

**THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 17th July 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House**  
**MINUTES**

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1. **Present:** Phil Waters (PhW), Jan Smith (JS), Ron Taylor (RT), Harry Downie (HD), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Mike Waddilove (MW), John Davis (JD), Alan Bunting (AB), Alan Jackson (AJ), Alan Falconer (AF), John Lowe (JL), and Bob Fletcher (RF).
2. **Apologies** for absence were received from Penny Ayres (PA), Paul Gardiner (PG), John Harris (JH), Tim Riley (TR), Geoff Newman (GN), and Victoria Evans (VE).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 8th May, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
  - (a) HD had previously circulated the current accounts. HD reported that there was still some money allocated to the Red House campaign. The question was asked about whether or not this is still required. Committee members to consider this and to decide if this stays or is transferred into general funds at the next meeting.
  - (b) It was agreed that working groups can claim reasonable expenditure items (meeting room rentals etc.)
  - (c) It was agreed that RT will investigate the purchase of new display material and circulate a proposal before the next committee meeting.
5. **Secretary's Items**
  - (a) It was agreed that the Society will invite our new MP (Bim Afolami) to speak at one of the Society's Autumn public meetings. **Action RF to invite him**
  - (b) Other public meeting topics include:
    - Air Pollution **Action PhW to invite speaker;**
    - Red House, **Action RF to contact JH to explore if a meeting is possible;**
    - SLP, **Action RF to invite Mary Maynard to speak.**
  - (c) It was agreed that one of the meetings in September or October would be an EGM where a vote on the updated constitution would take place. **Action: RF to circulate proposed updated constitution.**
  - (d) AJ reported that the "Arts" in Harpenden could be the subject of a public meeting later in the year.
6. **Chairman's Items**
  - (a) PhW reported that he and Chris Marsden had held a meeting with the Society's library organiser (Liz Trounce) and the County Officer responsible for libraries. The County Officer was delighted with the performance of the library volunteers and would even like the Society to do more.
  - (b) PhW reported that 2 of the 4 new secondary school public consultation meetings had now taken place and turnout had been good. Transport/traffic issues, as expected, were the major item of concern. The planning application will be heard by a County Planning Panel in September and there will be a "educational needs" meeting in October.
  - (c) The situation regarding the High Court decision to reject SADC's appeal regarding the Strategic Local Plan was extensively discussed including the impact of this decision on the status of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was thought likely that the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan, especially the identification of the development sites included in the final version of the Plan, had now increased.

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

- (a) JS reported that membership was now around 950 households. 5 new members had joined since March and 1 had left.

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

- (a) AB reported that the 8 page Autumn Issue is now in development. Topics will include a report on the new Secondary School (possibly including a short piece by the Right School Right Place protest group to give balance).

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

- (a) The Publicity Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting..

## 10. **Working Group Reports**

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (b) **Environment:** JD reported that after many years of service someone else will be taking over his LADACAN duties.
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AF reported that the use of the Harpenden Hopper had increased.
- (d) **Education:** PhW reported that he the recent advert in the Newsletter had not resulted in any candidates coming forward for the Education group leader position. However, PhW also reported that he was meeting with a candidate that he had identified as being ideal for this position in mid-August. **Action PhW.**
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** The Health report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (g) **Economic Activity:** The Economic Activity report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment:** The Arts & Leisure report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (i) **Sports:** PhW reported that GN was planning the next sports organisation meeting for September.

## 11. **AOB**

- (a) A brief discussion took place about the reduction in the hours that the Town Council Information Point will be open. It was agreed that the Society will contact the Town Council to express its disappointment with this decision.

## 12. **Dates of the next meetings:**

**Committee Meeting dates:** 18 Sept 17, 20 Nov 17, 22 Jan 18, 19 March 18

**Public Meetings:** 21 Sept 17, 19 Oct 17, 7 Dec 17, 25 Jan 18, 22 Feb 18, 19 April 18 (AGM)

- 13. The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.