

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 9 May 2022 at 10.00 a.m.
Salvation Army Hall
MINUTES

1. **Present**

Phil Waters (PhW), Paul Gardiner (PG), Ron Taylor (RT), Karl Wingfield (KW), Jeff Phillips (JP), Penny Ayres (PA), Ian Barrison (IB), Chris Armitage (CA), Alan Bunting (AB) and Bob Fletcher (RF).

2. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from John Lowe (JL), Harry Downie (HD), Alan Jackson (AJ), and Hester Gabbutt (HG).

3. **Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 14 March 2022, 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 prior to the meeting. The Independent Auditor has commented that the Society reserves are excessive. It was agreed that some of the reserves will be earmarked for a Civic Development Fund that will be used to fund, or partially fund, projects in the community. This will not be a financially separate account.

6. **Secretary's Items.**

- (a) The meeting on Air Pollution and Children featuring Dr Abigail Whitehouse was held on the 21st April and was successful.
- (b) It was agreed that the AGM should be held online via Zoom in late June. The Annual Report, required to be circulated before the AGM, is well underway.
- (c) Topics for new meetings were discussed. An October 2022 meeting on parking and traffic flows in Harpenden was proposed as a possibility. A health talk on the local primary care network was proposed as a possibility for the second quarter 2023. A talk on sustainability, maybe in co-operation with the local schools, was also discussed. **Action CA to follow up the last item.**
- (d) It was proposed that the Conservation Working Group should inform residents in the conservation area that the review process is taking place. This could be done by using local WhatsApp groups, or other online methods, rather than by a physical leaflet distribution. However, a leaflet will need to be produced to describe what is happening even if it distributed by online means only.
- (e) The Society is having a stand at the Carnival being held on June 18th. **Action RF to produce a staffing plan.**

7. **Chairman's Items.**

- (a) PhW reported that the Society was meeting with the Harpenden Trust on the 10th May to discuss the library volunteer scheme.
- (b) PhW reported that the Conservation Group will probably need the services of an architect (possibly retired?). It was mentioned that committee member Tim Riley may be able to help.

8. **Membership Secretary's Items**

(a) It was reported that Paul Gloess had accepted the role of Membership Secretary.

9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**

(a) The 3rd week of June is the deadline for input to the next newsletter. Various items are proposed including a piece on our new membership secretary and maybe the incoming mayor.

10. **Awards.**

- (a) The Certificate of Merit for the new Children's Playground in Rothamsted Park and a Letter of Commendation for the new boardwalk in Batford Springs were presented to the mayor at the Society's public meeting on the 21st April.
- (b) The Plaque which has been awarded to the Eric Morecambe Centre still needs to be presented.

11. **Working Group Reports**

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Community Safety report had been circulated by PG. PG reported that he is having difficulty communicating with the local police force.
- (b) **Environment:** Nothing to report.
- (c) **Transport:**
 - I. The Transport Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was reported that the 19M expansion application by Luton Airport has been "called in". The Society submitted an objection to this application.
 - II. It was agreed that £1K could be donated to Ladacan as a contribution to their fighting fund.
- (d) **Education:** CA reported that the writing competition had been well received by the local secondary schools.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare:**
 - I. The Health Report has been circulated prior to the meeting.
 - II. It was reported that the Urgent Care Centre in St Albans is now scheduled to be opened in Oct 22. There will be no "walk-ins", appointments will need to be made via NHS 111.
 - III. The West Herts Trust new hospital plans look as if they have been delayed again, they are also possibly looking at a new site. Additionally, there seems to be a major funding issue.
 - IV. It was reported that June 14 is Herts CC clean air day. IB will try to obtain copies of the anti-idling brochure.
- (f) **Built Environment:** The Built Environment report has been circulated by JL.
- (g) **Economic Activity:** The Publicity report has been circulated by RT.
- (h) **Arts, Leisure, Entertainment (ALE):** It was discussed that one issue with the new EMC is that the only access for large lorries carrying scenery etc. is via Leyton Rd. However, because the gateposts are still in place this limits the size of vehicle that can access the site resulting in major productions not being possible.
- (i) **Sports:** Nothing to report.

12. **AOB**

- (a) Nothing to report.

Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 11 July, 19 Sept, 14 Nov

Public Meetings: AGM (tba)

The meeting closed at 12.10.