

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 29th September 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at Harpenden Indoor Bowling Club
MINUTES

Present: Chris Marsden (CM), Ron Taylor (RTa), Alan Jackson (AJ), John Davis (JD), Anthony Steele (AS), Eric Midwinter (EM), Mike Waddilove (MW), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Victoria Evans (VE), Harry Downie (HD), Helen Clothier (HC), Susan Vinther(SV) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

1. Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Fleming (CF), Tim Riley (TR), and John Harris (JH), Ann James (AJa), Donald Robertson (DR) and Penny Ayres (PA)
2. Minutes of the meeting on 14th July 2014, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
3. Matters arising not on the Agenda:
 - a) None.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a) HD reported that the current state of the accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. The fighting fund has now reached £1,615.00. HD requested that committee members informed him when expenditure should be allocated to the fighting fund.
5. **Secretary's Items**
 - a) It was agreed that the topic for the 11th December public meeting should be about the James Marshall site re-development together with the planned new facilities in Rothamsted Park. **Action: RF to contact Pegasus Life to arrange a speaker, RTa to contact SADC to arrange a speaker for the Park aspect of the talk.**
 - b) The meeting agreed that up to £200 could be spent on replacing the Society's plaque and plinth that was installed in front of the Rothamsted Park oak tree planted by St John Lawes in the 1870s.
6. **Chairman's Items**
 - a) The Chairman reported that Julian Daly had agreed to present the Strategic Local Plan at a public meeting arranged by the Society on October 20th in the Public Hall. The Chairman also reported that he was in regular contact with the Harpenden Green Belt Association, who were also producing Strategic Plan campaign literature. It was agreed that the Society should contribute a modest sum, e.g. £100, towards the HGBA's leaflet publishing cost if it promoted the meeting on 20 October.
 - b) PW agreed to check when the consultation document would be available and would circulate it to members. **Action PW**
 - c) RTa will arrange publicity for this event. **Action RTa**
 - d) CM reported that the public meeting of Harpenden volunteer organisations on September 25th had gone well and the Society was now organising a working group of a small number of the volunteer organisations to produce a website and other marketing initiatives to help to communicate the objectives of the various organisations and the volunteer vacancies that are available.
7. **Fund Raising**
 - a) CM reported that he had had some initial discussions with the Harpenden Building Society regarding sponsorship of the Society's newsletter but these discussions were still ongoing.
 - b) It was agreed that sponsorship of the society's newsletter, the School Art Competition and the Society's posters could be offered for sponsorship.
 - c) The need for a fund raising officer was again recognised.
8. **Membership Secretary's Items**
 - a) The Chairman welcomed SV to the Committee as the new Membership Secretary.

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.
- b) The 2015 Schools Competition is now being launched. EM is presenting the competition to a Harpenden School Heads conference on the 2nd October.
- c) RTa provided information on branded clothing that Society members could wear at public events. The committee agreed that RTa should progress this. **Action RTa.**

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:** The Public Order report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AJ reported that he was planning to work with the secretary to update the Public Order section of the website. JD reported that the posters outside Harpenden Police Station are very out of date. AJ promised to investigate this. **Action AJ.**
- b) **Environment:** The Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- d) **Education & Leisure.** The E&L report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. EM reported that Philip waters of the Harpenden Schools Trust had reported to him that the free school submission to the DfE will be on time and sufficient parental support had now been obtained. A preliminary indication from the DfE is expected before the end of the year. The site review is ongoing and a decision is expected in the Spring.
- e) **Health & Social Welfare.** The Health & Social Welfare report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. EM reported that the next Red House Forum meeting was being held on the 10th October.
- f) **Built Environment.** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- g) **Economic Activity.** RTa reported that the Food & Drink Festival had been a great success. There had been 29 stands although two thirds were from St Albans organisations. Work to obtain more interest from Harpenden retailers is still ongoing.

13. **Any Other Business**

- a) None.

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

Committee meeting dates: 8th Dec, 26th Jan 15, 23rd March 15.

Speakers meetings: 6th Nov, 11th Dec, 29th Jan 15, 26th Feb 15, 26th March 15

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