

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 8th March, 1972
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mr. Savage in the chair
Messrs. Booth, Brandreth, Brown, Crumplin,
Curl, Lorimer Green
Mrs. Elliott, Miss Haberer, Mrs. Johnstone,
Mrs. Jones
The Secretary

Apologies were received from Messrs. Derett, Dixon, Goacher,
Hughes, Squires and Mrs. Williams

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February were read, then confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Mr. Bowran introduced Mrs. Brown who had agreed to act as Minute Secretary.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Lecture meeting, May 9th

Mrs. Elliott confirmed that all arrangements for the first lecture meeting were in hand and agreed to speak briefly at the A.G.M. about this meeting and the proposal to organise more meetings of a similar type.

The question of publicity for this meeting and for the talk by Mr. Sherwood on the coming of the railway to Harpenden to follow the A.G.M. on March 27th was discussed. Mr. Savage undertook to raise the matter of suitable posters with Mr. Hughes. Four posters would probably be sufficient - one in the library, one outside the Public Hall, one displayed in a shop window in the village and another in Southdown.

(ii) Spotlight on Leisure

All the arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Crumplin, who would be contacting members later for help on the stand during the exhibition.

(iii) Widening of Redbourn Lane

Mr. Bowran had been in touch with the County Council concerning the plan mentioned in the report, and a copy of this would be sent to the Society. The sketch map showed the alterations to the road between Hemel Hempstead and the A6, omitted Redbourn

village because of the proposed by-pass, and detailed the changes in the road near Harpenden Rugby Club and across Hatching Green; no other extensions or proposals were shown.

(iv) Best-kept village competition

Mr. Lorimer Green said that as the roadworks were expected to start in May, Hatching Green would not be entering the competition this year.

(v) Harpenden Lodge

A letter had been received from Major Clutterbuck undertaking to keep the Society informed of any developments. Councillor Curl told the committee that the County Council were no longer considering the compulsory purchase of three acres for a primary school. After considerable discussion it was agreed that there was little the Society could, or should, do in this matter but that a letter should be sent to Harpenden Council expressing the Society's anxiety about the future of this valuable site and drawing their attention to a pre-war agreement made between Miss Lydekker and the Council to preserve the site as a private open space.

(vi) Recognition of Miss Finnie

It was agreed that Mr. Booth should obtain a £5.00 book token which could be presented to Miss Finnie at the A.G.M. in recognition of the help she had given to the Society. Mrs. Johnstone offered to see that Miss Finnie attended the A.G.M. and to arrange transport if necessary. The committee approved a proposal that Miss Finnie be nominated as an additional Vice-President.

3. PARKING ON THE COMMON

A letter had been received from Mr. Wilson about the verges on West Common. Mr. Brown proposed that the Society should write to Mr. Pettingale, the Council Engineer and Surveyor, expressing concern about the spoiling of grass verges by vehicles, particularly on West Common, and enquire if this could be prevented without resorting to kerbstones (which, as Mr. Wilson pointed out, gave a more urban appearance).

4. FINANCE

No change in the minimum subscription could be made for 1972. A resolution proposing that the minimum subscription be increased to 50p with effect from 1st January, 1973 could be put forward at the Society's autumn meeting. However, Mr. Booth had been unable to determine how many people paid more than the minimum subscription and therefore whether any real increase in income could be derived from the proposed change, as the books had been in the hands of the auditor.

The question of paying subscriptions by bankers' order and a decision on offering life membership of the Society on payment of a suitable fee would be deferred until the amount of the minimum subscription had been settled.

Mr. Booth distributed draft copies of the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1971. One or two minor corrections were required, and Mrs. Jones asked that the receipt from sale of books be itemised. It was obvious that outgoings would continue to rise, and this point would be emphasized by Mr. Booth at the A.G.M.

5. REORGANISATION

It was generally felt that further discussion of the proposals outlined at the last committee meeting was necessary; these would, however, be considered in the light of the obvious need to streamline the committee structure of the Society now that its activities were extending, and detailed planning of these might properly be delegated to sub-committees.

No changes to the Society's Rules would, therefore, be put forward at this year's A.G.M. However, it would be possible for any resolutions to be adopted at the autumn meeting as this was a 'General' meeting of the Society.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Clearance of scrub

Mrs. Johnstone had contacted Mr. Pettingale's department as requested and in spite of receiving an assurance that only a small area to the east of the brickle dells would be cleared, more extensive clearance had in fact taken place. Although the general view of the committee was that the present clearance was quite satisfactory, the matter should be referred to the Common Sub-Committee and a watching brief kept on future clearance proposals. Possibly the Council should be urged to seek professional advice on the management of common land.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting would be held on Wednesday, 12th April at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library. The following meeting was provisionally fixed for May 10th.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th March 1972
in the Small Public Hall, Harpenden at 8.15 p.m.

