

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 20 January 2020 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present**

Phil Waters (PhW), Alan Falconer (AF), Harry Downie (HD), Alan Jackson (AJ), 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), Paul Gardiner (PG), Chris Armitage (CA), and Tim Riley (TR).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 18 November 2019, previously circulated, were approved (with one spelling correction) as a true record.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

(a) HD presented the 2019 accounts (previously circulated). HD reported that there would be a small deficit of around £234 for 2019 but the Society's finances are sound.

5. **Secretary's Items.**

(a) The next public meeting will be with our MP, Bim Afolami, on the 27th February 2020.

(b) The two top choices for the new Society strap line are "Caring for our Town" and "Because Harpenden Matters". PhW will be given the results of the committee members' voting by RF and will make a decision about the new strapline. **Action RF & PhW**

(c) A meeting with HTC has been arranged for the 13th February 2020.

(d) The public meeting after the AGM (currently scheduled for the 23 April) could be about parking or possibly a talk from the CPRE on environmental issues affecting Harpenden. AF to inform RF if parking could be a topic after the HarPark meeting with SADC scheduled for the 30th January. **Action AF. Post meeting note** -- The Harpark meeting has been postponed so environmental issues will be progressed as the topic.

6. **Chairman's Items.**

(a) PhW reported that the Society had submitted a response to the Luton Airport consultation.

(b) PhW reported that the January chairman's email has been issued.

(c) PhW reported that he had been informed of an offer of help by a Dr Renata Woodhams and was progressing this.

7. **Membership Secretary's Items**

(a) HG reported that membership was now under 900. About 40 people had not paid their 2019 subscriptions. These late payers are being chased up.

8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

(a) Next issue now being printed.

(b) The Annual Report will be required to go out with the Spring Newsletter. Copy is required to be ready by the end of February.

9. **Publicity Officer's Items**

(a) Report circulated to committee members.

(b) It was reported that there is a plan for some (slight) improvements to the Red House. The improved facilities should be ready in June 2020.

(c) An application has been submitted to replace a number of buildings on the Southdown Industrial Estate with new commercial buildings. It was mentioned that this may be a precursor for an eventual attempt to replace the commercial buildings with new housing.

- (d) SADC are considering acquiring the main commercial retail block in the centre of Harpenden. However this proposal is meeting with objections from some councillors.

10. **Awards**

- (a) PA reported that the 2019 awards were:
 - I. Plaque - Welcombe House redevelopment and associated site
 - II. Certificate of Merit - Cricket Club Pavilion
 - III. Letter of Commendation - Salvation Army Hall
 - IV. Letter of Commendation - Hatching Green (new thatching on cottages)

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.
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. It was reported that the Harpenden Hopper will now be running 5 days per week.
- (d) **Education:** Nothing to report.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** Nothing to report apart from comment under paragraph 9b.
- (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 ALE report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. It was reported that HTC have organised a year of cultural events for 2020s
- (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: 16 March 2020, 11 May, 13 July, 21 Sept, 16 Nov, 18 Jan 2021, 15 March 2021
Public Meetings: 27th February 2020 (MP meeting), 23 April (AGM)

14. **The meeting closed at 9:35 p.m.**