

**THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in The Harpenden House Hotel**  
**MINUTES**

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**Present:** Chris Marsden (CM), Barbara Ouston (BOu), Eric Midwinter (EM), Ron Taylor (RTa), Richard Thomas (RTh), Arnold Allen (AA), Anthony Steele (AS), Mike Waddilove (MW), John Davis (JD), Ann James (AJa) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

1. Richard Thomas chaired the first part of the meeting because of the planned late arrival of Chris Marsden.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Steve Gledhill (SG), Donald Robertson (DR), Penny Alcock(PA), Alan Jackson (AJ), and Tim Riley (TR).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 25th March 2013, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
4. Matters arising not on the Agenda:
  - a) RF reported that he had contacted the web sites that held information about the Society to inform them about the change in the web site domain name and to update contact details etc.
5. **Treasurer's Report**
  - a) AA presented the accounts and drew the high current spend levels to the committee's attention.
6. **Secretary Items**
  - a) Speakers for Public Meetings – the Red House was proposed as a candidate for the 24<sup>th</sup> October public meeting.
  - b) The Summer Outing to Rothamsted Research is now scheduled for Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June.
7. **Membership Secretary's Items**
  - a) The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
  - a) BOu reported that a letter will go out with the June newsletter to the late payers.
  - b) BOu stated that if the Society changed its annual subscription amount then this would cause an issue with the standing orders which would need to be changed.
8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**
  - a) The Newsletter Editor's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
  - b) It was agreed that Richard Thomas would formally write to Harry Downie thanking him for proof reading the latest newsletter and for his banking work.
9. **Publicity Officer's Items**
  - a) The Publicity Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
10. **Press Officer's Items**
  - a) The Press Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
11. **Working Group Reports**
  - a) **Public Order:** The Public Order report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
  - b) **Environment:** JD reported that HTC had cancelled the regular Easter visit to the common by the circus but that the damage caused by the October visit was still not entirely repaired and the common was in a disappointing state. JD also reported that a new ground maintenance contract was being negotiated. This would have a term of 10 years with an optional extension of a further 5 years.

***ACTION JD to write to John Bagshaw to obtain information about the commercial terms under which this contract would be let to ensure that satisfactory performance criteria are included.***

Ambrose Woods – AJ reported that SADC's Andrew Branch had stated that any further work on the trees in Ambrose Woods would need his permission. ***RTh took an action to write to the owner (the NCH) and the tenant (Headmistress of Roundwood Primary School) stating the Society's position on further work in the woods.***

- c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. BOu reported that there was an issue with the site line at the junction of Townsend Lane and the main road in the new Glen Eagles Jarvis development. It was agreed that this subject would be raised at a forthcoming meeting with Mike Peters of Jarvis.
- d) **Education & Leisure.** The E&L report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that £500 of contingency funding would be reserved for this year's school competition as an increased number of entries are expected.
- e) **Health & Welfare.** The Health & Welfare report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. EM reported that the next meeting of the Red House Forum has been arranged for the 4<sup>th</sup> July. He reported that the NHS's Gerry Moir had transferred to another job within the NHS and this had had an impact on progress. It was agreed that £500 of contingency funding would be reserved for EM to spend on Red House activities.
- f) CM took over the chairmanship from RTh at this point in the meeting.
- g) **Batford CAG.** AJ reported that space had been allocated in Block A of the new development. The community requirement is for a café and pharmacy/clinic. Negotiations are taking place with the NHS to see if they want to locate services at this site. If the NHS are not interested then the space could be used for an Adult Education Centre.
- h) **Built Environment.** MW reported that he had written to the Chairman stating that his other commitments meant that he could no longer carry perform the convenor's job as well as he would like and that he was resigning from this position although he would carry on as a member of the group. CM thanked MW for the excellent work he had done for the Built Environment group
- i) **Economic activity.** CM reported that the town councillors were pushing the library management to accept volunteers to overcome the short opening hours of the new library. Also, HTC were receptive to improving the concourse outside the new library.

## 12. Green Belt Alert

- a) RTh reported that a meeting was arranged with HTC, The Green Belt Association and the Society to discuss the threat to the Green Belt
- b) It was agreed that one of the Society's Autumn public meetings could be on the green belt issues.
- c) RTh reported that funds may be needed to pay for external advice on how to respond to the green belt issues.

## 13. Planning Issues

- a) A discussion was held on the objectives of the Built Environment (Planning) working group. It was stated that the Society should concentrate on the more strategic planning issues facing Harpenden as the resources were no longer there to examine every planning application.
- b) RTh, AS and J were actioned to meet to produce a policy for the Built Environment working group going forward. ***Action RTh to arrange this meeting.***

#### 14. Any Other Business

- a) It was agreed that the Society should host an awards ceremony where it presents the awards to Jarvis for the Forrester's development and to Pine Court. An award ceremony could also be held for the Jubilee statues, possibly in the Council Chamber. **AS to arrange.**

#### 15. Chairman's Items

- a) The Chairman's reported that the Park Café plan was now evolving into a park community centre, possibly with space for a café, for scouts and for football. However, negotiations with the football club have not yet started as they were experiencing a change of management.
- b) It was reported that the maintenance depot near to the planned site should be removed once the new ground maintenance contract commences in the New Year.

#### 16. Dates of the next meetings:

- a) Committee meeting dates: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2013, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013, 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- b) Public 'speaker' meetings at Park Hall (apart from 2013 AGM) are scheduled for: 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013, 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014, 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014(AGM)

17. The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.