The President, His Honour Judge Dow, took the chair with 64 members present.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th March, 1971 were read, confirmed and signed by the President.

2. Report of the General Committee

The report of the General Committee having been circulated was taken as read. Mr. Savage, the chairman, moved its adoption; this was seconded by Mr. Brown and approved by the meeting.

In connection with the report Mr. Savage wished especially to thank Mr. Crumplin for arranging a very fine exhibit for the Society's stand at the recent 'Spotlight on Leisure' exhibition, and also invited suggestions from members for this year's summer outing. Mrs. Elliott then gave details of the meeting on 'Conservation in the Chilterns' on May 9th. This is the first of a series of lecture meetings which it was hoped to arrange to increase members' involvement in their Society; suggested topics for future meetings would be welcomed.

3. Treasurer's Report

The statement of accounts had been circulated; it showed an income of £172.77 and expenses of £123.17, giving a balance at the end of the year of £49.60. In moving the adoption of the accounts Mr. Booth told members that the Society's income would have to be increased to meet rising costs as well as finance the new activities. During the coming year the General Committee would be considering ways of achieving this - by increasing the membership and possibly by raising the minimum subscription. The Treasurer thanked Mr. King, the membership secretary, and also Mr. Colin Smith, who had audited the accounts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes and agreed by the meeting.

4. Election of Officers

The Secretary thanked the President for his distinguished services during the past year and His Honour Judge Dow was unanimously asked to continue in office.

The President moved the re-election of Capt. K.H. Bond and Mr. L.S. George as Vice-Presidents; the motion was carried unanimously.

The President then proposed that Miss Finnie also be elected a Vice-President in recognition of all the valuable help she had given to the Society until her retirement, and the motion was carried unanimously. As Miss Finnie was unfortunately prevented by ill-health from attending this evening's meeting, the President was unable to make a presentation to her on behalf of the Society, but this would be sent to her with best wishes from members.

The following officers were thanked for their services during the past year, and re-elected:

Hon. Secretary	Mr. G.W. Bowran
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. D.L. Booth

Mr. C.P. Smith was re-appointed Hon. Auditor.

5. Election of General Committee

In addition to the four members co-opted to last year's committee, five other nominations had been received. As there were eleven vacancies on the committee, all the nominees were elected to serve for three years.

Previously co-opted members

Messrs. E. Brandreth, D.A. Brown, A. Derrett, Lorimer Green

Other nominees

Dr. C. Potter and Mr. E.P. Wilson (both of whom had served on the committee before)

Miss M. Pratt and Messrs. H. Nixon and P. Usher

6. There being no further business the meeting was concluded.

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Mr. L.S. Sherwood then gave a talk on 'The Coming of the Railway to Harpenden'. This was a most informative history of the early railways constructed in the area and the effect these had on the local communities. The President thanked Mr. Sherwood for his interesting account of his own researches into this particular aspect of local history.

R. Graham Dow
19/3/73.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 12th April, 1972
at 8.00 p.m. at Chesters, Oakhurst Avenue, Harpenden

Present: Messrs. Booth, Brown, Curl, Crumplin, Derett,
Dixon, Usher
Mrs. Brown, Miss Pratt, Mrs. Jones
The Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Wilson

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March, having been circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Mr. Bowran introduced two new members - Miss Pratt and Mr. Usher - who had been elected at the A.G.M. Other newly elected committee members were Messrs. Brown, Brandreth, ~~Crumplin~~^{Derett} and Lorimer Green (all of whom had been co-opted the previous year), Mr. Nixon, Dr. Potter and Mr. Wilson. It was agreed that Mrs. Brown, the minute secretary, and Mrs. Elliott, who had been organising the lecture meetings, should be co-opted onto this year's committee.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Miss Finnie

The secretary read a letter from Miss Finnie thanking the Society for the book token with which she intended to buy a permanent reminder of her association with the Society.

(ii) Widening of Redbourn Lane

The County Council had informed the secretary that only one copy of the plan mentioned in the report had been prepared and that this had gone astray. However, it would not provide any further information on future road plans.

(iii) Parking on the Common

Following the Society's letter on this subject, Mr. Pettingale had invited any practical suggestions for keeping cars off the grass verges on the Common. Mr. Derett said that the spacing of very short oak posts (4"x4") along the verges just far enough apart to prevent vehicles going through them appeared to have been employed successfully on Hampstead Heath without detracting in any way from the 'rural' appearance. The secretary would pass this suggestion on to Mr. Pettingale.

(iv) Clearance of scrub on the Common

Two letters had been received from people concerning the clearance of undergrowth being undertaken on certain parts of the Common.

