

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 20 September 2021 at 7.30 p.m.
Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. Present

Phil Waters (PhW), Alan Jackson (AJ), Harry Downie (HD), Alan Bunting (AB), Karl Wingfield (KW), Jeff Phillips (JP), and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. Apologies for absence

These were received from Ron Taylor (RT), Penny Ayres (P), Hester Gabbutt (HG), Paul Gardiner (PG), Chris Armitage (CA), Anne James (AJa), Ian Barrison (IB) and John Lowe (JL).

3. Past Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting on 12 July, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

(a) None.

5. Treasurer's Report

(a) The Treasurer's report had been circulated to the committee before the meeting. HD reported that although the numbers of members had declined due to some non-payers being removed from the list the Society's annual income this year will be similar to previous years..

6. Secretary's Items.

(a) RF confirmed that this Thursday's public meeting taking place at Katherine Warington School would be about the SADC Local Plan. Cllr. Jamie Day has confirmed his attendance.

(b) The meeting on the "green environment" is now being considered for the Spring. This could involve representatives from the county and district together with pupils from the local schools and other local organisations.

(c) The Dec 9th meeting on Air Pollution and Children with Prof Grigg is still scheduled to take place.

(d) A Spring/Summer 2022 meeting on "integrated health care" is being considered.

7. Chairman's Items.

(a) PhW reported that the Annual Report had been produced in time for the AGM.

(b) PhW reported that the Society's reception for the library volunteers and newsletter distributors held on the 17th September at Park Hall went well.

(c) It was reported that the initial meeting to discuss the Town's Conservation Area was held with HTC. In addition to the PhW and HG from the Society, residents Nicola Ramsden, Chris Earnshaw and Geoff Newman attended together with Rosemary Ross of the History Society.

(d) PhW reported that he had talked to Richard Nichols, chairman of the Harpenden Trust, regarding the Trust using their resources to find volunteers to staff the Library on Wednesday afternoons. The Trust's volunteers are currently fully engaged with the Covid vaccination programme but there may be an opportunity to find volunteers for the Library service once the Covid pandemic is over.

(e) A discussion took place about the parking restrictions in the town centre and the recent survey that had taken place. KW reported that it seemed that the residents had vote about 2:1 in favour of keeping the current scheme. There was a feeling that the town centre is more vibrant with the parking restrictions in place. It was acknowledged however that the retailers were strongly in favour of removing the restrictions. It was agreed that this would be discussed with HTC at the meeting with the Society scheduled for the 22nd September.

8. **Membership Secretary's Items**

- (a) The Membership Secretary's report has been circulated to committee members. HG was not present at the meeting due to illness.

9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

- (a) The Autumn newsletter is in progress. Articles on the new EMC and the updated Red House will be included.

10. **Publicity Officer's Items**

- (a) Report circulated to committee members.

11. **Awards.**

- (a) The Certificate of Merit will be presented to Jarvis Homes after the AGM on the 23rd September.

12. **Working Group Reports**

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated by PG.
- (b) **Environment:** Nothing to report.
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. KW stated that the CO2 situation would probably take over as the main driver to restrict airport expansion in the future rather than noise levels. It was agreed that the plan for the parking restrictions in the town centre will be discussed with HTC at the upcoming meeting – *post meeting note from the meeting between the Society and HTC on the 22nd Sept - HTC plan to return the town centre parking to what it was pre-Covid. HTC disputed the results of the Herts CC survey and support the retailer's view that the parking restrictions significantly reduce footfall in the town centre shops and will increase the chances of retail closures if the restrictions continue for more time than necessary.*
- (d) **Education:** Nothing to report.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** JP reported that he and IB were planning to explore what services would be offered to the public from the upgraded Red House hospital. This may involve a meeting with the GPs from the three Harpenden surgeries.
- (f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report has been circulated by JL. It was agreed that the Society would raise an objection to the proposed building of an extremely large house on the former Rothamsted Apiary site.
- (g) **Economic Activity:** The Publicity report has been circulated by RT.
- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment (ALE):** AJ reported that the third meeting of the EMC User Group is still being planned. This will be called by SADC/OneLife. It was mentioned that the issues regarding scenery access at the rear of the EMC had still not been resolved. There is a current plan for lorries greater than 7.5 tons to use the Leisure Centre car park and for items to be wheeled to the EMC. This was thought to be impractical and re-enforces the requirement for rear access via Leyton Road to be resolved.
- (i) **Sports:** Nothing to report.

13. **AOB**

- (a) Nothing to report.

Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 15 Nov, 17 Jan 22, 14 March 22

Public Meetings: December 9th (Prof Grigg)

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.