

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

1. **Present:** Phil Waters (Ph. W) Chris Armitage (CA) Harry Downie (HD) John Lowe (JL) Alan Bunting (AB) Alan Falconer (AF) Paul Gardiner (PG) John Davis (JD) Ron Taylor (RT) Pauline Waddilove (PW) Mike Waddilove (MW) Jan Smith (JS)
Chris Armitage was introduced and welcomed.
2. **Apologies** for absence: Bob Fletcher (RF) Geoff Newman (GN) Alan Jackson (AJ) John Harris (JH) Penny Ayres (PA)
3. **Minutes** of the meeting on 18th September 2017, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
Point 5d: Carl Cheeves and Brian Ellis were noted as being protective of Harpenden in the Neighbourhood Plan. There was no need for a follow up meeting of the Harp. Soc. Item 11 AOB: Problems with the council reducing the times at the Information Point were noted. A suggestion of opening every day for an hour, rather than odd days, was made (JD) it will be put on the agenda for the next meeting with Carl Cheevers.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
 - (a) HD reported that the society is financially stable, though the membership subscriptions are down from last year. More money is being spent on the extended Newsletter (£900 last year and approx. £1600 this year).
 - (b) The cost of Public Meetings is down as we only hired Park Hall.
 - (c) Subscriptions (£40 to the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and £100 to Greenbelt) were questioned. JD is to circulate a resume after the AGM of the Wildlife Trust and David Rankin is to be asked to circulate resumes of his meetings to our committee.
5. **Secretary's Items**
Meetings
 - (a) 7th December, Rosemary Ross to give a History of the Public Hall. Tim Riley to give a personal opinion of what could replace the present one.
 - (b) 25th January. 'Air Quality, a concern for all of us' to be given by the Professor of Air Quality at Hertfordshire University.
 - (c) 22nd February JD suggested The Red House, a report on the developments after the HCT group's meeting in early January. The future users of the premises are needed to sign contracts to guarantee a funding stream. RT has spoken to Eric Midwinter and Chris Marsden for the need to put positive pressure on our MP and the Health Authorities involved for the need of a health facilities hub.
 - (d) The amendments for our new constitution, which were approved at the latest EGM, to be circulated to the committee. (RF)
6. **Chairman's Items**
 - (a) New School (RF) has sent a response. County Planning Panel to meet early Dec. Decision early Jan 2018. Applications from all over the area. Pelican crossing to be installed, with railings, on Lower Luton Road.
 - (b) CA to take the lead in Education working group. Will engage first with all secondary heads, then primary. Challenges to get the schools together. Need an integrated travel plan, buses from the villages to be coordinated, walking buses with community volunteers, and private sector schools to join in. Alan Reid, chair of Sir John Lawes to be asked to help CA. Action PW.

- (c) Our society should formally support the Neighbourhood Plan. It has clear policies and strategies. A great start for Carl Cheevers, zoning the town. The council sees it as a live document. The referendum will be critical. The AB completed the NP survey and found it very time consuming and tedious. Rothamsted development, for visiting workers' accommodation.

7. **Membership Secretary's Items**

- (a) JS reported 952 members listed. These include the schools.
- (b) Need to keep trying to recruit (5 new this quarter) as deaths regular occurrence in our aging society. Colin Smith (Harpenden and Truro) died last month.

8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

- (a) Newsletter circulated to the committee via internet. Printed Newsletters due for collection on 1st December. JS, RT.
- (b) Contributions for Spring Newsletter, which will welcome CA, to Alan as soon as possible.

9. **Publicity Officer's Items**

- (a) Disappointing response from retailers for promoting the town's businesses. Only 7 or 8 out of over 100 businesses, attended a meeting. Retailers not willing to give discounts. RT's tenacity, for trying to promote Harpenden businesses, praised. Councillors to be urged to make themselves known to businesses.
- (b) Four new Harp. Soc. display panels approved after suggested amendments by AF.

10. **Working Group Reports**

Now nine working groups. Most have submitted resumes to the committee.

- (a) **Community Safety.** PG. Overhanging hedges causing danger. No response from HCC when requested to trim. Forum needs to ask residents to trim their own hedges. Problems, including potholes and lampposts not working, can be reported on website. PG to write to Teresa Heritage to highlight problems.
- (b) **Environment.** JD noted that Luton Airport has narrowed all flight paths, so it is louder for fewer. Secondary glazing helps cut the noise.
- (c) **Transport.** AF noted that the County draft plan barely mentions Harpenden. Responses to the plan to be submitted by 18th January. A daughter plan will come out in spring which includes our area. A Car-Parking Working Party in St Albans has a process for complaints and suggestions. Retailers in Harpenden often use the 2hr spaces. Issues regarding the Katherine Warrington School are to be addressed. Speed bumps have been reinstated on Hollybush Lane. No Business Parks are served by bus routes. New buses have an automatic engine stops whenever they halt, cutting pollution. Fewer trains will run through Harpenden during the Christmas period due to work at Kentish Town.
- (d) **Health.** JH's report highlighted the merger of the successful Luton and Dunstable hospital with Bedford Hospital. The Trust to include Milton Keynes. AF worried that Harpenden may lose out.
- (e) **Art, Leisure & Entertainment.** AJ's submitted a report and highlighted Glen Povey's concerns that the new facility in Rothamsted Park will have no cellars and not sufficient provision for deliveries. AJ requested that he be given 10 minutes in the next committee meeting.
- (f) **Sport.** No meeting of the working group this autumn.
- (g) **Education.** Issues already covered.
- (h) **Built Environment** PW had nothing further to her report, but JL stated that Jarvis have resubmitted an application for 43 units on the Pan Auto site, with just 46 parking places.

11. **AOB**

None.

12. Dates of the next meetings:

(a) Committee Meetings: 22 Jan18, 19 March 18.

(b) Public Meetings: 7 December 17, 25 Jan 18, 22 Feb 18, 19 April 18 (AGM)

13. The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.