

**THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House**  
**MINUTES**

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**Present:** Chris Marsden (CM), Ron Taylor (RT), Alan Jackson (AJ), John Davis (JD), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Donald Robertson (DR), Penny Ayres (PA), Eric Midwinter (EM), Mike Waddilove (MW), John Harris (JH), Harry Downie (HD), Tim Riley (TR), Ann James (AJ), Helen Clothier (HC), Anthony Steele (AS).and Bob Fletcher (RF). David Jones (DJ) the Society's independent examiner was also present.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Victoria Evans (VE) and Susan Vinther(SV)
2. Minutes of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
3. Matters arising not on the Agenda:
  - a) None.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
  - a) HD had previously circulated the draft accounts for 2014. DJ explained his role and reported that he had found he had found no issues with the Society's 2014 accounts.
  - b) The 2014 accounts were approved.
5. **Secretary's Items**
  - a) It was agreed that the Society should try to participate in the "Sustainable St Albans" event planned by SADC to take place in November. This Society's involvement with this event will be progressed after the election.
  - b) It was proposed that the Society's Summer Party should be combined with the Harpenden Common Walk planned for the 25<sup>th</sup> June. **Action: AJ & RF to progress.**
  - c) It was that the Arts Hub could be the subject of the proposed that the 24 September meeting.
6. **Chairman's Items**
  - a) The Chairman reported that all five candidates had agreed to take part in the Society's "Vision for Harpenden" husting meeting planned for the 21 April.
  - b) The Chairman reported on the progress being made with the Volunteer for Harpenden initiative and it was agreed that the formal launch will be part of the Society's Celebration 2015 event on the 22 April.
  - c) The Chairman reported that Harpenden County Councillors Teresa Heritage and David Williams have helped establish a pilot initiative, funded from their Highways Locality Budgets, to enable Harpenden Town Council to work on Hertfordshire County Council's highway assets. The scheme provides a responsive and easy way to get issues addressed in the Town without them needing to be subject to the County Council's contractor's prioritisation criteria which are focused on safety..
  - d) 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 good example of how this is currently working is the Society's involvement with the Red House Forum. It was felt that the Society needed to focus on attracting more active committee members rather than necessarily attracting more members.
7. **Membership Secretary's Items**
  - a) The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated before the meeting.
  - b) In summary the report states
    - Membership is still declining. There has been only 1 joiner with for every 6 leavers.

- The large majority of those who pay their subscription by standing order have now increased their subs to the correct amount, but 60 households made no change. A large number of ‘annual payers’ have not yet paid.

c) HD is hosting a summer party for the newsletter deliverers on the 22 August.

#### 8. **Newsletter Editor’s Items**

a) The Newsletter Editor’s report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.

#### 9. **Publicity Officer’s Items**

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

b) RT reported that the response to the 2015 Schools Competition had been poor with only 54 entries. This seems to be because it was left to the children themselves to produce entries, the schools didn’t make it the subject of a project. A questionnaire is being produced to obtain the views of the schools on future competitions.

c) RT explained the format of the Celebration 2015 evening taking place at Rothamsted.

#### 10. **Press Officer’s Items**

a) No report, as the Society does not have a Press Officer in post. However, RT is currently taking on part of this role.

#### 11. **Working Group Reports**

a) **Community Safety:** The Public Order working group has now been re-named as the Community Safety working group. The group’s report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AJ reported that on-line fraud is not reported in the crime figures.

a) **Environment:** The Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. JD reported that another community orchard was being created in Marquis Lane.

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. EW reported that he had been asked to meet with the Harpenden Free School to discuss how it could work better with the community.

d) **Health & Social Welfare.** The Health & Social Welfare report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.

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 broadly supports.

f) **Economic Activity.** RT reported that he had organised an Easter Egg hunt with 31 Harpenden retailers taking part. 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 she had received five nominations for the 2014 Society awards. The results will be announced at the Celebration 2015 event on the 22 April. The Society’s plaque this year will go to the Lea Springs development.

#### 13. **Any Other Business**

a) TR reported that Pegasus Life will be appealing the decision of SADC to reject the James Marshall development and there will be a public enquiry. It is anticipated that a decision will be obtained by October 2015.

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

**Committee Meeting dates:** 11 May, 20 July, 21 Sept, 7 Dec, 25 Jan 16, 21 Mar 16

**Speakers meetings:** 21 April (Vision for Hrapenden), 22<sup>nd</sup> April (AGM), 24 Sept, 22 Oct, 10 Dec, 28 Jan 16, 25 Feb 16

15. The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.