

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 21th September 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present:** Chris Marsden (CM), Ron Taylor (RT), , John Davis (JD), Helen Clothier (HC), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Donald Robertson (DR), Penny Ayres (PA), , Alan Jackson (AJ), Eric Midwinter (EM), Mike Waddilove (MW), Harry Downie (HD), Alan Bunting (AB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).
2. Apologies for absence were received from Susan Vinther(SV), Victoria Evans (VE), Tim Riley (TR) and John Harris (JH).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 20th July 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 the Society should break even this year.
6. **Secretary's Items**
 - (a) RF reported that the next public meeting has now been changed to the 8th October to fit in with the schedule of Mike Carver, an ex-planning officer from Hertford, who is to give a presentation on the planning process.
 - (b) It was agreed that the 22 October public meeting would be on Sustainability to fit in with the Sustainable St Albans week (21-28 November). Action JD to organise.
 - (c) The theme for the 10 December meeting will be Harpenden's vibrant High Street. Action RT to organise.
 - (d) It was agreed the Society's AGM would be held at Park Hall. Post meeting note: this is now arranged for the 21 April 2016
7. **Chairman's Items**
 - (a) The Chairman reported that John Lowe had volunteered to help with the Built Environment working group
 - (b) SV and Monica Merino with CM held a focus group on the 14th September at the Friends Meeting House. Parking was raised as a concern but unfortunately none of the attendees volunteered to lead a campaign on this subject. Community nursing resources were also identified as an issue.
 - (c) The Chairman reported that the draft Local Plan does not include a primary school to accompany the proposed new housing in North Harpenden. Apparently SADC new projections for school numbers show that a new primary school is not necessary.
 - (d) A discussion was held about traffic flows in Harpenden. The 2014 figures from HCC are required. **Action RF to obtain these.**
8. **Membership Secretary's Items**
 - (a) The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated before the meeting.
 - (b) The committee requested that the Chairman send a formal note thanking SV for her sterling work at getting the membership data up to date and for organising the newsletter distributors' party.
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 Alan Bunting had accepted the position as assistant newsletter editor. Alan was welcomed by the committee.

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. **Working Group Reports**

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Public Order working group's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AJ reported that several Owl emails had been received requesting responses but allowing insufficient time to respond.
- (b) **Environment:** The Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AB raised the issue of litter reporting that some of the problem was caused by school children. Consideration should be given to writing to the headmasters of the secondary schools asking them to remind their pupils about not littering. **Action JD & AB**
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. DR reported that the initial view was that the new primary free school (Harpenden Academy) was not causing traffic problems but more work needs to be done to confirm this. **Action DR.**
- (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 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. The work being done on the Charles Wilson site was discussed. **Action PW to find out what the plans are for this site.**
- (g) **Economic Activity.** Work is progressing on the September Food & Drink Festival with an expectation that more Harpenden retailers will participate this year.

12. **Awards**

- (a) PA reported that one response had been received so far.

13. **AOB**

- (a) None

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

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

Speakers meetings: 8 Oct, 22 Oct, 10 Dec, 28 Jan 16, 25 Feb 16, 21 April 16 (AGM)

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