

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 12th January, 1972 at
8.00 p.m. in the Public Library

PRESENT : Mr. J. Savage in the chair.

Messrs. Booth, Brandreth, Derrett, Crumplin,
Squires, Dixon and part time Brown.

Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Elliott,
Miss Haberer and the Secretary.

Apologies were received from Messrs. Hughes & Curl
and Mrs. Johnstone.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December, 1971 having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE DISCUSSED

(i) Notice of meetings : The Secretary referred to Mr. Dixon's request for good notice of future meetings and pointed out that the committee met on the second Wednesday in the month and that members were advised of the date of the next meeting, and the provisional date of meeting after that.

(ii) 2 Southdown Road : The County Council had acknowledged the request for help in purchasing the cottage property and were considering how the various aspects of the scheme would affect the different departments of the County Council. The Joseph Rowntree Social Service Trust could give no financial assistance.

(iii) Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition : A meeting had been held on January 5th to plan for more visual uniformity among the stands. Mr. Crumplin and Mr. Savage had both attended. It was proposed that if sufficient information became available to exhibit an illustration of the proposed new traffic scheme at the junction of Station Road and High Street. Mr. Crumplin was in charge of the arrangements for the Society's exhibit.

- (iv) Footpaths : Mrs. Jones referred to the proposal to close the Crabtree Lane footpath. In view of the developments in that area the committee were of the opinion that this right of way had lost its usefulness and the closure should not be ~~proposed~~ *opposed*.

Mr. Dixon said that a new proposal would shortly be made to close the footpath going through St. George's School. The Society had objected to closure on the previous occasion. It was decided to await further particulars.

- (v) Widening of Redbourne Lane : Mr. Brown required final particulars of the proposals. Mr. Dixon said he could supply these and further discussion was deferred to a later meeting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- (. i) The St. Albans Civic Society were holding a meeting jointly with the City Council to explain the various development schemes proposed for the Chequer Street, London Road, Victoria Street area.
- (ii) The Hertfordshire Association of Architects were meeting at Knebworth to deal with the progress and problems of conservation areas.
- (iii) The Wolverhampton Civic Society drew our attention to the Campaign for National Parks and the proposal for a nation wide series of meetings on February 24th to support the mass rally in London. Sympathy with the views of the campaign were expressed, but it was thought that interested members would support the London meeting.

4. FINANCE

The Treasurer reported a balance in hand at 31st December, 1971 of £56.00 compared with £58.00 at the previous year end. While the financial situation was satisfactory it was recognised that the proposed increase in the Society's activities would certainly increase our expenditure. The list of annual subscriptions to other Societies was reviewed. It was agreed that the following subscriptions should be continued :-

C.P.R.E.	£2.00
Commons Society	£1.00
Herts & Middlesex Trust	£2.00
Keep Britain Tidy	£2.00

4. FINANCE (Cont.)

The subscription to "~~Y~~our Environment" and Town and Country Planning should not be continued. The Hertfordshire Society were proposing to increase their subscription and it was agreed that this renewal should be considered when the demand came in, it being noted that the Hertfordshire Society did not directly ^{help} ~~keep~~ us and that many of our members were also members of that Society.

5. PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Dixon reported that a new timetable had been agreed with the Surveyor which would give more time for consideration of the applications.

A lengthy discussion took place on the various proposed developments in the Roundwood Park area. Mr. Dixon commented that change was not necessarily bad and with the demand for new houses some development was inevitable.

6. PROPOSED LECTURES

Miss Haberer outlined the sub-committee's proposals which suggested two additional meetings in May and September, and a much wider range of subjects than had been previously been considered by the Society. In discussion it was felt there was no reason for not broadening the field covered by the Society but the sub-committee pointed out that under the constitution none of them would be eligible for election to the General Committee in March, and suggested that the whole project should be referred to the new Committee to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary pointed out that for various reasons there had already been several deferments and a reference to the new General Committee would mean that nothing could be arranged before September.

It was agreed that Mrs. Elliott and Miss Haberer should be asked to arrange a meeting in the Small Public Hall in May, all arrangements including the Speaker being left in their hands. The new committee would review the programme and these arrangements would in no way hinder their freedom of action. Mrs. Elliott agreed to supply the Secretary with full details so that the members could be advised when the notices for the Annual General Meeting were sent out at the beginning of March.

7. FUTURE ORGANISATION

The Chairman reported that he had consulted the Secretary as required by minute 6 of the last meeting. The Secretary had made various proposals intended to increase the efficiency of the Society and it was agreed that the officers should present a joint report to the next committee, so that any agreed proposals could be put to the Society at its General Meeting in March.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mr. Booth confirmed that the arrangements were all complete, and Mrs. Elliott agreed to see that coffee would be available before the meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on Wednesday 9th February 1972 at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library and the following meeting was provisionally fixed for March 8th.

This concluded the meeting.

Minutes of a Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8th December 1971 at
8 pm. in the Public Library

PRESENT: Mr. J Savage in the chair
His Honour Judge Dow
Messrs Booth, Brandreth, Crumplin, Dixon, Hughes and Squires
Miss Haberer, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs Jones and Mrs Williams

Apologies were received from Mrs Elliott, Messrs Brown, Derrett, Green and the Secretary

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November which had been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters arising not otherwise discussed

- (i) Parking on the Common: Mrs Johnstone gave a report on her enquiries about the Council's proposal to clear scrub to the east of the Brickle Dells. She understood that only the scrub would be cleared; the trees and bushes would be left. The Secretary would write to the Clerk to request that the clearance should be kept to a minimum.
- (ii) Plans Sub-Committee: Mr Dixon said he understood that the Committee were concerned that they were not getting enough information from the sub-committee, and he referred to the difficulties he had in providing comments in the time available. This was accepted, and the Committee expressed its appreciation of the work the sub-committee did for the Society. It was pointed out that the Committee found it particularly helpful to have Mr. Dixon or in his absence a member of the sub-committee present when their reports were considered. Mr. Dixon agreed that it should be possible to arrange this so long as he had good notice of future meetings.

