

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 23 Jan 68

Eleven members attended, Mr Goodwin in the Chair. The Chairman welcomed Judge Dow, the new president, upon attending his first C'tee meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Hills Young, Dr Potter & Messrs McVae, Eccleston, Green, Wood, Hill, Gassner, Dixon & Hughes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 Dec⁶⁷ were read & approved. Matter arising: - A letter was read from Mr Dixon, informing us that he had inspected the plans submitted to the UDC for proposed development at 6/8 Birch Way. He recommended the Society to take no action in the matter, & gave his opinion that the developer should succeed in his appeal against the Council's rejection.

Correspondence. In a letter Mr Dixon gave an account of a one-day conference on "Strategy for the S.E." he had attended in London. No matter had arisen with direct bearing on Harpenden.

The Hon. Sec. read a letter from a lady who had recently come to live in Telfrells Way. She had protested to the Council, with other residents in the area, against proposed dev: in Wells Close which appeared to be a serious threat to amenity & trees. She had joined the Society & asked for support, of which the Hon. Sec. was asked to assure her. The C'tee were informed that the application would be ~~refused~~ but that it might go to appeal.

Through the Hon. Sec. Mr. Hill transmitted the terms of a letter he had received from the Chairman of the County Planning Committee, to the effect that ~~as soon~~ when the County & the UDC were in agreement on the Town Centre Development Plans, they would be available to the interested parties such as the Harpenden Society.

Finance The Hon. Treas: submitted the draft accounts for 1967, with a commenting letter. The accounts had gone to audit.

Agenda. The draft Development Manifesto, ~~having been circulated to the Committee~~, was introduced & explained by Mr. Wilson*. After a full discussion, it was decided to send copies to the absentees & to give further consideration to its terms at a special committee meeting to be called on 20th Feb, by which date it was hoped that the consortium of architects & planners convened by Mr. Wilson would have considered the manifesto & reported its views to the Development Sub-Committee.

4 A.O.B. An advertisement had been received of a one-day conference on Development, organized by the Charter of Survey Architects

* Subject of the Development Sub-Committee.

• the Godalming Trust, to be held at Charterhouse on Sat 6 April. The fee, inclusive of meals, was 2 guineas - It was agreed to send two delegates from the Society.

The Hon. Sec. announced that the AGM would be on Tues 2 April. It was agreed that after the formal business the meeting should be devoted to a discussion of the Society's role in the development of Harpenden.

The Chairman recalled that Capt & Mrs Bond had just celebrated their golden wedding, & the Hon. Sec. was asked to send them a congratulatory letter.

Date of next meeting: 20 Feb 1968.

Fred Goacher

Feb 20 68

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on 20 Feb 1968

Thirteen members attended, Mr Goacher in the chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Miss North, Messrs Eccleston, Hill, Gasser, Rosevear & the Hon. Sec.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 Jan were read & approved. There were no matters arising, but Capt Bond, on behalf of himself & his wife, thanked the C'tee for their good wishes on the occasion of his golden wedding.

UDC Minutes & Plans Lists. It was agreed to continue the Society's subscriptions at the increased rates.

Hospital Relay Group. It was agreed to donate 2 gns to this organization which dispenses record programmes for patients in the local hospitals.

The Society & the consortium of Architects. The meeting discussed the statement entitled "The role of the Harpenden Society in influencing urban design", which had been circulated to the C'tee after the meeting of Harpenden

architects & allied professions held on 30th Jan. In the main the C'tee welcomed the suggestion for a consultative group of architects & technical experts to be drawn from the Society's membership, & for future consultation with the planning authority. It was suggested that the group of architects, at their next meeting, should be asked to make recommendations as to the constitution of such a sub-committee & its terms of reference. It was generally agreed that the draft manifesto prepared by the Dev. Sub-Committee had now served its principle purpose in stimulating interest & discussion & paving the way towards a productive liaison between the Society & the planning authority; on a proposition from Mr Green it was unanimously agreed that it should not be published; the Dev. Sub-C'tee was thanked for their labours. It was further agreed that if the architects, at their next meeting, confirmed their draft proposals & produced terms of reference as suggested, an approach should be made to the UDC before the Society's AGM (2nd April), & that a report of progress to date should be included in the 1967 Annual Report. This might be amplified at the AGM. It was agreed that the Society's executive committee should determine ~~the best way of approaching the UDC~~ ^{those} ~~how the approach to the UDC should be made & how & when the members of the Society should be informed of developments.~~ how the approach to the UDC should be made & how & when the members ^{of the Society} should be informed of developments.

Throughout the discussion, which was wide-ranging & fruitful, the C'tee was helped by the advice of Capt. Bond, whose experience as chairman of the Council's plans c'tee was invaluable, & he was thanked for his encouragement of what he thought might be a forward move in Council/Society relations.

