

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 19th March 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present:** Phil Waters (PhW), Jan Smith (JS), Ron Taylor (RT), Harry Downie (HD), Alan Falconer (AF), Chris Armitage (CA), Alan Jackson (AJ), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Mike Waddilove (MW), John Davis (JD), Alan Bunting (AB), David Jones (DJ) and Bob Fletcher (RF).
2. **Apologies** for absence were received from John Harris (JH), Paul Gardiner (PG), Penny Ayres (PA), John Lowe (JL), Tim Riley (TR), Geoff Newman (GN), and Victoria Evans (VE).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 22 January 2018, previously circulated, were approved as a true record with a correction to item 11f – “approved” changed to “submitted”.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
 - (a) HD had previously circulated the 2017 accounts. DJ (the Society's independent examiner) explained his role and reported that he had found no issues with the Society's 2017 accounts
 - (b) The 2017 accounts were approved.
 - (c) It was agreed that “ring fenced” funds will be incorporated into the “general” fund from 2018 onwards.
5. **Secretary's Items**
 - (a) The next public meeting will be on the 19th April at Fowden Hall, Rothamsted, and will be about the development plans for the Red House site. This meeting will be preceded by the Society's AGM.
 - (b) A new meeting has been arranged for the 17 May. This will be about the proposed Luton Airport Expansion and also will be held at Fowden Hall, Rothamsted.
 - (c) It was agreed that the presentation of the Awards will be immediate precede the 17th May meeting if this is acceptable to PA (who was not present at the meeting).
 - (d) RT has arranged for the Police & Crime Commissioner to speak at a public meeting on Wednesday 26th September 2018.
 - (e) The Society's Data Protection Policy, circulated before the meeting, was approved.
6. **Chairman's Items**
 - (a) PhW reported that the HCC Planning Development Board has approved the new secondary school planning application. However, 42 planning conditions have been stated. These are now being looked at to ascertain whether or not the Sept 2018 opening date can be met. (Post meeting note – the opening date has now been postponed until Sept 2019).
 - (b) The Secretary of State did not call in the above application but it is possible that Judicial Review could take place to investigate whether or not there has been a failure to follow the correct process. A submission to request a Judicial Review has to be made within a short timescale after the application has been approved.
 - (c) PhW reported that the Society had submitted its response to the Local Plan consultation.
 - (d) PhW reported that the referendum on HTC's Neighbourhood Plan is now scheduled to take place in mid-2018, although it could be as late as Sept 18.
7. **Membership Secretary's Items**
 - (a) JS had sent in a report prior to the meeting. JS asked for volunteers to help out if the co-ordinators or distributors were away as they had been during the distribution of the last newsletter. PW, MW and AF agreed to volunteer.
8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**
 - (a) AB reported that the Spring newsletter has now been distributed.

9. Publicity Officer's Items

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

10. Awards

- (a) It was reported that a meeting to discuss the 2017 Awards was being held on the 21 March.

11. Working Group Reports

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. It was reported that the 101 police non-emergency number is often engaged for a long period of time. Concern was expressed about the apparent rising crime rate in Harpenden. It was agreed that PG will be asked to consider raising these concerns to the Police & Crime Commissioner (PPC) after various meetings which are being held by the PCC in the next week or two have taken place.
- (b) **Environment:** It was reported that residents find it difficult to find the numbers to report damaged street lamps, blocked drains etc. It was proposed that a card be produced listing all relevant numbers. RT will design this and committee members will be asked to supply the numbers. **Action RT.**
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (d) **Education:** CA reported that he was working with the heads of the four secondary schools to produce a generic Travel Plan. It was reported that CA & PhW had attended a meeting with the library to discuss how the Wednesday pm volunteer staffing was proceeding. It was reported that the library were pleased with the progress and thought it was very successful.
- (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. RT reported that the Harpenden Prezzo was not one of the ones scheduled for closure.
- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment:** The ALE report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (i) **Sports:** PhW reported that GN had reported that he recently had had a meeting with the Harpenden Sports groups.

12. AOB

- (a) JS raised the issue of the Society's name and/or strap line and stated that she felt it was "dated". This was generally agreed by the committee members. It was also felt that this may have some effect on the Society's lack of success in recruiting more younger members.

Action: All, to propose new names and/or strap lines.

13. Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 14 May, 16 July, 17 Sept, 19 Nov, 21 Jan 19, 18 March 19.

Public Meetings: 19 April 18 (AGM), 17 May 18, 26 Sept 18

14. The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.