

**THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 8th December 2014 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), Anthony Steele (AS), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Donald Robertson (DR), Penny Ayres (PA), Victoria Evans (VE), Harry Downie (HD), Tim Riley (TR), Susan Vinther(SV) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

1. Apologies for absence were received from Helen Clothier (HC), Eric Midwinter (EM), Mike Waddilove (MW) and John Harris (JH).
2. Minutes of the meeting on 29th September 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 over £2K. HD reported that he, CM and SV had phoned many of the 120 members whose standing orders have not been updated to the new subscription rate. This had been successful with many members committing to update their standing orders.
5. **Secretary's Items**
  - a) It was proposed that the topic for the 26th February public meeting could be "Schooling in Harpenden". Speakers to be invited could include the primary free School head teacher or chairman of the governors, David Williams (County Councillor), Ben Bardsley (Harpenden Parents Group) secretary of the Harpenden Schools Trust etc. **Action: RF to draw up list of possible speakers and to liaise with CM on the invitations..**
6. **Chairman's Items**
  - a) The Chairman reported that the Society's response to the SADC Strategic Local Plan had been submitted. He also commented that HTC's response to the SLP was broadly supportive of the Society's position.
  - b) A debate followed, the main points raised were:
    - Housing for the elderly and affordable housing needs to be near the town centre to allow access to the amenities.
    - Elderly housing needs to be at a minimum number to make the support/care that is given affordable.
    - There are very few viable sites within 1 km of Harpenden's town centre.
    - Could have high density parking over car parks in Harpenden town centre (Amenbury Lane, Bowers Way, station car parks).
    - Is building in town centre better than building on green belt?
    - 100-200+ dwellings (depending on density) could be built over the town centre car parks
7. **Membership Secretary's Items**
  - a) SV proposed that members who had joined before 1989 would not be contacted if their standing orders were not updated to the new subscription rate and they would continue to be sent their newsletters if their address was still valid. This was agreed by the committee.
  - b) SV proposed that the newsletter distribution be divided into three areas with a person appointed to be fully responsible for each area. This would reduce the membership secretary's workload and make it a more manageable job. This was agreed by the committee. **Action: SV to progress this**

## 8. Newsletter Editor's Items

- a) The Newsletter Editor's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- b) JD commented that he believed the criticism of the CPRE in the last newsletter may have upset some members who are supporters of the CPRE.

## 9. 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. RT reported that he had a target of 9-10 schools taking part with currently 4 schools agreeing to take part. RT will contact more schools after the Christmas holidays.
- c) The committee agreed that the branded clothing that Society members could wear at public events should be limited to caps and T shirts initially.

## 10. Press Officer's Items

- a) Caroline Fleming has unfortunately resigned due to pressure of work. CM thanked her for her past hard work and wished her well for the future.

## 11. 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.
- b) **Environment:** The Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AJ reported that he would be representing the Society on HTC's recently set up Ecology Group.
- 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.
- e) **Health & Social Welfare.** The Health & Social Welfare report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- f) **Built Environment.** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. PW reported that comments had been submitted on the Harpenden House Hotel proposal.
- g) **Economic Activity.** RT reported that he had worked jointly with HTC on the production of marketing material for the Harpenden Christmas Shopping campaign but the take up by Harpenden retailers had been disappointing.

## 12. Any Other Business

- a) None.

## 13. Dates of the next meetings:

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

**Speakers meetings:** 29th Jan 15, 26th Feb 15, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 15

- 14. The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.