

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 10 July 2023 at 10.00 a.m.
Salvation Army Hall
MINUTES

1. **Present**

Jeff Phillips (JP), John Lowe (JL), Paul Gardiner (PG), Martyn Reed (MR), Paul Gloess (PGs), Alan Bunting (AB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from Ian Barrison (IB), Harry Downie (HD), Ron Taylor (RT) and Karl Wingfield (KW).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 15 May 2023, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

None.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

(a) The Treasurer's Report had been circulated by HD prior to the meeting.

(b) The Treasurer was asked to continue to investigate the viability of opening a savings account to generate more interest for the Society's reserves. CCLA and Virgin Money were suggested as being worthy of investigation. **Action:HD**

6. **Secretary's Items.**

(a) Topics for new public meetings were discussed. The following are still being progressed as topics for future public meetings:

- I. Meeting on the Harpenden Health PCN - arranged for the 19th October. It was agreed that this could be held at the Katherine Warington School.
- II. Local plan – after the consultation period ends in Sept 23, so Nov 23 is possible.
- III. Meeting on pedestrianisation, parking and traffic flows in Harpenden, still to be decided.
- IV. Conservation Area, maybe a 2024 topic
- V. Luton Airport – focussing on the flight path issues, maybe late 2023.
- VI. Water/Sewage situation in Harpenden **Action:** JP to contact the University Hertfordshire Life Sciences dept to explore whether there is any scope for a joint project leading to a public meeting.

(b) It was agreed that committee members would look at the parts of the website that relate to their activities and provide proposed updates before each committee meeting. **Action All.**

7. **Chairman's Items.**

(a) The Chairman introduced Martyn Reed who is joining the committee to advise on aspects of publicity and marketing.

(b) The Chairman reported that the Conservation Group was now being headed by Roger Butterworth. The methodology has been approved by SADC and the group is now looking for additional volunteers so that progress can be made.

(c) It was reported that Gavin Ross is standing down as chairman of the History Society. Roger Butterworth has been nominated to succeed Gavin. It was agreed that it would be mutually beneficial for the two societies to work more closely together. Therefore, it was agreed that Jeff Phillips would stand for election as a trustee of the History Society and Roger Butterworth would stand for election as a trustee of the Harpenden Society.

8. **Membership Secretary's Items**

- (a) The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated by PGs prior to the meeting.

9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

- (a) AB reported that he is now working on the Summer issue. This issue will include a feature on the new Town Council and the new mayor.
- (b) It was agreed that a discussion on the desirability of including advertising in the Society's newsletter and website should be postponed until the next meeting when more committee members are expected to be present.

10. **Publicity**

- (a) The publicity report had been circulated by RT prior to the meeting.

11. **Awards**

- (a) It was reported that Pauline Waddilove has agreed to continue as a member of the Awards Committee.

12. **Working Group Reports**

- (a) Community Safety: The Community Safety report had been circulated by PG prior to the meeting.
- (b) Transport: The Transport report had been circulated by KW prior to the meeting. The Society has registered as an Interested Party to submit "Relevant Representations" to the Luton Airport DCO Inquiry. The registration deadline has been extended (from 23rd June) to 9th July as Luton Rising missed out some statutory parties and the website crashed just before the original deadline closed. The Society is now working with other Interested Parties to produce detailed evidence to the Inquiry. We have heard from one politician (John Hale of HCC) who confirmed that HCC will be objecting to the expansion. We have not heard from Sam Collins of NHDC. Our registration paper have been sent to Carl Cheevers and we understand that the town council has now registered.
- (c) Health & Social Welfare: Np report this time.
- (d) Built Environment: The Built Environment full report has been circulated by JL prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Society would comment on the planning application made by Emilios to continue with a mobile van located on the town centre concourse supporting the application but commenting on some of the conditions that apply. JL will draft a response and send to MR for comments and then will send proposed response to the committee. **Action JL.**
 - I. **22-24 Grove Road** – 5/2022/2735 – Jarvis submitted an application for a 75 bed care home in November 2022. This has attracted about 50 objections from residents in the area mainly due to the over-powering design. However the Town Council raised no objections. The application is still pending some 6 month later. In meantime Jarvis have been applying for approval to discharge various conditions relating to their approved application to build 39 flats. The last approval was granted in May 2023. Probably the conditions for the flat development such as site investigation and remediation proposals would also apply to the care home such it be approved.
 - II. **Cross Lane Fields** – 5/2023/0317 – submitted in March 2023 is still Pending. A very large number of objections have been submitted. HTC have also recommended refusal. The applicants have amended the mix to increase the number of smaller affordable homes namely 1, 2 & 3 beds totalling 12.
 - III. **Harpenden Public Halls, Southdown Rd.** – No further news since the council decided to pull the application following their decision to sell the site.
 - IV. **6 High Street** –5/2023/0254 – Refused primarily due to second floor extension which would be considered harmful to the Conservation Area.

- V. **North West Harpenden (L & G Proposals) 5/2023/0327** – Still under consideration. It has attracted a huge number of objections. English Heritage have also expressed concerns that the new development may be visible from Luton Hoo and as such could impact on the historic building/setting. Central Beds Council have also objected as no study has been made on the impact the new development would have on their road network.
- VI. **Land to the north of Wheathampstead Road** – 5/2022/2748 – The application for up to 40 houses is still under consideration. A large number of objection have been lodged. The site is actually within the Wheathampstead Parish Council – who have recommended refusal.

(e) Economic Activity: The Publicity report had been circulated by RT prior to the meeting.

13. **AOB**

None.

14. **Dates of the next meetings:** 18 Sept 23, 13 Nov 23

Public Meetings: 19th October (Harpenden Health Network).

The meeting closed at 11.55.