

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 21 September 2020 at 7.00 p.m. by Zoom video conference
MINUTES

1. **Present (by video)**

Phil Waters (PhW), Alan Falconer (AF), Harry Downie (HD), Alan Jackson (AJ), Ron Taylor (RT), Hester Gabbutt (HG), Penny Ayres (PA), Alan Bunting (AB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from John Davis (JD), John Lowe (JL), Paul Gardiner (PG), Chris Armitage (CA), John Harris (JH) and Tim Riley (TR).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 6 July 2020, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

(a) **HG** reported that a developer is appealing the decision not to approve the proposed re-development of Redclyffe in Salisbury Avenue.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

(b) HD presented the 2020 accounts (previously circulated). HD reported that the Society's finances are sound but annual income is falling slightly due to the falling membership.

6. **Secretary's Items.**

(a) RF reported that this committee meeting was being held by Zoom video conferencing due to the social distancing rules brought in because of the Covid19 pandemic.

(b) RF reported that resignations from the committee had now been received from John Harris (Health), John Lowe (Built Environment), Paul Gardiner (Community Safety), Alan Falconer (Transport) and John Davis (Environment). This leaves only three out of nine of the main areas of activity filled by a committee member. The Society urgently needs to fill these positions if the work of the Society is to continue.

(c) It was agreed that a request for new volunteers to join the committee will be included in the next Chairman's newsletter. **ACTION PhW**

(d) It was also agreed that the Society should try to get an article, and possibly an advertisement, included in the next issue of the Forum magazine. **ACTION RT**

(e) It was also agreed that the Chairman and other members of the committee will make contact with people they have come into contact with who may be interested in serving on the committee.

(f) It was agreed the tsubject of the 2020 AGM will remain on the agenda. A decision will be made in the future about whether or not, and when, a Zoom based AGM will be held.

7. **Chairman's Items.**

(a) PhW thanked all retiring members of the committee for the work they had done during the past years.

(b) Topics for the next Chairman's emails were discussed. Topics should include the planned re-organisation of Local Government and the new Planning Proposals.

(c) A discussion took place on the subject of Zoom public meetings. It was agreed that public Zoom meetings are difficult to organise well and if we do proceed with this we need to plan the Zoom meeting very carefully.

(d) It was agreed that we should explore if David Williams would give an interview about the proposed Local Government re-organisation plans, which we could record and put onto YouTube or another video sharing site. **ACTION PhW and RT.**

- (e) Another topic could be asking the Town Clerk to host a Zoom meeting, or again record an interview, about how the town will change after Covid. AJ has produced a paper on this topic.
8. **Membership Secretary's Items**
- (a) HG reported that the membership database has been updated to remove members who have not paid their subscriptions and cannot be contacted.
9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**
- (a) The Autumn newsletter is being planned to be issued in early November or before. The award to the Cricket Club will be included.
10. **Publicity Officer's Items**
- (a) Report circulated to committee members.
- (b) RT reported that although activity in the Town had increased, as had the volume of traffic, the shops were still not seeing a substantial increase in trade. The barriers blocking off traffic from the Lower High Street are going to remain in spite of several objections.
- (c) RT reported that the writing competition for local schoolchildren had now been accepted by all four secondary schools in the town.
11. **Awards**
- (a) PA reported that the 2019 awards Plaque for the Welcombe House redevelopment had still not been presented due to Covid issues.
- (b) PA reported that the objective to include people who have provided a significant contribution to life in the Town in the annual awards was proving more complicated than first thought, as doubts had been raised about the criteria to be used for judging these contributions. It was agreed that this type of award would not occur every year; an award of this type would be made only when the person's contribution had been outstanding and obvious. There may be several years when the award would not be made.
12. **Working Group Reports**
- (a) **Community Safety:** Nothing to report.
- (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
- (d) **Education:** An article on the new Katherine Warrington School was included in the latest newsletter. The school is now taking its second cohort. KWS is also taking part in the Society's writing competition.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** Nothing to report.
- (f) **Built Environment:** Nothing to report
- (g) **Economic Activity:** The Economic Activity report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment (ALE):** AJ reported that a Zoom meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 29th September to discuss the re-development of the Public Halls site. AJ will enquire if other interested members can join the meeting. **ACTION AJ**
- (i) **Sports:** Nothing to report.
13. **AOB**
- (a) None.
14. **Dates of the next meetings:**
- Committee Meeting dates:** 16 Nov, 18 Jan 2021, 15 March 2021

Public Meetings: non currently scheduled

15. **The meeting closed at 9:30 p.m.**