

**THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 20 September 2022 at 10.00 a.m.**  
**Salvation Army Hall**  
**MINUTES**

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1. **Present**

Jeff Phillips (JP), Paul Gloess (PGs), Paul Gardiner (PG), Ron Taylor (RT), Karl Wingfield (KW), John Lowe (JL), Alan Bunting (AB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from Harry Downie (HD), Penny Ayres (PA), Ian Barrison (IB) and Chris Armitage (CA).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 11 July 2022, 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. The current balance is approx. £29K.

6. **Secretary's Items.**

- (a) It was agreed that the Society should continue to hold committee meetings in the Salvation Army Hall for 2023. **Action: RF to arrange this with the Salvation Army.**
- (b) It was agreed that the subscription for new members would be raised to £15. The annual subscription for existing members would stay at £10 for the time being as requesting members to change their standing orders is problematic.
- (c) Topics for new public meetings were discussed. Suggested public meetings included:
  - I. Meeting on pedestrianisation, parking and traffic flows in Harpenden.
  - II. Airport and airspace meeting, potentially in the New Year.
  - III. Meeting on the local primary care network and its relationship with the new Integrated Care System. Possibly in June/July 2023.
  - IV. Maybe a public meeting on L&G's plans for the North West Harpenden site.

7. **Chairman's Items.**

- (a) The working of the Conservation Working Group were discussed. It was mentioned that it is desirable for this group to produce a brief report before each Society committee meeting as otherwise there would be little knowledge of the group's plans and progress. **Action: JP to discuss this again with Phil Waters and Hester Gabbutt.**
- (b) The L&G proposal for the NW Harpenden site was discussed. Several committee members will be attending the public meeting held by Chess Engage on behalf of L&G on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at the EMC and report back to the committee.

8. **Membership Secretary's Items**

- (a) The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated by PGs prior to the meeting.
- (b) Potential designs for the new recruitment leaflet were discussed and several comments were made. **Action: PG & RT to consider comments and produce an updated design.**

- (c) It was agreed that the Society should have an alternative to asking potential members to pay their subscription by cheque. It was also thought desirable for members to be able to pay by direct debit.  
**Action: RF, PG and HD to explore other payment methods such as GoCardless.**

#### 9. Newsletter Editor's Items

AB reported that there currently was not a lot of content for the Autumn issue. Several suggestions were made. Copy is required by the end of October for this next issue.

#### 10. Publicity

- (a) The publicity report had been circulated by RT prior to the meeting.
- (b) RT described his plans a day time exhibition focussing on the climate crisis and the environment. This would need to be held in conjunction with other organisations such as Rothamsted. **Action RT to progress this proposal.**
- (c) RT described his proposal for a school's writing competition. Several comments were made about whether or not this would be welcomed by the schools with some differing views expressed (maintaining and developing conventional skills versus accepting that in future typing skills will be more important). Action: **RT to propose this to the school heads with help from CA to obtain their reaction to the proposal.**
- (d) RT described his proposed press release for the "Battle of the Barristers" regarding the Planning Enquiry being held to examine the proposed increase in traffic at Luton Airport.

#### 11. 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. 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.
  - II. KW, on behalf of the Society, has submitted a comprehensive report as an input to the Planning Enquiry being held to examine the proposal to increase traffic at Luton Airport.
- (d) Education: Nothing to report.
- (e) Health & Social Welfare: The Health Report has been circulated by IB prior to the meeting.
- (f) Built Environment:
- I. **6 High Street, Ref: - 5/2021/3352** - Despite planning consent for a 241-seat bar/restaurant being refused some months ago, the applicants have not submitted an appeal or submitted a revised option. The shop remains empty.
  - II. **Harpenden Public Halls** - Although in November 2021 Cllr Robert Donald, Chair of the Councils Regeneration & Business Committee stated that "I'm pleased we are moving swiftly forward with this prestige development in the very heart of Harpenden" – an application has still not been submitted.
  - III. **Cross Lane Fields, Cross Lane** - A company called Lansdown are promoting redevelopment of Cross Lane Fields, Cross Farm on behalf of the owners for the construction of 30 super insulated and environmentally efficient houses. The land is in the Green Belt and is currently used for crop growing. The company is holding an exhibition at Cross Farm on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Sept, JL and RT will be attending this meeting and will report back.

- (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.

12. **AOB**

None.

13. **Dates of the next meetings:**

**Committee Meeting dates:** 14 Nov 22, 2023 dates to be confirmed.

**Public Meetings:** none currently planned

The meeting closed at 12.00 noon.