

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 15 July 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present**

Phil Waters (PhW), Alan Falconer (AF), Penny Ayres (PA), Paul Gardiner (PG), John Lowe (JL), Ron Taylor (RT), Hester Gabbutt (HG), Alan Bunting (AB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from John Harris (JH), John Davis (JD), Alan Jackson (AJ), Harry Downie (HD), Chris Armitage (CA) and Tim Riley (TR).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 18 March 2019, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

HD was not present but had previously circulated the accounts. The Society's finances are sound.

5. **Secretary's Items**

- (a) RT has arranged for a St Alban's architect, Geraint John, to talk about developments in architecture at the Society's public meeting on the 25th Sept.
- (b) It was agreed that we don't re-invite our MP until the Brexit situation has become clearer as it is possible that he would have to cancel again if a meeting were arranged in late Autumn. If an election is called in the Autumn it was agreed that we should hold another hustings meeting.
- (c) Other possible public meeting topics were the new Arts Centre (how the town's arts groups work more closely together) and the Local Plan (implications if it goes through, implications if it does not go through).
- (d) RT suggested that a retailer's event be held in late Autumn. It is possible that one of the Timpson's family would be prepared to talk about the new retailing environment.
- (e) It was agreed that the Society would spend up to £1k on the initial work to develop a new "brand identity". **Action RT.**
- (f) It was agreed that the Society would develop a new recruitment brochure explaining what we do and why residents should join. **Action HG to start the initial work on this.**

6. **Chairman's Items**

- (a) Airport: It was agreed that the main focus should be on the impending large scale expansion proposal. The Society has had some correspondence with Harpenden Sky and in general supports their comments on the Airport's attempt to reduce their commitments made when the last expansion plans were approved.
- (b) Katherine Warington school: PhW reported that the forecast that the opening will be about 3 weeks behind schedule is still valid. The children allocated the new school will be hosted at the Univ. of Hertfordshire for the delayed period. PhW also reported that some planned highway improvements were behind schedule and the implications of this were currently being considered.

7. **Membership Secretary's Items**

- (a) HG reported that membership is steady with two couples joining, 3 died and 3 moved away during the last quarter.

8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

- (a) Next issue now on schedule for August delivery.

9. **Publicity Officer's Items**

- (a) Report circulated to committee members.

10. **Awards**

- (a) It was agreed that any Harpenden residents can nominate a development for a Society award, not just Society members.

11. **Working Group Reports**

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. There is a large increase in cycle burglary. It was reported that great difficulty was being experienced getting information from police sources. It was suggested that if this continued the Society should contact the Police & Crime Commissioner (David Lloyd).
- (b) **Environment:** The Environment Report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (d) **Education:** No report.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** Progress on the Red House re-development seems to have stalled yet again due to changes in the organisation of the local NHS bodies. **Post meeting note:** The CCG say they will organise a meeting to present the current plans for the Red House. The Society will monitor this situation and try to call our own public meeting if the CCG meeting does not go ahead.
- (f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Society would not comment on the plans by Rothamsted Research to build 825 houses in Redbourn. It was reported that the Pan Auto site development plans were going back to the planning committee to see if they conformed to the recently adopted Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan.
- (g) **Economic Activity:** The Economic Activity report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. Harpenden High St is doing relatively well compared to other retailing environments.
- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment:** The ALE report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (i) **Sports:** No report as there is now a vacancy for this position.

12. **AOB**

None.

13. **Dates of the next meetings:**

Committee Meeting dates: 16 Sept, 18 Nov, 20 Jan 20, 16 March 20

Public Meetings: 25th September.

14. **The meeting closed at 9:20 p.m.**