(vii) Collection of local records ('museum')

The idea of setting up a permanent collection of photographs, objects and other items of local interest had been considered for some time. It was hoped at one time that the Society might acquire No.2, Southdown Road to house this collection; this property had now been sold and it was understood that it would continue as a private house. Miss Haberer was believed to have already started working on the collection together with Messrs. Brandreth and Wilson, and hopefully a progress report and outline of future plans would be available for discussion at the next meeting.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES/FUNCTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

The secretary then invited suggestions from members for other activities or functions which ought perhaps to be covered more adequately.

One idea was that one member of the committee should act as 'press secretary' and be responsible for writing to local newspapers expressing the Society's views on general topics of interest to an amenity society, such as noise abatement, possible future development plans, not necessarily receiving public discussion at that time. In addition it might be appropriate for a press secretary to be responsible for arranging publicity for the Society's meetings and liaising with the local press.

Another suggestion put forward was for a 'programme secretary' to be responsible for not only the series of lecture meetings it was hoped to arrange but also other events during the year - the A.G.M., the autumn meeting, the summer outing. Again publicity for these was important.

It was agreed that these ideas would be drawn to the attention of committee members so that they would have time to consider them before they were discussed at the next meeting.

5. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN ROUNDWOOD

The Society had received a copy of the Council's letter outlining their reason for refusing two applications which had been submitted for the development of Roundwood. The first involved the demolition of Nos. 21, 23 and 25 Roundwood Park and the erection of 30 houses with double garages and access road; the second involved the sub-division of other existing properties and replacement of one existing bungalow to provide space for the erection of 10 new houses at Nos. 21, 23 and 25. The grounds for the refusal were that development at such a density would seriously detract from the present special character of the area, involve substantial clearance of woodland containing many mature trees, and also lead to an increase in vehicular traffic. A public inquiry was being held on Monday, 8th May.

Mr. Dixon outlined the view the Plans Sub-Committee had taken on the first of these applications but felt that some limited development would not be detrimental. Mr. Booth expressed serious misgivings as to whether the Society should not be taking a stand against any development of such an area.

As it would not be possible for any member of the committee to attend the public inquiry, it was agreed that Messrs. Bowran and Dixon should put forward the Society's view in writing. Mr. Brown asked that, as well as Mr. Booth, Mr. Wilson should also be asked for his comments on this proposed development before the letter was sent. It was suggested that an approach be made to the Urban Design Group suggesting they might consider the general problem of developing such sites for private housing.

6. LISTING OF CERTAIN HIGH STREET PROPERTIES

Mr. Squires (secretary of the Urban Design Group) had asked the Society to support the Group in pressing the Council to list the properties on the north side of Church Green extending from the churchyard and along the High Street as far as the Oliver Rix garage; these buildings, although not so important individually, were an integral part of the townscape. The committee wished to give its wholehearted support to the Urban Design Group in their attempt to preserve the character of this group of buildings which were obviously in a vulnerable position at the present time.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Second Lea Valley Report

Mr. Booth had received a copy of the second very comprehensive report prepared by the Lea Valley Group. Copies had been sent to members of the Council, and it was understood that the Parks Committee were very interested in it.

The possibility of publishing this second report at some later date would be considered if the necessary money could be found. A contribution from the Council would, of course, be most welcome.

(ii) National Trust

Mr. Dixon said that several of the events etc. arranged by the National Trust might well be of interest to the Society's members; this suggestion would be passed to Mr. Brandreth as a possible item for the Newsletter.

8. NEXT MEETING

Committee meetings would continue to be held on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting would, therefore, be at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 10th May in the Public Library, and the following one held on 14th June.

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J. G. Savage

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 10th May, 1972
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - Mr. Savage
Messrs. Brandreth, Curl, Green, Hughes, Nixon, Squires
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Miss Pratt
The Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Brown, Booth,
Derrett, Goacher, Wilson and Dr. Potter

The Secretary welcomed Mr. Nixon to the committee

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May, having been circulated, were taken as read and approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Roundwood Park Development

The public inquiry scheduled for 8th May had been postponed until some future date. The matter will be put into abeyance for the time being.

(b) Newsletter

Mr. Brandreth had drafted a letter to be sent to the co-ordinators of the Society's different groups. A list of these groups and sub-committees describing their particular activities would be included in the first issue of the Newsletter. (A list of these is appended to the minutes, together with the addresses of all the officers and committee members; the latter might appear in a later issue.)

It was suggested that the Newsletter be printed on A4 paper with a single fold and that it be produced quarterly in the first instance; three hundred copies would be required.

Mr. Savage agreed to approach Mrs. Williams to see if she would be willing to arrange for the addressing of envelopes. It was suggested these might be prepared on an area basis instead of alphabetically so they could be delivered by hand with a considerable saving in postage.

To facilitate circulation of the Newsletter etc. it was agreed that a second master copy of the membership list be prepared; Mr. Booth would be asked to arrange this with Mr. King.

