

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 21st March 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), Harry Downie (HD), Susan Vinther (SV), Jan Smith (JS), Alan Bunting (AB), Eric Midwinter (EM), Penny Ayres (PA), John Lowe (JL), Tim Riley (TR), Mike Waddilove (MW), Pauline Waddilove (PW), John Davis (JD), John Harris (JH), David Jones (DJ) and Bob Fletcher (RF).
2. Apologies for absence were received from; Alan Jackson (AJ) and Victoria Evans (VE).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 25th January 2016, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
4. Matters arising not on the Agenda:
 - (a) CM reported that he had discussed the formation of a Parks Forum with Cllr Teresa Heritage but she had advised him that she did not think this was a good idea for the Society to progress at this time.
5. **Treasurer's Report**
 - (a) HD had previously circulated the 2015 accounts. DJ (the Society's independent examiner) explained his role and reported that he had found no issues with the Society's 2015 accounts
 - (b) The 2015 accounts were approved.
6. **Secretary's Items**
 - (a) It was agreed that the topic for the 21st April public meeting (which will include the AGM) will be "Vision for Harpenden".
 - (b) Cllr Chichester-Miles has been invited to speak at the AGM by RT. No response currently received from the email invitation. TR has provisionally agreed to provide an update on the James Marshall development but needs to obtain formal approval from Pegasus Life before he can confirm.
7. **Chairman's Items**
 - (a) CM reported that no response had been received from Cllr. Julian Daly to his email requesting how SADC are planning to respond to the letter from CBC about their desire to build south of Luton.
8. **Membership Secretary's Items**
 - (a) The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated before the meeting.
 - (b) SV introduced JS as the new membership secretary. She was warmly welcomed by the committee.
9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**
 - (a) The Newsletter Editor's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
 - (b) AB, the new newsletter editor, requested that committee members send him items for possible inclusion in the newsletters.
 - (c) AB was requested to produce a calendar of events relating to the publication of the newsletters. **Action: AB**
10. **Publicity Officer's Items**
 - (a) The Publicity Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
 - (b) RT reported that Nickey Radio had offered a fortnightly slot for the Society to talk on matters of interest. The first interview will be broadcast on Saturday 26th March.
 - (c) It was agreed that the Society will have a stand at the 2016 Carnival (11th June). Ideas about how to make the stand "more exciting" should be sent to RT.

11. Working Group Reports

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Public Order working group's 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.
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (d) **Education & Leisure.** The E&L report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare.** The Health & Social Welfare report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. EM reported that David Law, Chief Executive of the Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust (HCT), had requested EM's help to arrange meetings with community groups to demonstrate support for the proposed Red House development. With EM resignation from the committee JH will take over as convenor of this working group. EM will continue to be a member of the Red House Forum.
- (f) **Built Environment.** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. JL reported that the planning application for the Harpenden House Hotel had been re-submitted. There has been no re-design, just small boundary changes. Comments are required by the 13th April.
- (g) **Economic Activity.** RT reported the town centre Post Office is closing and is being offered as a franchise to potential bidders. If no bidder comes forward there will be no Post Office facilities in Harpenden town centre.

12. Awards

- (a) PA reported that the 2015 awards had been agreed. It was agreed to invite the award winners (apart from the winner of the plaque) to the AGM where the award would be presented.

13. AOB

- (a) It was reported that the Society had received an email from a member about the excess use of Estate Agents boards. It was agreed that the Society would support the sending a reminder letter from SADC or HTC informing the Estate Agents of the regulations relating to the use of advertising boards.

14. Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 9 May, 4 July, 19 Sept, 21 Nov, 23 Jan 17, 20 March 17

Speakers meetings: 21 April (AGM), 22 Sept, 20 Oct, 8 Dec, 26 Jan 17, 23 Feb 17, 20 April 17 (AGM)

- 15. The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.