

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

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1. **Present**

Phil Waters (PhW), Alan Falconer (AF), Chris Armitage (CA), Harry Downie (HD), Alan Jackson (AJ), Paul Gardiner (PG), Ron Taylor (RT), Hester Gabbutt (HG), Penny Ayres (PA), John Davis (JD), John Lowe (JL), Alan Bunting (AB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from John Harris (JH), and Tim Riley (TR).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 16 September 2019, previously circulated, were approved (with two amendments) as a true record.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

- (a) HD presented the current accounts (previously circulated). Nearly all income for the year has now been received, there will be a small deficit this year. The Society's finances are sound.
- (b) HD reported that after a conversation with John Bristow it was agreed that it was not appropriate to have an investment strategy with the level of finances that the Society holds.

5. **Secretary's Items.**

- (a) An election hustings meeting has been arranged for the evening of Dec 5<sup>th</sup> at Fowden Hall, Rothamsted.
- (b) A special membership brochure will be designed for the Dec 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. This will form the basis of the new membership brochure. **Action HG & RT.**
- (c) The two top choices for the new Society strap line are "Caring for our Town" and "Because Harpenden Matters". Committee members will be asked to make a final choice. **Action RF**
- (d) It was agreed to try to restart the Society's meetings with HTC. **Action RF**
- (e) Issues to be discussed with HTC include
  - I. Provision for Town Hall public access
  - II. Tree felling on the common
  - III. Replacement of traditional flint stone walls by brick walls
  - IV. State of common after being occupied by the circus
  - V. "Happy to Chat" bench

6. **Chairman's Items.**

- (a) PhW reported that the Katherine Warrington school is now opened for its first year's intake on its Lower Luton Rd site.
- (b) Work is progressing on the Society's response to the Local Plan hearing.

7. **Membership Secretary's Items**

- (a) HG has been "cleaning up" the membership database removing leavers and members that have not paid and cannot be contacted. Consequently membership is now under 900.
- (b) HG reported that the newsletter distribution guidelines have now been issued.

8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

- (a) Next issue now being planned.

9. **Publicity Officer's Items**

- (a) Report circulated to committee members.

- (b) It was reported that SA Law, a St Albans firm, were sponsoring the Xmas Carnival as no Harpenden organisation would sponsor it.

#### 10. Awards

- (a) PA reported that several proposals had been made for the Society's awards including
  - I. Elliswick Club House
  - II. Salvation Army Hall
  - III. Cricket Club Pavilion
  - IV. Welcombe House redevelopment and associated site
  - V. Hatching Green (new thatching on cottages)
- (b) It was agreed that social/environmental groups could be included in future awards (unsung heroes!)

#### 11. Working Group Reports

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (b) **Environment:** The Environment Report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. JD will lead on the production of the Society's response to the Luton Airport expansion consultation. **Action JD**
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (d) **Education:** CA reported that the schools were working much more closely than ever on issues such as drugs, county lines, e-safety etc.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** The CCG held a public meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> September in the main Public Hall to provide an update on the re-development of the Red House site. The plans have been put back by several years although the re-development seems to still be on. Confidence that anything substantial will happen is not high.
- (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. It was reported that there will be some redundancies in the commercial section of Rothamsted.
- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment:** The ALE report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AJ reported that SADC's approach seems to be to directly replicate the organisation structure that is used to manage the current public halls. He believed that this would be inadequate for the management of an Arts Centre which involves much more than renting out hall space.
- (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:** 20 Jan 20, 16 March 20

**Public Meetings:** 5<sup>th</sup> December (Hustings), 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (MP meeting)

#### 14. The meeting closed at 9:45 p.m.