It was agreed that notices of future meetings of the Society should be sent to similar societies in adjoining areas, e.g. Redbourne, Wheathampstead

& Dunstable, with invitations to send representatives & with the suggestion that the courtesy might be reciprocated.

The date of the next meeting of the General C'tee was left open, with the probability that it would be after the AGM.

Fred Goacher 1

Ap. 30. 68

Minutes of Executive Committee held on 15 March 1968

Present: Judge Dow, Capt Bond, Mr Goacher, Mr Wilson, Hon:

Treas: & Hon: Sec:

With regard to the Society's association with the newly-formed Urban Design Group & the Joint Committee, it was agreed that ~~the~~ architect members of the latter need not necessarily be members of the Society. Mr Wilson informed the meeting that the U. D. G. would be represented on the Joint C'tee by Messrs Bonnington, Taylor & Oakley, & an Hon. Sec (of the Group) to be appointed. It was agreed that the Society should be represented by the Chairman of C'tee & two members of the Society, in the first instance Mr Booth & Mr Wilson.

The delicate question of ^{formal} approach to the Urban District Council was discussed. Capt Bond recommended a letter to the Clerk, to be sent before these new developments were reported to members in the Annual Report. At the request of the Hon: Sec, Capt Bond agreed to advise him on the terms of the letter to the Clerk.

The President reported that the Rector of St Nicholas's Church had enquired whether the Society could help to publicize the appeal for funds to renovate the church bells. It was decided to refer the matter to the

next General Committee meeting.

Fred Goucher.

June 18. 68.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2nd April 1968 in the Small Public Hall. The President, His Honour Judge Dow, took the Chair.

35 members attended. Conditions were wintery as in 1967, & the meeting co-incided with the St Nicholas Annual Parishioners' meeting in the Large Hall.

The Minutes of the AGM held on 4th April 1967 were read & approved.

The Hon. Treas. moved the adoption of the Accounts. He pointed out that expenditure had increased as a result of an increase in activities, but there was a notable increase in income through enrolment of new members & since April 1967, an increase in subscription for 2 members of the same family.

In submitting the Annual Report, the Chairman ~~was~~ noted that only about 250 households were represented through membership of the Society, out of 4740 owner-occupiers in Harpenden. He urged the members to canvass new members as the next two years would be critical in the development of Harpenden, & the strength & influence of the Society would be the greater if it represented more residents.

Election of Officers. The Chairman paid tribute to the long service to the Society of Capt. Bond, who resigned from the Presidency in Sept. The meeting enthusiastically confirmed the appointment of Judge Dow as President, & of Capt. Bond & Mr L. S. George as vice-presidents. The meeting

was informed that the Committee recommended that vice-presidents should be limited to three. This addition to the Constitution was carried.

The remaining officers, ~~Col: Scott~~ ~~Mr: Smith~~ ~~Mr: Jones~~ ~~Mr: Brown~~ ~~Mr: White~~ the Hon Treas & Hon Secretary were re-elected, as was Col: Scott (vice-president).

Elections to Committee. Under the new 3-years rule Messrs Booth, Coventry, Eccleston & Wood retired from the Committee. As only four nominations were received, no ballot was necessary. Mr D. M. Oakley, Mr Gordon Taylor, Mr Eric Brandreth & Mr Michael St John Hopper were elected.

~~The next~~

The President appealed for suggestions for the Annual Outing.

The meeting ended with a wide-ranging discussion & exchange of views on public participation in planning, the responsibilities & problems of the Urban District Council, & the need to cultivate the interest of the residents in the development & management of their own townships. Enthusiasm was expressed for the formation of a joint consultative committee of the Society & the newly-formed Harpenden Urban Design Group.

P. Graham Dwy
29 April 1969.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 30 April 1968

Fourteen Members attended, Mr Goacher in the Chair. On a motion from the President, Mr Goacher was unanimously ~~re-~~ re-elected Chairman of Committee for the permitted second year.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Taylor & Mr Brandreth, two of the four newly-elected members of the Ctee. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Nilve, Mr Oakley & Mr MacCrae.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28th February were read & approved.

Agenda

The formation of the Joint Committee of the Society & the Harpenden Urban Design Group was announced, & the Hon. Sec. read a letter from the Clerk of the UDC to the effect that the Council welcomed its establishment as a consultative body. The Society would be represented by the Chairman, Mr Booth & Mr Wilson.

The Hon. Sec. undertook to notify the Committee on Public Participation in Planning, set up by the M.H.L.G., of the situation in Harpenden.

Finance. In the absence of a report from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Sec. reported that £40 in subscriptions had been received since the A.G.M.

Annual Outing. Syon House, Chiswick, was proposed, perhaps coupled with a visit to a new development, ~~which~~ Mr Wilson would investigate possibilities.

