

**THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 8th May 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House**  
**MINUTES**

---

1. **Present:** Phil Waters (PhW), Tim Riley (TR), Ron Taylor (RT), Penny Ayres (PA), Alan Bunting (AB), Alan Jackson (AJ), Paul Gardiner (PG), Alan Falconer (AF), John Lowe (JL), and Bob Fletcher (RF).
2. **Apologies** for absence were received from Harry Downie (HD), Pauline Waddilove (PW), Mike Waddilove (MW), John Harris (JH), John Davis (JD), Geoff Newman (GN), Jan Smith (JS), and Victoria Evans (VE).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 20th March, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
  - (a) HD had previously circulated the current accounts. There were no comments on these accounts.
5. **Secretary's Items**
  - (a) The next event the Society is attending is the Carnival on the 10<sup>th</sup> June. It was agreed that the Society would contribute a £100 prize for the stand competition.
  - (b) The next public meetings are in September and October. Possible topics include:- The Neighbourhood Plan, The Strategic Plan, Police & Crime Commissioner, Town Charities, The New Secondary School, The Sports & Arts Centre, Rothamsted and Transport/Parking.
  - (c) It was agreed that one of the meetings in September or October would be an EGM where a vote on the updated constitution would take place,
6. **Chairman's Items**
  - (a) PhW described the Neighbourhood Plan project and reported that Tim Riley was serving on the Architecture/Design group, Pauline Waddilove on the Housing group and Phil Waters on the Transport group. Geoff Newman is on the Steering Group. All required groups are now in existence. There was a comment that there is no funding attached to the Neighbourhood Plan so recommendations that come out of the plan have to be funded elsewhere.
7. **Membership Secretary's Items**
  - (a) No report this time.
8. **Newsletter Editor's Items**
  - (a) AB reported that the 8 page Summer Issue is now in development. Topics include a report on the Neighbourhood Plan meeting, the Chairman's handover, the Awards and Simon Linnett's talk.
9. **Publicity Officer's Items**
  - (a) The Publicity Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. The publicity for the Carnival stand was briefly discussed and comments made.
10. **Working Group Reports**
  - (a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. Comments were made about the ramp outside the Mountain Warehouse store.
  - (b) **Environment:** Comments were made about air pollution in Harpenden. Station Rd, Southdown and Luton Rd have very poor air quality. Ranjeet Sokhi at the Univ. of Hertfordshire is an air quality expert and could possibly help with any measurements.
  - (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. AF reported that the Avenues parking group continues to have meetings. AF reported that he is still attempting to find out whether the promised SADC Harpenden Parking Strategy will ever be published.

- (d) **Education & Leisure:** PhW reported that the contractor (Kier) for the new secondary school has now been appointed and the name of the school announced - Katherine Warington. It was agreed that an advert would be placed in the next edition of the Society's newsletter for a committee member to chair the Society's education group. **Action PhW&AB.**
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:** The Health report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. Comments were made about the statement in the report that local GPs seemed not to be fully supporting the re-development of the Red House site. It was mentioned that it would be useful if we could get retired GPs to join the Health group.
- (f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. JL reported that an old Tudor style house in Sauncy Avenue had been demolished and the site boarded up but it has been announced that re-building will not commence for 2 years. It was speculated that this may have been done because the developers were concerned that demolition may have been refused in the future once the neighbours found out what was being planned. A discussion took place on what can be done to protect against this sort of behaviour in the future. TR announced that "conservation" was being looked at in the Neighbourhood Plan and that "design review panels" were being introduced.

It was agreed that the Society should only comment on developments that had a general community interest. We should try to avoid getting involved in developments that had only very specific local interest.

- (g) **Economic Activity:** See item 9 above.
- (h) **Arts & Leisure:** The Arts & Leisure report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (i) **Sports:** PhW reported that GN had convened two meetings involving around 14-15 sports clubs to explore common interests and requirements.

#### 11. Awards

- (a) PA reported that she is arranging a presentation of the Society's plaque to the Stonehurst Court development.

#### 12. AOB

- (a) None.

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

**Committee Meeting dates:** 17 July 17, 18 Sept 17, 20 Nov 17, 22 Jan 18, 19 March 18

**Speakers meetings:** 21 Sept 17, 19 Oct 17, 7 Dec 17, 25 Jan 18, 22 Feb 18, 19 April 18 (AGM)

14. The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.