

**THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 14 November 2022 at 10.00 a.m.**  
**Salvation Army Hall**  
**MINUTES**

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**1. Present**

Jeff Phillips (JP), Paul Gloess (PGs), Ron Taylor (RT), Karl Wingfield (KW), John Lowe (JL), Alan Bunting (AB), Harry Downie (HD), Penny Ayres (PA), Ian Barrison (IB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

**2. Apologies for absence**

These were received from Paul Gardiner (PG), and Chris Armitage (CA).

**3. Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 20 September 2022, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

**4. Matters Arising from Minutes**

(a) Phil Waters has been asked to produce a brief report of the activities of the Conservation Group before each Society meeting.

(b) It was confirmed that the £15 annual subscription will apply to new members only for the time being.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated by HD prior to the meeting. The income is slightly down from last year by approx. £600 due to the reduced membership.

**6. Secretary's Items.**

(c) It was agreed that the Society should continue to hold committee meetings in the Salvation Army Hall for 2023. The dates are included with these minutes.

(d) Topics for new public meetings were discussed. Suggested public meetings included:

*I.* Meeting on pedestrianisation, parking and traffic flows in Harpenden, maybe late Spring 2023.

*II.* Meeting on the local primary care network and its relationship with the new Integrated Care System. Possibly in the Autumn 2023.

*III.* Luton Airport – sometime in 2023, possibly.

**7. Chairman's Items.**

(a) The L&G proposal for the NW Harpenden site was discussed. The Society has submitted an objection to the scoping proposal. SADC's decision notice on the scoping proposal is on the SADC website.

(b) The South West Herts 2050 plan was discussed. JP has commented on the plan on behalf of the Society.

(c) The outline planning proposal for the Station Approach redevelopment is now out. Houses in Harpenden have been circulated with a document outlining the proposals and asking for comments. KW has previously indicated the Society's general approval for this scheme and has submitted the Society's comments.

(d) Cross Lane development. The planning application for this was due at the end of November but has not appeared. The Society has indicated its support to the protest group.

(e) Traffic/pedestrianisation study for central Harpenden. This is being commissioned from the University of Hertfordshire (Stephen Joseph). The Society is requesting a scoping document outlining what could be done to improve the centre of Harpenden.

(f) Public Halls development. The planning application for this development has still not been made.

**8. Membership Secretary's Items**

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

- (b) The new membership leaflet has now been printed. PG has produced a plan for the distribution of the leaflets to houses in certain areas of Harpenden. The membership leaflets will be accompanied by as many complimentary copies of the current newsletter as possible when they are distributed. Once the current distribution plan has been completed, hopefully before Christmas, the results will be analysed (in terms of how many new members have been recruited) before continuing with the next phase.

#### 9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

- (a) JP praised AB on the high quality of the Autumn newsletter.
- (b) AB reported that there currently was not a lot of content for the Winter issue.

#### 10. **Publicity**

- (a) The publicity report had been circulated by RT prior to the meeting.
- (b) RT described his plans for a daytime exhibition focussing on the climate crisis and the environment to take place sometime in the second quarter of 2023. This would need to be held in conjunction with other organisations such as Rothamsted and it would be advantageous to have the support of our MP. **Action RT to progress this proposal.**
- (c) RT reported that he was not proceeding with the plans for a school's writing competition as there was little support for this from the schools and HTC may be planning to hold a similar competition next year.
- (d) RT reported that the EMC and the Leisure Centre are now under new management. The EMC now seems to be attracting a good variety of acts, many of which are sold out.
- (e) RT reported that although Harpenden was fairing better than many other towns the High Street shops were still finding the conditions to be challenging. The old Santander and Lloyds Bank shops were still vacant. Two new art galleries have opened, and an artisan jeweller is opening in Thompson's Close.

#### 11. **Awards**

- (a) PA reported that she had had nominations for the 2023 awards for Corner Hall, the old Nat West building (now Gail's), Station House and the two new playgrounds. A suggestion was made during the meeting to also include the revamped Welcome Cottages (near to the Friends Meeting House).

#### 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: The Transport Report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
  - I. See paragraph 7C. Comments have been made on the proposal to improve the station approach and Harding Parade. In general in Society is very much in favour of this proposal but comments were made about certain issues that do not seem to have been taken into account in the development proposal. Now that the proposal has been more widely circulated, and possibly slightly modified, KW will look again at the proposal and update his comments if required.
  - II. KW, on behalf of the Society, has attended the Planning Enquiry which was held to examine the proposal to increase traffic at Luton Airport. A decision is now awaited.
- (d) Education: Nothing to report.
- (e) Health & Social Welfare: The Health Report has been circulated by IB prior to the meeting. IB commented that recent reports suggest that the Watford A&E department is performing better than the L&D A&E department.
- (f) Built Environment:
  - I. The Built Environment report has been circulated by JL prior to the meeting.

II. JL reported that the old butcher's shop in Southdown has been acquired and a planning application has been made for it to become a takeaway. However, objections have been raised by residents complaining about the amount of illegal parking that occurs in Southdown and stating that a new takeaway will only make this situation worse.

(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:** 16 Jan 2023, 13 March 23, 8 May 23, 10 July 23, 18 Sept 23, 13 Nov 23

**Public Meetings:** none currently planned

The meeting closed at 12.00 noon.