

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 18 March 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present**

Phil Waters (PhW), Alan Falconer (AF), Penny Ayres (PA), Harry Downie (HD), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Mike Waddilove (MW), John Davis (JD), 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), Alan Jackson (AJ), Jan Smith (JS), Paul Gardiner (PG), Chris Armitage (CA), Tim Riley (TR), and Geoff Newman (GN).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 21 January 2019, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

HD had previously circulated the accounts. HD reported that invoices sent to the Treasurer to be paid should be signed by the person originating the invoice if possible and/or an email should be sent to the Treasurer explaining the reasons for the invoice. This will improve the audit trail and strengthen the authorisation system.

5. **Secretary's Items**

- (a) It was confirmed that the AGM had been arranged for the 24th April, at the Southdown Room, Public Halls. After the AGM and awards, Cllrs. Julian Daly and Annie Brewster will talk about progress on the new Sports and Arts Centre.
- (b) No public meetings are currently planned for the Autumn 2019 period. 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 May or June. **Action All - to suggest topics for public meetings from September onwards.**
- (c) The Society will have two pitches at the Carnival on the 8th June. The theme is Get Active.

6. **Chairman's Items**

- (a) Local Plan: This is progressing but seems little has changed from the previous, failed, version. The Society needs to continue to monitor the situation. This could be a topic for a public meeting if it appears that it may fail to get approval again.
- (b) Katherine Warrington school: PhW reported that it forecast that the opening will be about 3 weeks behind schedule but the children allocated the new school will be hosted at another site for the delayed period.

7. **Membership Secretary's Items**

- (a) Report circulated to committee members. Membership continues to slowly decline.
- (b) Hester Gabbutt attended the meeting and is considering our invitation to become the new membership secretary.
- (c) Several members have answered our appeal and have volunteered to become newsletter distributors.

8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

- (a) Next issue now intended to be distributed after the AGM. However, the Annual Report needs to be completed in time to circulate before the AGM.

9. **Publicity Officer's Items**

Report circulated to committee members. An article about the situation regarding the Red House was reported in the Advertiser. RT is completing the Parking Report and will also forward this to the Advertiser for another possible article.

10. **Awards**

After a debate it was agreed that a Certificate of Merit will be awarded to the new Park House building. No plaque will be awarded this year.

11. **Working Group Reports**

(a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. This shows that crime is increasing in Harpenden

(b) **Environment:** The Environment Report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. A discussion took place about the trees to be felled on the Common. JD will progress this
Action JD

JD will also investigate the HTC "Litter Pick" planned for April and propose an item to be included in the Chairman's April email inviting Society members to take part. **Action JD**

(c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AF reported that the new Hopper buses are now available. AF is progressing the Parking Report that HTC are planning on producing.

(d) **Education:** It was reported that work on the co-ordinated travel plans was progressing.

(e) **Health & Social Welfare:** The Health report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. Progress on the Red House re-development seems to have stalled again.

(f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. A discussion took place about the St John's proposal for an upgraded Church Hall where a member had raised the comment about the lack of additional parking. John Lowe will progress this. **Action JL.**

A discussion took place about the new development proposed south of Luton where a large number of residential properties and a commercial complex consisting of bars, restaurants, shops etc. is planned. The impact on Harpenden retailers is claimed to be minimal but this assertion was questioned.

(g) **Economic Activity:** The Economic Activity report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.

(h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment:** The ALE report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.

(i) **Sports:** It was reported that the new Cricket pavilion was expected to be completed by the 11th May.

12. **AOB**

None.

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

Committee Meeting dates: 13 May, 15 July, 16 Sept, 18 Nov, 20 Jan 20, 16 March 20

Public Meetings: 24th April AGM.

14. **The meeting closed at 9:40 p.m.**