

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 22nd January 2018 at 730 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present:** Phil Waters (PhW), Ron Taylor (RT), Chris Armitage (CA), Alan Jackson (AJ), Pauline Waddilove (PW), John Lowe (JL), Mike Waddilove (MW), John Davis (JD), Penny Ayres (PA), Paul Gardiner (PG), John Harris (JH), Alan Bunting (AB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).
2. **Apologies** for absence were received from Jan Smith (JS), Harry Downie (HD), Alan Falconer (AF), Tim Riley (TR), Geoff Newman (GN), and Victoria Evans (VE).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 20 Nov 2017, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
 - (a) HD was not present at the meeting but had previously circulated the 2017 accounts.
5. **Secretary's Items**
 - (a) The next public meeting will be on the 8 February and will be about "pollution". The NHS Community Trust has been offered two dates – the 22 Feb and the 19 April. If the Trust chooses the 19 April the 22 Feb meeting will be cancelled.
 - (b) A new meeting has been arranged for the 17 May. This will be about the proposed Luton Airport Expansion and will be held at Fowden Hall, Rothamsted.
 - (c) It was agreed to place an advert in the Highland Gathering programme (£145) and attend HTC's Carnival Day (£20)
6. **Chairman's Items**
 - (a) PhW reported that the HCC Planning Development Board will be hearing the new secondary school planning application during the week beginning the 5 February.
 - (b) PhW reported on the Local Plan. It was agreed that the Society would try to work with the St Albans Civic Society to produce a joint response. PhW will produce a draft of the major points that the Society needs to discuss with the St Albans Society. **Action PW**
 - (c) PhW reported that HTC was pleased with the Society's response to the Neighbourhood Plan. The final version is planned to go to referendum in April 2018.
7. **Membership Secretary's Items**
 - (a) JS was not present but had sent in a report prior to the meeting. The 2017 accounts showed that membership revenue had dropped again. It was agreed that we need to commence another membership campaign.
8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**
 - (a) AB requested committee members to send him any ideas for newsletter articles. The Spring issue is now in process and is planned to be distributed during the first week in March.
9. **Publicity Officer's Items**
 - (a) The Publicity Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
 - (b) RT reported that the Nat West Bank is closing, Rollings Wine is becoming a wine bar (under new ownership) and the travel agents in Station Rd was closing.
10. **Awards**
 - (a) PA reported that the nominations for the 2017 awards were required by the 1 April at the latest. A request for nominations will be included in the next Chairman's email.

11. Working Group Reports

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (b) **Environment:** It was reported that the lighting on the corner of Sun Lane and Bowers Way was inadequate and potentially dangerous. JD reported that the proposed Luton Airport expansion will be treated as a national significant infrastructure project (NSIP) and will be looked at more carefully than the previous expansion.
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. It was reported that the two Harpenden Hopper buses are currently out of action.
- (d) **Education:** CA reported that the four secondary heads were aware of his role in the Society. CA is now trying to contact the heads of the primary schools.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** JH reported that the L&D Hospital had reduced their requirement for services from the upgraded Red House from 30% of the total to 10%. This had impacted the business plan. This is due to the L&D merging with the Bedford Hospital.
- (f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. PW reported that the Pan Auto site re-development plans have been submitted, however it was reported that the number of parking spaces seemed inadequate.
- (g) **Economic Activity:** See para 9 above.
- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment:** AJ described the proposed terms of reference for the ALE group (previously circulated). These were approved by the committee.
- (i) **Sports:** PhW reported that GN had reported that he was trying to support the Harpenden Colts and Harpenden Hockey Club to have a permanent home in the town.

12. AOB

- (a) JD reported that the Annual New Year's Day charity Duck Race on the river again raised approaching £2,000 for cancer research and a local hospice.

13. Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 19 March 18

Public Meetings: 22 Feb 18, 19 April 18 (AGM), 17 May 18

- 14. The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.