

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 18 September 2023 at 10.00 a.m.
Salvation Army Hall
MINUTES

1. **Present**

Jeff Phillips (JP), Paul Gardiner (PG), Martyn Reed (MR), Harry Downie (HD), Ron Taylor (RT), Alan Bunting (AB), Roger Butterworth (RB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from Ian Barrison (IB), John Lowe (JL), Paul Gloess (PGs), Harry Downie (HD), Ron Taylor (RT) and Karl Wingfield (KW).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 10 July 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 reported that he had now opened a 95-day notice savings account and transferred Society funds into it. £10K of funds have been left in the current account.

6. **Secretary's Items.**

It was reported that two public meetings have now been arranged.

- I. September 21st – How can Harpenden's Car crisis & pollution problems be solved with Stephen Joseph from University of Hertfordshire Smart Mobility Unit
- II. October 19th – Health Care in Harpenden – the next 10 years with Dr Bethan Rees, Clinical Director, Harpenden Health PCN.

7. **Chairman's Items.**

(a) The Chairman introduced Roger Butterworth from the Harpenden and District Local History Society who is joining the Harpenden Society committee and will act as the main liaison person between the two societies.

(b) The intended purchase of Kinsbourne Green Common by a charity formed by a number of local residents was discussed. It was agreed that the Society should not contribute to the fund to buy the Common but would offer help to the charity if this were needed.

(c) It was agreed that the Chairman would produce a response to the SADC Local Plan consultation closing on September 25th summarising the objections that the Society has to the current version of the plan.

8. **Harpenden and District Local History Society**

(a) RB reported that the new museum based in the Eric Morecambe Centre (EMC) will have its official opening on 20th April 2024.

(b) A comment was made that there is no signage in the town to direct people to the EMC. RB will draft a letter for JP to send to the relevant Town, District and County councillors. **Action RB**

9. **Membership Secretary's Items**

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

10. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

(a) AB reported that he is now working on the Autumn issue with a mid-October date for final input.

- (b) A discussion on the desirability of including advertising in the Society's newsletter and website was not discussed and was therefore carried over to the next meeting.

11. **Publicity**

- (a) The publicity report had been circulated by RT prior to the meeting.
(b) It was agreed to add "Social Media" as a separate item in future committee agendas.

12. **Awards**

- (a) RT reported on the new format for the Annual Awards.

13. **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. Because of time constraints issues such as the Luton Airport DCO, Luton Airport 19mppa application and the Luton Airport Flightpaths were not discussed this time.
(c) Health & Social Welfare: The Health & Social Welfare report had been circulated by IB prior to the meeting.
(d) Built Environment: The Built Environment full report has been circulated by JL prior to the meeting. New items of interest were:
- I. **Land off Baulk Close – Ref 5/2023/1071** – An outline application for affordable dwellings on a 1-acre (0.44 ha) site between River Lea and footpath/cycle track.
 - II. **1 High Street – 5/2023/1704** – An application by HSBC to install a Community Cash Point in part of their building which faces the pedestrian crossing.
 - III. **Southdown Industrial Estate – Ref 5/2023/1550** – The Coal Board Pension Fund continues to apply for conditional consent for their approved scheme.
 - IV. **22-24 Grove Road – 5/2023/1559** - Interestingly whilst Jarvis is still awaiting the outcome of their revised application for a 75-bed care home, they are also continuing to apply for approval of conditional matters relating to the approved residential scheme.

An update of the status of the applications about which the Society has expressed concern is as below:

- V. **Cross Lane Fields** – 5/2023/0317 – submitted in March 2023 is still pending.
- VI. **Harpenden Public Halls, Southdown Rd.** – No further news since the council decided to pull the application following their decision to sell the site.
- VII. **6 High Street** – 5/2023/0254 – Refused primarily due to second floor extension which would be considered harmful to the Conservation Area. No appeal lodged.
- VIII. **North-West Harpenden** (L & G Proposals) 5/2023/0327 – Still under consideration. It has attracted a huge number of objections.
- IX. **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 objections have been lodged. Still pending.

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

14. **September 21st Traffic Study Meeting**

Stephen Joseph, from University of Hertfordshire Smart Mobility Unit, joined the meeting at 11.00am and gave an overview of the presentation planned for the public meeting being held at the Katherine Warington School on the 21 Sept.

15. **AOB**

None.

Dates of the next committee meetings: 13 Nov 23, 15 Jan 2024, 11 March 2024, 13 May, 8 July, 16 Sept, 11 Nov

Dates of the next Public Meetings: 21 September (Car Crisis in Harpenden), 19th October (Harpenden Health Network).

The meeting closed at 12.25