Reference was made to the possibility of developments at the Gorselands, and Mr Dixon noted the Committee's request to be kept closely informed. There was no information about the County plan for a school in the Beeson End Land area. [Notice has since been published referring to an area of land to the West of Barlings Road and Collens Road, with access from the Uplands as the site for a proposed new primary school.]

- (iii) 2 Southdown Road: Mr Crumplin said that the sub-committee had submitted a report, copies of which had been circulated, which recommended the Council to purchase the property. The Council were not enthusiastic and had referred the proposal to the County. The Carnegie Trust had stopped giving grants for the purpose intended. If the Society were registered as a charity it might be easier to obtain grants, and if the building was listed this might also help.

The Committee confirmed the action which had been taken and decided to keep the situation under review.

- (iv) Car Parking at All Saint's Church: Mr. Crumplin said that the Upper Lea Valley group had raised no objection to the extension of the car park provided that the landscaping was satisfactory. The Public Inquiry had been held on 30th November, and under the new procedure the presiding Inspector would take the decision.
 - (v) Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition 1972: An application for space had been submitted, and Mr. Crumplin was making enquiries about display material. He was in favour of incorporating a map of the town pinpointing those areas in which the Society and the Urban Design Group were active.
 - (vi) Autumn Meeting: The Small Public Hall had been full for the talk by Sir Frederick Bawden, and the Committee recorded its thanks to Mrs. Elliott, Mrs Williams, Miss Haberer and other helpers. The Treasurer had been kept busy with the receipt of subscriptions and had welcomed nine new members. There was a surplus of £1.92 from the sale of tea towels and commission of £1.20 from the sale of Rothamsted booklets.
- It was said that some members towards the back of the hall had had difficulty in hearing the speaker and the Secretary was asked to write to the Council to suggest the possibility of installing loud-speaking equipment.
- (vii) Elm Disease: Mr. Squires reported that the Urban Design Group had offered to assist the Council provided a satisfactory scheme was organized. The problem was complicated by the variety of elms, and an expert check would be required to confirm each suspected case.
 - (viii) Footpaths: Mrs Jones said that the sub-committee had met to consider the question of publicity for footpaths. The St. Albans and District Footpaths Society had in fact published a booklet which contained details of footpaths in Harpenden except for an area in the north-east, and two members of the sub-committee would investigate the position with a view to adding to it. She gave a report on the Crabtree Lane footpath, on which developments would be watched.
 - (ix) Widening of Redbourne Lane: In the absence of Mr Brown further comments on the decision to widen and straighten the road were postponed.

3. Correspondence

- (i) NCH Railway Land: A letter had been sent to the County asking for their help in negotiating with the NCH about the proposed use of the railway track as part of the walk-way in the Lea Valley. An

interim reply had been received, details of which were awaited.

- (ii) Cross Farm land proposed development: A letter had been received from the Council stating that the Public Inquiry into the proposed residential development postponed from March would now be held on 2nd February 1972. If representations had been submitted on that occasion no further action was required. Mr Dixon undertook to look into the position and report back.
- (iii) Hertfordshire Association of Architects: A letter from the Association offering its services and free advice to amenity societies was noted.
- (iv) Ladacan: It was agreed to make a token contribution of £5 to Ladacan in support of its opposition to further developments at Luton Airport which would be the subject of a Public Inquiry on 4th January 1972.

4. Proposed Roundabout on Common: Mr. Squires gave a report. It was very difficult to get people to say what the present position was, but it seemed possible that the scheme would be re-submitted in two parts. He could not say whether traffic lights would feature in any revised plan, but London Transport were likely to raise problems about the proposed gyratory system because of the difficulties of turning south out of Station Road at The Harpenden Arms. The Society and Design Group would be able to comment when the plans came before the Council again.

5. Future Programme

Miss Haberer put forward recommendations by the sub-committee on future meetings. They felt there should be four meetings in the year (in addition to the summer outing) one of which would follow the A.G.M. A number of organizations which could be approached for speakers were mentioned, and it was suggested that at least one meeting in the year should be devoted to a talk by a representative of the Design Group. The sub-committee recommended that the possibilities of paying speakers should be investigated even though this might mean raising subscriptions. The use of the small public hall was favoured, but they did not support giving coffee to members.

In view of the lateness of the hour further consideration of the report was postponed. But it was agreed to invite Mr. Sherwood to give a talk on the coming of the railway to Harpenden at the next A.G.M.

6. Future Organisation:

The Committee considered what steps might be taken to arrange for the post of Secretary to be filled following Mr. Bowran's decision to retire

at the next annual meeting. The hope was expressed that he might be persuaded to reconsider his decision or at least to carry on for one more year if an Assistant Secretary could be appointed, and the name of Mr Brown was mentioned in this connection. The Chairman undertook to speak to Mr Bowran to clarify the position.

7. Annual General Meeting 1972

The Committee decided that reports on the activities of two groups should be provided after the business meeting as well as the talk by Mr. Sherwood. [The Small Public Hall has been booked for Monday 27th March]. Mr Hughes referred to the possibility of obtaining original drawings of the Midland Railway in its early days which might help to illustrate Mr. Sherwood's talk.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on Wednesday 12th January at the Library at 8 p.m. The following meeting was provisionally fixed for 9th February.

This concluded the meeting.

J.C. Savage

Chairman

12 January 1972