

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

Present: Chris Marsden (CM), Ron Taylor (RT), Susan Vinther(SV), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Donald Robertson (DR), Penny Ayres (PA), Eric Midwinter (EM), Mike Waddilove (MW), Harry Downie (HD), and Bob Fletcher (RF).

1. Apologies for absence were received from Victoria Evans (VE), Alan Jackson (AJ), Tim Riley (TR), Anthony Steele (AS), John Davis (JD), John Harris (JH) and Helen Clothier (HC).
2. Ann James has resigned from the committee due to her election as a Harpenden Town Councillor
3. Minutes of the meeting on 23rd March 2015, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
4. Matters arising not on the Agenda:
 - a) None.
5. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a) HD had previously circulated the draft accounts up to 30th April 2015. HD reported that most of the Society's income is received in January but approximately £300 of income had been received since January with £900 of expenditure occurring in the same time period.
6. **Secretary's Items**
 - a) It was agreed that the Society would not hold a Summer Party this year as an interesting venue had not been found.
 - b) It was reported that the proposed subject of the 24 September public meeting (The Arts Hub) had now fallen through and a new subject is required.
7. **Chairman's Items**
 - a) The Chairman reported that the general election hustings meeting held on the 21 April ("Vision for Harpenden") had been a great success with over 220 people attending.
 - b) However, there had been a poor turnout for the AGM held on the 22 April although the award ceremony for the School's competition held in the afternoon of the 22 April had been well attended and was successful.
 - c) It was agreed that the 2016 AGM should probably be held in a smaller venue (Park Hall) and we should combine the AGM with a standard public meeting with the AGM taking up small slot before the main public meeting commences.
 - d) A discussion was held on the state of the Strategic Local Plan progress. It was thought that eventually there may be a public enquiry where the Society could make its views known. It was agreed that when the Strategic Local Plan is published an awareness campaign may need to be initiated to inform Harpenden residents of the implications of what is being proposed.
 - e) It was agreed that the Society should support the proposals to re-develop the cricket pavilion and the Chairman should write a letter outlining our support.
 - f) There was a discussion about the future role of the Society and it was felt that the Society should work more closely with other Harpenden organisations to try to get things done. A separate meeting of a subset of the committee will be convened by the Chairman to plan how to progress this topic.
8. **Membership Secretary's Items**
 - a) The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated before the meeting.

9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

- a) The Newsletter Editor's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. The copy for the next newsletter will be available next week.

10. **Publicity Officer's Items**

- a) The Publicity Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.

11. **Press Officer's Items**

- a) RT reported that the Society had received good press coverage for the Vision for Harpenden hustings event.

12. **Working Group Reports**

- a) **Community Safety:** The Public Order working group's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- a) **Environment:** The Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- b) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- c) **Education & Leisure.** The E&L report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. EM reported that the application for a grant for an Arts Hub had not been successful.
- d) **Health & Social Welfare.** The Health & Social Welfare report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. EM gave a brief update of progress on the Red House campaign.
- e) **Built Environment.** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. The main planning application looked at has been the Cricket Pavilion which the Society supports.
- f) **Economic Activity.** Work is progressing on the September Food & Drink Festival with an expectation that more Harpenden retailers will participate this year.

13. **Awards**

- a) PA reported that the awards presentation for the Lea Springs development had been a success.

14. **Dates of the next meetings:**

Committee Meeting dates: 20 July, 21 Sept, 7 Dec, 25 Jan 16, 21 Mar 16

Speakers meetings: 24 Sept, 22 Oct, 10 Dec, 28 Jan 16, 25 Feb 16

15. The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.