

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 18th September 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present:** Phil Waters (PhW), Jan Smith (JS), Ron Taylor (RT), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Mike Waddilove (MW), John Davis (JD), Penny Ayres (PA), Paul Gardiner (PG), John Harris (JH), Alan Bunting (AB), Alan Falconer (AF), and Bob Fletcher (RF).
2. **Apologies** for absence were received from Alan Jackson (AJ), Harry Downie (HD), John Lowe (JL), Tim Riley (TR), Geoff Newman (GN), and Victoria Evans (VE).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 17th July, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
 - (a) HD was not present at the meeting but had previously circulated the current accounts.
5. **Secretary's Items**
 - (a) RF reported that Cllr. Mary Maynard had accepted an invitation to present the current state of the SLP at the Society's October meeting.
 - (b) Other public meeting topics include:
 - Recycling, **Action JD to discuss potential dates with the speaker (maybe Jan or Feb meeting);**
 - Christmas Fair, **Action RT to contact a selection of Harpenden retailers to ascertain interest.**
 - (c) It was agreed that one of the meetings in October would be an EGM where a vote on the updated constitution would take place. **Action: RF to prepare the slides and circulate proposed updated constitution to members.**
 - (d) It was agreed that the Society should try to arrange a meeting to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and the upcoming referendum. **Action: RF to invite Carl Cheevers to present the Neighbourhood Plan in mid to late November.**
6. **Chairman's Items**
 - (a) **Declaration of Interest:** PhW reported that he had been awarded an honorary Doctorate at the University of Hertfordshire and would continue to have links with the University.
 - (b) PhW reported that the Section 10 Consultation (covering educational needs) for the new secondary school had just occurred (on the 18 September). The planning application has now been submitted and will be heard by a County Planning Panel hopefully in October.
 - (c) PhW reported that he was hopeful that the Society will soon have a committee member to look after Education. One of the first projects could be to work with all Harpenden schools to produce an integrated travel plan.
7. **Membership Secretary's Items**
 - (a) JS reported that membership was now around 540 households representing 945 members. The Society now has 3 new newsletter deliverers.
 - (b) The Society expressed its thanks to Bob Crouchley who has been delivering newsletters for many years but at 90 has now decided to retire from this role.
8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**
 - (a) AB requested committee members to send him any ideas for newsletter articles. The Winter edition copy is required by the end of October.
 - (b) It was agreed that a pdf copy of the current newsletter should go on the website as soon as it was available.

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 commented that the 40% increase in the required housing figures coming from Central Government needs to be examined carefully and questioned.
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AF stated that he would continue to monitor the proposed 20mph Grove Road speed restriction area.
- (d) **Education:** See para 6c above.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** JH reported that the Red House Forum had not met for 2 months. The final business case for the new development is now being prepared. JH also reported that the L&D and Bedford hospital were merging.
- (f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. PW reported that the Society had objected to various aspects of the Pan Auto site re-development.
- (g) **Economic Activity:** RT reported on the shop closures and shop openings that were occurring in the Town. Fat Face were opening a shop and Aga are extending their premises in the Town.
- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment:** The Arts & Leisure report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (i) **Sports:** PhW reported that GN had now got 12 clubs engaged and progress on joint procurement etc. was being made.

11. **AOB**

- (a) RF and RT reported that they had raised the reduction in the hours that the Town Council Information Point will be open at the recent information sharing meeting. HTC stated that the Information Point was not used as often as in the past and therefore reducing the hours was considered to be a sensible cost saving. It was agreed that the Society would continue to monitor the situation.

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

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

Public Meetings: 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.