

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 25th March 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in The Harpenden House Hotel
MINUTES

Present: Chris Marsden (CM), Barbara Ouston (BOu), Steve Gledhill (SG), Eric Midwinter (EM), Ron Taylor (RTa), Richard Thomas (RTh), Arnold Allen (AA), Penny Alcock(PA), Alan Jackson (AJ), Victoria Evans (VE.), Donald Robertson (DR), John Davis (JD) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

1. Apologies for absence received from: Mike Waddilove (MW), Anthony Steele (AS), and Tim Riley (TR).
2. Minutes of the meeting on 28th January 2013, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
3. Matters arising not on the Agenda:
 - a) RTh reported that The Charity Commission is claiming that they have had not approved the St Albans updated constitution upon which our new constitution is based. **ACTION RTh to progress.**
4. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a) AA presented the draft 2012 accounts. The audited accounts will need to be available a few days before the 11th April AGM to allow for copying to take place. **ACTION AA to progress.**
 - b) The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for producing such a clear set of accounts.
5. **Future Society funding strategy**
 - a) RTa presented a paper on the future funding strategy.
 - b) It was agreed that the Society's subscription fees would be increased to £10 p.a. per household from the start of the next Society's next financial year (1st January 2014) to help to fund the increased activities of the Society.
 - c) There would be no individual subscription; a subscription would apply to everyone in the household.
 - d) Consideration would be given to initiating a Campaign Fund for the Society's projects when this becomes appropriate.
 - e) Notification of the increase in the subscription would be included in the next Newsletter and in the chairman's next email. **ACTION EM & CM to progress.**
6. **Secretary Items**
 - a) Speakers for Public Meetings – there are two candidates for the 24th October public meeting, it was thought that at this time there would be a requirement for a Red House or schools meeting.
 - b) The Summer Outing to Rothamsted Research is now scheduled for Friday 14th June.
7. **Chairman's Items**
 - a) The Chairman's report and written version of a talk he had just given to a Rotary dinner about the work of the Society had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked for and received the support of the committee for all the projects which were being pursued as described in those papers. Also approved was a proposal that the Society should seek to convene a meeting of all relevant societies in Harpenden to discuss matters of mutual interest.
 - b) The Chairman gave a brief report of the recent meeting with councillors and the Town Clerk. CM reported that the plans for the library had made good progress but much could still be improved. There is still no commitment to increase the opening hours, however the plans for using volunteers are progressing and we should hear something from Teresa Heritage on this topic in the near future.
 - c) It was agreed to co-opt Ann James of the Batford Community Action Group onto the committee.

- d) Batford Development – CM will contact Jarvis to try to ascertain where they are with this planning application. **ACTION CM to progress.**
- e) CM reported on the meeting he attended chaired by the Harpenden Seniors Forum (Alan Cox) to try to co-ordinate the workings of the various organisations in Harpenden that are involved with delivering services to older people.

8. Membership Secretary's Items

- a) BOu reported that the Society has email address for approx. 50% of members.
- b) It was agreed that a request should go in the next newsletter asking members who have not supplied an email address to provide one. **ACTION EM to progress.**

9. Newsletter Editor's Items

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

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

12. Working Group Reports

- a) **Public Order:** AJ reported that there seems to be an increase in domestic burglaries in Harpenden. Also there seems to be suspiciously low reporting of these types of crimes (and maybe other crimes). The advice (post meeting) from Neighbourhood Watch is there has indeed been an upsurge in the number of burglaries in the District and the best action people can take is to join Neighbourhood Watch in order to get the most up-to-date information and advice.
- b) A purse dipping prevention device may be demonstrated at the Celebration Event.
- c) **Environment:** Some committee members expressed dissatisfaction with the aesthetics of the new station footbridge and stated that we must monitor the proposals for the new car park very carefully as the new car parks at Berkamsted and Tring were "visually offensive". **ACTION JD to contact FCC to obtain information on the design for the new car park.**
- d) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- e) **Education & Leisure.** The E&L report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- f) **Health & Welfare.** The Health & Welfare report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.

13. Any Other Business

- a) **Awards:** CM listed the awards that would be made at the Celebration Event, as put forward by the Awards Committee. These were supported by the full committee.
- b) **Ambrose Lane Trees:** AJ was asked write to SADC expressing the Society's concern at the apparent lack of consultation about the planned tree felling at the entrance to the Nickey Line in Ambrose Lane. **ACTION AJ to contact SADC.**
- c) It was agreed to donate £200 towards the Batford "Lark in the Park" celebration.
- d) RF took an action to bring the Society's information up to date in the various Harpenden directories. **ACTION RF to progress .**
- e) It was agreed to take out a half page advertisement in the Highlands Gathering programme (£70)
- f) It was agreed to look at the dates of future meeting to see if they clashed with half term holidays **ACTION RF to progress .**

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

- a) Committee meeting dates: 20th May 2013, 22nd July 2013, 23rd Sept 2013, 9th Dec 2013, 27th Jan 2014, 24th March 2014.
- b) Public 'speaker' meetings at Park Hall (apart from 2013 AGM) are scheduled for: 11th April 2013 (**AGM**), 26th Sept 2013, 24th October 2013, 12th Dec 2013, 30th Jan 2014, 27th Feb 2014, 27th March 2014(AGM)

15. The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.