The Hon. Sec. asked for volunteers to organize the outing on behalf of Mr Carl & himself. It was suggested that Mr Green might be willing, as he had done it last year.

Hon. Secretary. Mr Johnstone formally announced his wish to relinquish this post as soon as possible.

Two or three possible successors were mentioned by members who said they would make enquiries. Mr Gasser undertook to take minutes when he was present.

A. O. B. The Clerk of the UDC had written ^{on behalf of the Council} to invite the Society to comment on the plans for Phase II of the Heath Road ~~new~~ Scheme. In view of the advanced stage of the Scheme & the difficulties the Council were having with the Ministry, it was decided that intervention could not now be practical or realistic. The Hon. Sec. to send a letter of appreciation to the Clerk.

The proposed extension of Luton Airport & the formation of a resistance society (LADACAN) were fully discussed. It was decided to ask Mr David Booth, as convener of the Society's aircraft noise sub-committee, to take all necessary action to make ^{known} the Society's ~~oppos~~ full support of opposition. Surrey Conference on Development, 6th April. Mr Wilson thanked the Society for enabling him to attend this one-day conference at Godalming, which he said was most informative & inspiring.

Town Map. The Hon. Sec. reported that the Society's street plan at the station had been destroyed or stolen. It had survived for 3 years. Mr Wilson was asked to execute a replacement.

Town Notice Board. The Hon. Sec. gave his opinion that the shabby & neglected notice board adjacent to the George bus stop was unworthy of the town & uselessly sited. He suggested that the Society might take it over, & renovate it & maintain it in association with the UDC, provided it was re-sited in a central position.

Mr Carl said the Surveyor's Dept considered it beyond repair & a new one would cost £200. After discussion, it was decided to ask the Urban Design Group, through Mr Wilson, to make proposals for a

new one & its position.

Registration of Common Land. At the suggestion of Miss Hills Young, the Hon. Sec. was instructed to ask the editor of the Harpenden Free Press to devote an editorial to the provisions of the new Act, particularly for the benefit of private owners of open plots which were eligible for preservation.

Date of next meeting, Tues. 18 June.

Fred Goacher June 18. 68

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on 18 June 1968

Sixteen members attended, Mr Goacher in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Crowther & Miss Hill, Potter, MacCrae & King.

The Hon. Sec. had invited Mr David Booth, as convenor of the Society's Aircraft-Noise sub-committee, to attend the meeting to report on the formation of LADACAN.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 15 March, & of the General Committee meeting on 30 April, were read & approved.

Matters arising. The Chairman announced that the venue of the Annual Outing had perforce to be changed from Sgor Park to Osterley House. The Hon. Sec. reported that the editor of the Free Press would endeavour to publicize the provisions of the new Act relating to the Registration of Common Land.

Before proceeding to further business, on motions from the Chairman the Committee congratulated Mr Colin Curl upon his election as Chairman of the UDC, & instructed the Hon. Sec. to send their congratulations to Col. & Mrs Scott upon the celebration

of their golden wedding anniversary.
Agenda.

Finance. The Hon. Treas. reported that subscriptions received for 1968 (& earlier) totalled £59.19.0. Balance at Bank at 18 June, £80-8-1.

Luton Airport. Mr David Booth gave an account of the formation of LADACAN & of its Harpenden branch, & informed the meeting how it was receiving encouragement & support from official & voluntary organizations. At the suggestion of the Hon. Sec. of the Society, an interim leaflet was prepared at short notice for distribution with the Society's notice of Annual Outing. A formal circular would be generally distributed in July. Mr Booth, as a member of the Harpenden Committee of LADACAN, was asked to represent the Society. He proposed, & it was unanimously agreed, that the work of the Society's sub-committee could effectively be taken over by the LADACAN Harpenden Committee.

~~Urban Design Group.~~
Urban Design Group. The Hon. Sec. reported that Mr Derrick Challis, a member of the Society ^{who} had been appointed Hon. Sec. of the Harpenden Urban Design Group, was willing to be also Hon. Sec. of the Joint Committee. It was proposed, & agreed, that Mr Challis be co-opted onto the Society's Committee.

Subscription Arrears. The Hon. Membership Secretary reported that out of 107 members still in arrears, 34 ~~arrears~~ were two or more years in arrears. Since Oct 1967 there have been two reminders sent out. After discussion of the attitude of the Society towards defaulters, it was agreed to send out a third notice, warning members that, in the event of no reply their names would be ~~submitted to~~ ^{considered by} the Committee for removal, in accordance with the rules of the Society. Mr Dixon undertook to check the "34" against the electors register.

