

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 20th July 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present:** Chris Marsden (CM), Ron Taylor (RT), , Anthony Steele (AS), John Davis (JD), Helen Clothier (HC), 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).
2. Apologies for absence were received from Victoria Evans (VE), Alan Jackson (AJ), Tim Riley (TR), John Harris (JH).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 11th May 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. HD reported that expenditure is creeping up but that the Society's accounts were still sound.
6. **Secretary's Items**
 - a) RF reported that he had contacted Mike Carver, an ex-planning officer from Hertford, to give a presentation on the planning process at the 24 September public meeting (post meeting note – this meeting has now been changed to the 8th October to fit in with Mike Carver's schedule).
7. **Chairman's Items**
 - a) The meeting approved a fund for a memorial bench for the Society's ex Vice Chairman - Richard Thomas. The costs is around £450 plus installation. The chairman will send an email to the Society's members asking those who wished to contribute to send their donations to the Society's treasurer.
Action: CM
 - b) The Chairman discussed the setting up of focus groups to explore the future of the Society. SV is organising a focus group and the Chairman reported that hopefully Vicky Evans and Nicola Ramsden will also organise groups.
 - c) The Chairman reported that he was giving a talk to the Harpenden Business Breakfast group tomorrow where he will discuss the future of the Society.
 - d) The Chairman reported that the planning application by Harpenden Cricket Club for a new pavilion had been approved and the Society's support for this application had been helpful.
8. **Membership Secretary's Items**
 - a) The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated before the meeting.
 - b) Membership is still declining slowly but hopefully some of the work being done by Monica Merino on improving the Society's Facebook site may result in new members being recruited.
9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**
 - a) The Newsletter Editor's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
 - b) EM reported that there had been some interest in the job of assistant newsletter editor.
10. **Publicity Officer's Items**
 - a) The Publicity Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
 - b) The Harpenden Food & Drink festival is planned for the 27th September.
11. **Press Officer's Items**
 - a) The Press Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.

12. 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. JD reported that the OWL email system seems to be very slow in reporting crime/safety events.
- c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. DR reported that potential traffic issues resulting from the opening of the new primary free school (Harpenden Academy) in the centre of the town will be looked at after the school opens in September. DR reported that there was a new service (714) to Luton Airport.
- d) **Education & Leisure.** The E&L report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. EM reported that the Library Volunteers party had been well attended with two library staff also attending.
- e) **Health & Social Welfare.** The Health & Social Welfare report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. EM reported that the next meeting of the Red House Forum was the following week.
- f) **Built Environment.** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting
- g) **Economic Activity.** Work is progressing on the September Food & Drink Festival with an expectation that more Harpenden retailers will participate this year.

13. Dates of the next meetings:

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

Speakers meetings: 8 Oct, 22 Oct, 10 Dec, 28 Jan 16, 25 Feb 16

14. The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.