

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 20th March 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present:** Chris Marsden (CM), Phil Waters (PhW), Ron Taylor (RT), Penny Ayres (PA), John Harris (JH), Alan Bunting (AB), John Davis (JD), Jan Smith (JS), Alan Jackson (AJ), , Paul Gardiner (PG), Alan Falconer (AF), Pauline Waddilove (PW), David Jones (DJ), and Bob Fletcher (RF).
2. Apologies for absence were received from Harry Downie (HD), John Lowe (JL), Donald Robertson (DR), Mike Waddilove (MW), Tim Riley (TR), and Victoria Evans (VE).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 23rd January, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
 - (a) HD had previously circulated the 2016 accounts. DJ (the Society's independent examiner) explained his role and reported that he had found no issues with the Society's 2016 accounts
 - (b) The 2016 accounts were approved.
5. **Secretary's Items**
 - (a) It was agreed that although the speaker at the 20 April AGM will be Simon Linnett (the Chairman of the L&D hospital trust) the event would be a non-ticket event. This was discussed because previous events featuring NHS topics had attracted a large audience and had caused concern about exceeding the maximum capacity of Park Hall.
 - (b) It was agreed that a vote on the updated constitution would not take place at the AGM due to shortage of time and would be the subject of an EGM later in the year.
6. **Chairman's Items**
 - (a) PhW described the Neighbourhood Plan project and reported that Tim Riley was serving on the Architecture/Design group, Pauline Waddilove on the Housing group and Phil Waters on the Transport group. He also reported that Ron Taylor was working with the retail group although this was not directly part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The consultants (Nexus) have been appointed and the object is to have a referendum in 2018 on the outcome of the plan.
7. **Membership Secretary's Items**
 - (a) JS reported that she had deleted 30 members from the list who had not paid last year and who had not responded to reminders.
8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**
 - (a) The Newsletter Editor's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AB reported that the Annual Report had been produced as a separate document and distributed with the latest newsletter.
9. **Publicity Officer's Items**
 - (a) The Publicity Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. RT reported that 300 invitations had been sent out for a recent meeting of the Town's retailers with only 11 attended the meeting. An offer had been made by the Town Clerk for retailer to provide input to a double page spread in the June issue of Forum magazine.
10. **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. It was mentioned that re-cycling could be the subject of a future public meeting. **Action JD**

- (c) **Transport:** AF reported that the Harpenden Hopper has had a slow start. They apparently have given themselves a year to prove the concept. Transport will feature heavily in the Neighbourhood Plan, especially the parking aspects.
- (d) **Education & Leisure:** PhW reported that tendering for the contractor for the new secondary school was now taking place with an appointment expected in early April 17. The new contractor, once chosen, will prepare the planning application. The target opening date in Sept 18 (in temporary accommodation).
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** JH reported that the Your Care Your Future meeting at Roundwood Park school was well attended but the purpose of the future NHS plans seems to be to deliver healthcare at less cost, not to provide better healthcare. Progress on the Red House/Stewarts is slow but steady with the outline business case being forecast for the end March 17.
- (f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (g) **Economic Activity:** See item 9 above.
- (h) **Arts & Leisure:** AJ reported that there was concern that the current Public Halls should not decline further during the next 3-4 years before the new Arts Centre is completed. The architects are now producing plans for the new Arts Centre with a target date of Sept 17 for the planning application to be submitted. Some initial thought was being given to a special event to launch the new Arts Centre; this could perhaps become the foundation on which an annual Harpenden arts festival could be established if there was support for the idea. Over the coming months an Arts, Leisure and Entertainment (ALE) Working Group will be formed of representatives from local arts organisations which will initially focus on supporting the plans for the establishment of the new Arts Centre.
- (i) **Sports:** PhW reported that a meeting of 11 Harpenden Sports Clubs was taking place on 22 March. He was hopeful that Geoff Newman will lead this group and will join the Harpenden Society committee.

11. Awards

- (a) PA reported that 8 nominations had been received so far. Nominations are now closing on the 31 March.

12. AOB

- (a) None.

13. Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 8 May 17, 17 July 17, 18 Sept 17, 20 Nov 17, 22 Jan 18, 19 March 18

Speakers meetings: 20 April 17 (AGM), 21 Sept 17, 19 Oct 17, 7 Dec 17, 25 Jan 18, 22 Feb 18, 19 April 18 (AGM)

14. The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.