McArthur (NM), Penny Ayres (PA) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from John Lowe (JL), Ian Barrison (IB), Chris Armitage (CA), Harry Downie (HD), Alan Bunting (AB), Alan Jackson (AJ), and Hester Gabbutt (HG)).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 17 January 2022, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

(a) None.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

(a) The Treasurer's report unfortunately had not been circulated to the committee before the meeting. RF will circulate this immediately after the meeting. It was reported that the Society had now received the legacy of £10K from Mrs Sheila Burley and now has funds of around £33K available. The Independent Auditor has commented that having this amount in reserves is excessive. It was agreed that some of the reserves will be transferred into a Civic Development Fund that will be used to fund, or partially fund, projects in the community.

6. **Secretary's Items.**

(a) The meeting on Air Pollution and Children featuring Dr Abigail Whitehouse planned for the 21st April has currently attracted around 57 bookings. It was agreed that publicity for this event should be ramped up. If booking do not significantly increase RF reported that consideration should be given to holding the event online via Zoom.

(b) It was agreed that the AGM should be held online via Zoom in approximately 2 months time. The Annual Report is required to be circulated before the AGM so work needs to be started on this.

Action: All to provide their input to the Annual Report.

(c) It was reported that a meeting has been held to discuss the 4 or 5 areas where the Society should focus its activities in light of the limited resources. Attendees were be JP, NM, KW and RF. A report will be circulated in the near future about the outcome of this meeting.

(d) Topics for new meetings were discussed. "Drugs in the Community" and Luton Airport Expansion were discussed as possible topics.

(e) It was agreed that the Society should have a stand at the Carnival being held on June 18th. **Action RT to investigate the theme for the Society's stand.**

7. **Chairman's Items.**

(a) PhW reported that the Society had commented on SADC's proposed changes to the planning application process. The Society's input had been created by the Conservation Area working group (including Nicola Ramsden, Chris Earnshaw and Hester Gabbutt). A meeting with the St Albans Civic Society, who have also commented on the change, is being arranged.

8. **Membership Secretary's Items**

(a) No report this time.

(b) The search for a new Membership Secretary continues.

9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

- (a) No report this time.

10. **Awards.**

- (a) PA reported that the 2021 awards have been agreed. The Plaque will be awarded to the Eric Morecambe Centre, a Certificate of Merit will be awarded to the new Children's Playground in Rothamsted Park and a Letter of Commendation will be awarded to the new boardwalk in Batford Springs.

11. **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.
 - II. KW is producing the Society's response to the consultation on the expansion plans for Luton Airport and this response will be circulated to the Society's members to help in their own responses.
- (d) **Education:** No report this time.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** The Health Report has been circulated prior to the meeting.
- (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):** No report this time.
- (i) **Sports:** Nothing to report.

12. **AOB**

- (a) Nothing to report.

Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 9 May, 11 July, 19 Sept, 14 Nov

Public Meetings: AGM (tba), April 21st 2022 (Dr Whitehouse)

The meeting closed at 12.10.