

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 19th November 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present:** Phil Waters (PhW), Alan Falconer (AF), Harry Downie (HD), Paul Gardiner (PG), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Mike Waddilove (MW), John Davis (JD), Chris Armitage (CA), John Lowe (JL), Ron Taylor (RT), Alan Bunting (AB), Jan Smith (JS) and Geoff Newman (GN).
2. **Apologies** for absence were received from John Harris (JH), Penny Ayres (PA), Alan Jackson (AJ), Tim Riley (TR), and Bob Fletcher (RF).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 17 Sept 2018, previously circulated, were approved as a true record after amendment by PW noting Pan Auto's development was down from 44 to 39, not 30 as stated.
4. **Treasurer's Report**

HD had previously circulated the up to date accounts. HD reported that the Society's finances were sound, down only £70 from last year. £ 951 was spent on fixed assets, the scanner costing £255.69, + display boards. 1/4 will be written off in depreciation over 4 yrs. JD asked that in due course the scanner be used to copy his 1947-89 Commentary on the Society's activities and the results to be put on the web site. AF asked for money for transport group. AB asked if a 12 page newsletter cost appreciably more than an 8 page, and was told not.
5. **Secretary's Items**
 - (a) The next public meeting will be held on the 17th January 2019. The subject will be parking issues in Harpenden.
 - (b) Our MP will speak at our 14th Feb meeting.
 - (c) Ideas needed for our AGM. JD investigating recycling speaker from our area. No national standard for recycling.
6. **Chairman's Items**
 - (a) Local plan. Comments on our responses awaited. Through inspectorate, now needs approval, it will be at least 1 year hence. 120 units put forward as developments in the Green Belt. RT: Redbourn proposal viewed last week. PhW: Will it impact NW & NE Harpenden developments? GN, RT, AF to frame response re Redbourn.
 - (b) Neighbourhood Plan passed independent examination GN reported that the referendum would now be held 7th Feb 2019. Council not allowed to use public money to promote YES vote after 22.11.18. PhW. Stated we should use our website to promote the vote. GN to inform our January meeting, also about possible postal votes. *Action. GN & RT to work together to promote.*
 - (c) Katherine Warington. PhW: All hurdles passed. 49 preconditions set. Archeological investigations nearing end. Work on Sports Hall, for use of first years, starting before Christmas. Staff recruitment started. Good response for pupils to start next September..
 - (d) Public Hall. Outcome of charrette (now called consultation) to be issued on November 28th.
7. **Membership Secretary's Items**

Two deliverers short. No response to request in previous newsletter. JS stated not yet viable to go only online. 123 entries, out of 590 have no internet declared to Harp. Soc. Committee agreed that members liked paper newsletters. PhW. Problem of JS replacement not solved. Solution needed.
8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

Next issue will be 2019. Ideas, to include report on the Public Halls charrette, and the development proposals for Redbourn. RT. Noted the 5th anniversary of library volunteers. JS suggested their photographs. GN: suggested results of Neighbourhood Plan vote (to be counted on 8th Feb). PhW: Reliability of new Thameslink services as more trains to be introduced on 9th December. JL.: Redbourn

developments. AF & GN: Report on parking meeting, 17th January 2019 important. PhW: Editorial freedom necessary.

9. Publicity Officer's Items

Report circulated to committee members.

- (a) Copy date of newsletter, 2 weeks from receipt of copy. Printers need 10 working days.
- (b) Business rates problematic for retailers. Meeting with Carl Chivers and town mayor vociferous. Petition sent to MP. Question in the House. Rents up between 21% and 29%.
- (c) No Christmas promotion of High St. Four retailers gone bust this year. Poor response to promotion therefore no money from Harp. Soc.

10. Working Group Reports

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (b) **Environment:** The Environment Report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. Good response when council told of overflowing bins.
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
AF: Need to convince councillors there is a problem with parking. Mary Maynard said the policy applies to all the district. More residents' parking to be introduced, soon be no on-street parking within ½ mile of town centre. AF: Need a survey of town parking. Cost? PhW: if council won't support it a group needed to research parking.
- (d) **Education:** CA: David Williams attended a Travel Forum of all schools at Roundwood Park= All schools suffer from parking. Got to go to Highways Dept. & get planning for more yellow lines. AF: Parents allowed to park for 15 mins for drop off and collection of children, same as for disabled. Travel plan for Katherine Warington includes plans for bridges, zebras, walking groups. Children to be encouraged to travel independently. PhW: DFE agreed to fund bus transport for 7 years for KW School. Integrated plan needed for all 4 secondary schools. GN: John Lawes consulting whether Harpenden Academy can become a feeder school for them. Not positive responses on Parents network. GN Chair of Governors at Academy.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** JH reported that the Red House redevelopment planning application has been delayed, caused by the CCG, for reasons currently unknown. No further information.
- (f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (g) **Economic Activity:** The Economic Activity report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment:** Report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. New leisure Centre due to be completed summer 2021 Public Halls dealt with earlier in minutes.
- (i) **Sports:** GN finding difficulty getting outdoor clubs to work together. Colts and Hockey clubs want permanent home. Rugby Club got artificial pitch. All clubs doing well, but only football club interested in new leisure centre, as only ones impacted. Conflict of interests between swimming clubs and lane swimmers.

11. AOB

JD Noted that the crime report was almost three times higher for Harpenden & Rural,(covering Redbourn and Sandridge) than for Harpenden town.

12. Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 21 Jan 19, 18 March 19.

Public Meetings: 17th Jan 2019 (Parking Issues in Harpenden), 14th February (MP- Bim Afolami)

13. The meeting closed at 9:48 p.m.