Autumn Meeting - A request had been received from the Rector of St Nicholas Church for assistance ~~with~~ ⁱⁿ publicizing the appeal for the renovation of the ~~the~~ church bells. Simultaneously, it had been suggested that as church bells are part of the English heritage, Mr John Betjeman be invited to be the guest speaker at the Autumn Meeting. After a conscientious but somewhat light-hearted discussion of the two issues, it was ~~decided~~ 1) that the Society would be prepared to distribute a bells appeal leaflet, as provided, with the notice of Autumn Meeting, 2) that an approach be made to Mr Betjeman via the Hon. Sec to enquire his availability & fee.

Date of next meeting: Tues 30 July.

Fred Forcher.

30 July 68.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held 30 Sept.

Twelve members attended, Mr Goacher in the Chair.
Apologies for absence were received from Judge Dow,
Miss North, Messrs MacCrac, King, Hopper.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 July were read & approved. There were no matters arising, but Mr Wilson regretted that neither he nor any other rep. could attend the ~~Ad Hoc~~ Amenity Society conference at York.

Autumn Meeting.

The form of refreshments at the Autumn Meeting was discussed, & it was decided that the provision of wine rather than coffee appeared to have a beneficial effect on the attendance.

The Chairman reported that Mr John Barnington, Chairman of the Harpenden Urban Design Group, had accepted our invitation to address the Autumn Meeting, on 6 Nov.

Subscriptions. It was decided to include in the notice of Autumn Meeting a reminder that subscriptions for 1968 had been due since 1st Jan, & a warning to members who were two or more years in arrears (about 20) that the C'tee had reluctantly decided to remove their names from the register unless they paid in full by 30th Nov.

St Nicholas Church Bells Appeal. The Hon. Sec. reported that he was about to offer to distribute with the Autumn Meeting notice a suitable leaflet if the Rector would care to provide it. It was proposed, & carried, that the Society should contribute Ten Guineas to the fund.

Plans Sub-Committee. Mr Wilson reported that the Sub-C'tee felt that it was not as effective as it might be, as the information in the UDC's plans lists was minimal, & there were only 3 or 4 days in which to consider & return comments on the proposals. He also feared that our comments were received after decisions had been taken. Mr Wilson expressed the hope that ~~the~~ reference by the U.D.C. to the new Joint Committee at the outline stage could soon be established. (This minute is probably not as precise as it ought to be - MY).

Provisional date of next meeting, Nov 18 Nov.

Fred Goacher.

Nov. 27. 68

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday
26 November 1968 at 8.00 p.m. in the Plumbers Loft.

Mr. Goacher in the Chair.

1). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs Maurae, Taylor, Brandreth, King, Hill and Hassell.

2). Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 September were read and approved.

3). Matters arising.

Autumn meeting. The Chairman said that the Society's thanks were due to Capt. Bond, a former President, who at very short notice addressed the Autumn Meeting, when Mr. Bonnington was taken ill and was unable to come. Capt. Bond's well illustrated and informative talk

obviously interested his audience. The Chairman also thanked the President for presiding almost immediately after a dental appointment and Miss Hills-Young and her helpers for organizing and serving the wine and cheese.

The Committee agreed that Mr. Bonnington should be invited to address the Annual General Meeting in 1969.

4) Correspondence

A letter from Mr. C. J. A. Hughes of 39, Lisper Green was read about the proposed Sports and Recreation Centre. The first phase is estimated to cost £130,000. Mr Hughes asked if this were too costly and whether such a project would require too much subsidy from the rates. He suggested the Society should oppose siting the Centre in Rothamsted Park because of the loss of visual amenity. After some discussion on the need and demand for such a sports centre (particularly as one already existed in St. Albans) the Committee decided to write and ask the Urban District Council for further information on the need for a Sports Centre, the proposed site, and who are the sponsors of the scheme described in the Harpenden Free Press.

5) Appointment of Honorary Secretary

Owing to pressure of work, Mr. Maurice Johnstone had resigned as Secretary. No replacement had yet been found. The President agreed to approach Mr. L. Homan; Mr. C. Mitchell was also mentioned as a possible candidate. If we are unable to co-opt an Honorary Secretary, the chairman suggested we should offer a small honorarium. This was agreed and also that if all personal approaches failed we should advertise for a Secretary in the local press.

- 6) Joint meeting of the Harpenden Urban Design Group (HUDG) and Harpenden Urban District Council (HUDC).
Mr. D. P. Challis reported on the meeting on 17 October. The Design Group had criticized the proposed development by Sainsbury's in the High Street. The Group would liaise with the surveyor, Mr. Pettijale, on the outline permission for the re-development of Carlton Road. There was then some discussion on the need for lay participation in planning and also the Society's representation on ~~on~~ the Design Group and the joint Committee. Mr. Challis said that any member of the Harpenden Society ^{Joint} Committee would be welcome at meetings of the Harpenden Urban Design Group Committee.

The President expressed the Committee's thanks for the report.

- 7) Date of next meeting
15 January 1969

Fred Goncher,

Jan. 15. 69