

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 25th January 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
MINUTES

1. **Present:** Chris Marsden (CM), Ron Taylor (RT), Helen Clothier (HC), Donald Robertson (DR), Harry Downie (HD), Susan Vinther (SV), Alan Bunting (AB), Eric Midwinter (EM), Penny Ayres (PA), John Lowe (JL) and Bob Fletcher (RF).
2. Apologies for absence were received from; John Harris (JH), Alan Jackson (AJ), Mike Waddilove (MW), Pauline Waddilove (PW), John Davis (JD), Victoria Evans (VE), and Tim Riley (TR).
3. Minutes of the meeting on 7th December 2015, previously circulated, were approved as a true record.
4. Matters arising not on the Agenda:
 - (a) None.
5. **Treasurer's Report**
 - (a) HD reported that the Society's finances are sound.
6. **Secretary's Items**
 - (a) It was agreed that the topic for the 21st April public meeting would possibly be the potential developments in the Park now that the James Marshall development has been approved by the Planning Inspector.
7. **Chairman's Items**
 - (a) The Chairman proposed that the Society try to establish a Parks Forum involving all stakeholders (Parks Committee, football club, Pegasus Life, Parents groups) along the lines of the Red House Forum to focus on the potential re-development of the park facilities now that the James Marshall development has been approved. **ACTION: CM & RT to progress**
 - (b) The state of the Public Halls was discussed. It was felt that re-development of this facility was desirable but it was agreed that the Society should focus on establishing the Parks Forum initially.
 - (c) The Chairman reported that a meeting was taking place at his house on the 7th Feb, to be attended by a group of 10 or so young people (that is of a younger age group than the main Society members) to discuss the group's Vision for Harpenden. It was noted that the town council had a "vision group" which will be working on the upcoming neighbourhood plan.
 - (d) It was agreed that the focus for the April AGM should be the "Vision for Harpenden".
 - (e) It was reported that contracts had been exchanged on the site for the new secondary school.
 - (f) It was reported that the speakers for the 4th February "Strategic Local Plan" meeting at Rothamsted had now been confirmed and publicity for the event was progressing. The Chairman reported that many District Councillors had not replied to his emails inviting them to speak at the event.
8. **Membership Secretary's Items**
 - (a) The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated before the meeting.
 - (b) The Membership Secretary announced that a replacement for her role had potentially been found and she and other members of the committee were meeting her on Friday to discuss the opportunity.
9. **Newsletter Editor's Items**
 - (a) The Newsletter Editor's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.

10. Publicity Officer's Items

- (a) The Publicity Officer's report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (b) RT reported that he had heard that the town centre Post Office was closing and would be offered as a franchise to potential bidders. If no bidder came forward the Post Office would close.

11. Working Group Reports

- (a) **Community Safety:** The Public Order working group's 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.
- (c) **Transport:** The Transport report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. DR reported that the Community Bus Service was awaiting authorisation.
- (d) **Education & Leisure.** The E&L report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.
- (e) **Health & Social Welfare.** The Health & Social Welfare report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. The next Red House Forum meeting is scheduled for next week.
- (f) **Built Environment.** The Built Environment report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. JL reported that the Society had commented on the Harpenden House Hotel planning application mainly along the lines of the blandness of the design, the lack of visitor parking spaces and the quality of the material that was being proposed.
- (g) **Economic Activity.** The Economic Activity report had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting

12. Awards

- (a) PA reported that several interesting nominations had been received for the Society's wards.

13. AOB

- (a) HC offered to explore the possibility of visiting Hammonds End Farm for the Summer Outing. **ACTION:HC**

14. Dates of the next meetings:

Committee Meeting dates: 21 Mar, 9 May, **4 July (note change of date)**, 19 Sept, 21 Nov, 23 Jan 17, 20 March 17

Speakers meetings: 28 Jan, 4 Feb, 25 Feb, 21 April (AGM), 22 Sept, 20 Oct, 8 Dec, 26 Jan 17, 23 Feb 17, 20 April 17 (AGM)

- 15. The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.