

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 4th July 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present:** Chris Marsden (CM), Ron Taylor (RT), Helen Clothier (HC), Donald Robertson (DR), Jan Smith (JS), Alan Jackson (AJ), Alan Bunting (AB), Harry Downie (HD), John Harris (JH), Mike Waddilove (MW), Pauline Waddilove (PW), and Bob Fletcher (RF).
2. Apologies for absence were received from; John Lowe (JL), John Davis (JD), Penny Ayres (PA), Tim Riley (TR), and Victoria Evans (VE).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 9th May 2016, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
4. Matters arising not on the Agenda:
 - (a) None
5. The Chairman introduced Philip Waters who attended the meeting as a guest with a view to possibly joining the committee as Vice Chairman.
6. **Treasurer's Report**
 - (a) HD had previously circulated the accounts for the first 6 months of 2016. There were no comments on the accounts.
7. **Secretary's Items**
 - (a) It was agreed that the focus for the 22nd September public meeting will be the sports facilities in Harpenden. The following committee members have been contacting Harpenden sports organisations to ask them to reserve the date - Cricket (CM- club accepted invitation to attend meeting), Rugby (HC to chase up), Football (RT- accepted), Boxing (RT- accepted), Tennis (RT- accepted), Bowling (RF outdoor club accepted, indoor club considering,) Hockey (JD – no report). HD will forward a contact in the athletics club to RT. **Action: HD.**
 - (b) The 20 October meeting could possibly feature Julian Daly's plans for the public halls and Rothamsted Park. **Action: CM to contact Julian Daly.**
 - (c) For the December meeting it was agreed we will ask the new Town Clerk to present his plans for Harpenden once he is in post.
 - (d) It was agreed that a future meeting could bring together all the arts societies in Harpenden. We could also invite the Director of Rothamsted to give a talk about the current research being undertaken.
8. **Chairman's Items**
 - (a) It was agreed that CM would write to Cllr. Brian Ellis offering the Society's help in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. **Action: CM**
 - (b) The Neighbourhood Plan could also be the subject of a future article in the Society's newsletter. **Action: AB**
 - (c) It was reported that HCC had been very critical of the SADC SLP regarding the transport planning for the A1081 north of Harpenden.
 - (d) It was reported that Crest Nicholson were very interested in building on a site North East of Harpenden.
 - (e) HCC have invited expressions of interest for building up to 2,000 houses on the proposed Freight Terminal site in Radlett. If this went ahead it would obviously have a major impact on the SADC SLP.
 - (f) It was agreed that CM would contact the "Mum's Guide to Harpenden" organisation to investigate if some form of informal co-operation could be initiated which would help the Society access the younger age group in the Town. **Action: CM**

9. Membership Secretary's Items

- (a) JS reported that she had been phoning the “non-payers” and an additional £200 in membership fees had now been paid.
- (b) JS reported that 16 members had left the Society last year (1 died, some too infirm, some moved away). 12 residents had joined.

10. Newsletter Editor's Items

- (a) The new Newsletter Editor reported that his first edition had been well received. It is hoped that the new 8 page format will be continued.
- (b) Suggestions for new articles included an article on “Mums Guide to Harpenden”, and articles from the schools (from the Head boy perhaps). **Action: AB**

11. 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 Carnival competition had been very successful. 360 competition forms had been given out, 55 entries were returned (26 were fully correct).
- (c) Members' lunches were discussed. It was agreed that the Society will not pursue this initiative at the moment as it would probably not improve access to the younger generation of residents which is the Society's current main focus..

12. Working Group Reports

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Public Order working group's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AJ gave a brief summary of the report.
- (b) **Environment:** The Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting As JD was not present this was not discussed. AJ reported that the Harpenden Ecology Group is being reformed and restarted without HTC involvement. A discussion on whether the Society should start an initiative to persuade schools to “adopt a highway” was held. **Action: AJ to consider this and progress it.**
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. DR reported that a member (Alan Falconer) had agreed to help the Society with the various parking initiatives that are now taking place.
- (d) **Education & Leisure.** Philip Waters reported that progress on the new secondary school was slow but it was still proceeding towards a 2018 opening.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare.** The Health & social Welfare working group's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. JH reported that a meeting had been held with Peter Lilley to brief him on the issue of funds being diverted from the possible sales of land on the Red House site to the general NHS budget rather than being spent on the re-development of the site. If this occurred it would jeopardise the re-development plans. The Society has also agreed to help in the public engagement process that will probably be required once the re-developments plans are firmer.
- (f) **Built Environment.** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. PW reported that the Roundwood 3G football pitch had been rejected but an appeal was expected.
- (g) **Economic Activity.** RT reported WH Smiths have been making active plans to house the new town centre Post Office.

13. AOB

- (a) None.

14. Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 19 Sept, 21 Nov, 23 Jan 17, 20 March 17

Speakers meetings: 22 Sept, 20 Oct, 8 Dec, 26 Jan 17, 23 Feb 17, 20 April 17 (AGM)

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