

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 13 March 2023 at 10.00 a.m.
Salvation Army Hall
MINUTES

1. **Present**

Jeff Phillips (JP), Ron Taylor (RT), Karl Wingfield (KW), John Lowe (JL), Alan Bunting (AB), Harry Downie (HD), Martyn Reed (MR) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from Paul Gardiner (PG), Paul Gloess (PGs), Penny Ayres (PA), and Ian Barrison (IB).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 16 January 2023, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

None

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated by HD prior to the meeting. HD reported that last year the Society received two legacies each of £10K, which have been allocated to a Civic Development Fund. Apart from the legacies the Society recorded a surplus of £155 in 2022. The 2022 accounts were approved by the committee.

6. **Secretary's Items.**

- (a) Martyn Reed (MR) was introduced as a potential member of the committee. Martyn described his experience and will attend a few committee meetings and then consider if he wishes to join the committee.
- (b) RF reported that the AGM had been provisionally arranged for the 27th April and would be held at the Katherine Warrington School. The AGM will be followed by a meeting on public safety.
- (c) The committee members were reminded that their contributions to the annual Report were required urgently and by the end of March at the latest. **Action All**
- (d) Topics for new public meetings were discussed. The following are still being progressed as topics for future public meetings:
 - I. Meeting on pedestrianisation, parking and traffic flows in Harpenden, maybe late Spring 2023.
 - II. Conservation Area, maybe late 2023
 - III. Meeting on the Harpenden Health PCN - arranged for the 19th October.
 - IV. Luton Airport – focussing on the flight path issues.
- (e) 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.**
- (f) It was agreed that JL would regularly provide details of the planning objections that have been submitted by the Society for inclusion on the Society's website. **Action JL**

7. **Chairman's Items.**

- (a) JP reported that the meeting on the 20 February to discuss the vision/strategy of the Society concluded that with the limited resources that we have the Society needs to concentrate on fewer areas. It was agreed that the main priorities were Transport, Built Environment, Health, and Environment.
- (b) Traffic/pedestrianisation study for central Harpenden. This work has now been commissioned from the University of Hertfordshire (Stephen Joseph) and is progressing.

- (c) It was reported that L&G had now submitted an outline planning application for 550 homes on the NW Harpenden site. It was agreed that the Society would submit an objection to this proposal. The potential planning applications for Pipers Lane and Cross Lane were also discussed.

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 was working on the Spring issue with a target distribution date on mid May.

10. **Publicity**

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

11. **Awards**

- (a) Nothing to report due to PA's illness. RF reported that the Society had sent flowers and a card to PA and the Committee wished her a speedy recovery.

12. **Working Group Reports**

- (a) Community Safety: The Community Safety report had been circulated by PG prior to the meeting.

- (b) Environment: Nothing to report.

- (c) Transport: KW reported that the Development Consent Order (DCO) was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 27 February. It's not known what it contains as Luton Rising chose the "non-disclosure" option until the application is approved. However, we do know it'll disclose, for the first time, Luton Rising's strategy for "Green Controlled Growth" (emissions, noise, air quality) and "Surface Access" (getting to and from the airport). It is believed that the Liberal Democrat councillor, Sam Collins, is still trying to organise a meeting of interested parties, including local authorities and campaigning groups to share our respective strategies for opposing the development. The Society will register as an interested party and oppose the development on climate, noise, surface access and "need" (need being an absence of either demand or a concessionaire willing to undertake the investment and the incompetence of Luton Rising to undertake the development itself).

- (d) Education: Nothing to report.

- (e) Health & Social Welfare: The Health Report has been circulated by IB prior to the meeting.

- (f) Built Environment: The Built Environment full report has been circulated by JL prior to the meeting. JL reported on three applications:

- I. **Care Home, at Former Pan Autos, Grove Road – 5/2022/2735** The building of a 75-bed care home is still under consideration. It has attracted about 30 objections particularly from nearby residents due to the overall size and limited parking provision. The Society has also lodged an Objection.
- II. **6 High Street –5/2023/0254** – Following refusal of their previous application, Oakman's have now submitted a revised application this week. It still envisages a roof top public area but the design is smaller and tile hung rather than a conservatory style as before.
- III. **Land to the north of Wheathampstead Road – 5/2022/2748** An outline application for up to 40 houses on paddocks behind Aldwick Manor and adjacent to the entrance drive leading to Aldwickbury Park Golf Club. The Society has lodged an Objection on the basis of Green Belt erosion and also narrow access road from roundabout junction. It has also attracted many other objections. Councillor Gaskell has asked for it to be called in if the planners are minded to grant consent. Wheathampstead Parish Council have also recommended refusal due to erosion of Green Belt.

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

- (h) Arts, Leisure, Entertainment (ALE): Nothing to report.

(i) Sports: Nothing to report.

13. **AOB**

None.

14. **Dates of the next meetings:** 15 May 23 (changed date due to the Coronation), 10 July 23, 18 Sept 23, 13 Nov 23

Public Meetings: 27th April AGM and Public Safety, 19th October (Harpenden Health Network).

The meeting closed at 12.10.