(c) Collection of local records

Miss Haberer was engaged in indexing and cross-referencing various published booklets etc. and she hoped to have completed most of this

meetings and furthermore would allow time for the collection of subscriptions and for the welcoming of new members by one of the committee.

4. PRESS SECRETARY

It was felt that one member of the committee should be responsible for ensuring that the Society's activities were properly reported in the local papers, but that person ought ideally to be familiar with the workings of newspaper offices. Mr. Savage agreed to sound out one or two people for this important job and to report to the next meeting.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Summer outing

Mr. Lorimer Green has arranged a visit to Audley End on Saturday, 10th June, and a circular will be sent to members within the next few days.

- (b) The secretary had received a letter from a gentleman in Meadowalk complaining about the noise of compressors on the industrial estate. If these were a permanent nuisance, then he ought to write to the council.

- (c) A letter had also been received from a gentleman in Topstreet Way who believed that his neighbour was getting planning permission to construct a house virtually at the bottom of his garden. The Society does not take up such matters on behalf of individuals and in fact no such application had yet been seen by the Plans Sub-Committee; their comments would be directed to the council in the usual way.

(d) Plans Sub-Committee

At present both Mr. Squires and Mr. Wilson gave detailed comments to the council on the planning applications under consideration and this involved considerable duplication of effort. Mr. Squires asked if the Society would be willing for a joint letter containing the comments of both the Urban Design Group and the Harpenden Society to be sent to the council. The committee were quite agreeable that the U.D.G. should present the comments of both groups.

- (e) Since both the Hertfordshire and the Chiltern Society appeared to run successful, and profitable, annual dinners, it was suggested that some more modest social event might be organised by the Harpenden Society. Miss Pratt would make some preliminary enquiries and put suggestions to the committee at the next meeting.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 14th June at 8.00 in the Public Library. It was proposed that in future meetings might be held on Thursdays to allow certain members to attend more frequently. Any member who could not come on Thursdays was asked to inform Mrs. Brown by 14th June.

J. C. Savage

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14th June, 1972
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - Mr. Savage
Messrs. Curl, Crumplin, Derrett, Dixon, Nixon,
Usher, Wilson
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Jones, Miss Pratt

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Booth, Bowran,
Brown, Goacher and Hughes, and Miss Finnie

1. Corrections to Minutes of 12th April

The following corrections were made to the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April:

- Item 1. Mr. Derrett (and not Mr. Crumplin) had been re-elected at the A.G.M. having previously been co-opted.
- Item 3(v). Messrs. Crumplin and Usher were members of the Footpaths Group.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - 10th May

Some alterations were made to the list of organisers of groups and sub-committees, and a revised list is attached to these minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Press secretary

The Chairman had not been successful in finding anyone willing to act as press secretary, but was hopeful of having the matter resolved before the September meeting of the committee.

(ii) Social event

Miss Pratt had contacted all the hotels and restaurants in Harpenden as well as checking dates available for the Public Hall. After discussion of the kind of evening which would receive the most support from members and whether it should be regarded as a social occasion or to raise money, it was proposed by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Curl that the Society should book the Public Hall on Thursday, 5th April next year for a dinner. One hundred members and their guests might be expected to attend, and a good speaker (perhaps from the C.P.R.E.) should be found. Miss Pratt offered to organise the food, with the help of other ladies on the committee, and would book the Public Hall for that date. Mention of this dinner should be made in the first issue of the Newsletter.

(iii) Dates of future meetings

No-one had said that they could not attend committee meetings on

Thursday evenings. This change-over would be more convenient for the library staff as the library was closed all day on Wednesday.

- (vi) Consideration of the annual subscription would be deferred until the Treasurer could be present, and the paper on suggestions for increasing the membership had not yet been circulated.

4. UPPER LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mr. Booth reported that 28 copies of their report had been sold at the public meeting held last month, and nearly £4.00 had been received in donations.

Mr. Wilson gave the committee an account of the meeting held in Batford on 23rd May. Some 150 people had attended the meeting which had covered much more than had been reported in the local press, ranging from the over-grazing of the meadows by riding stables, nature reserves, drains, vandalism of newly-planted trees, the widening of Maquis Lane which involved removing the hedge, clearing rubbish from the river, etc. As a result of the meeting the Group had received substantial offers of help to implement their suggestions for improving the area, but the utilisation of voluntary and inexperienced help required considerable organisation; they were trying to find an expert in arboriculture to advise them. The Group were anxious that the local council should give the go-ahead to their proposals before this enthusiasm waned and before it became necessary to defer some planting of trees until the autumn of the following year. However, an on-site meeting with representatives of the council had been arranged during July.

5. LECTURE PROGRAMME

Mrs. Elliott gave the dates which had been arranged for these meetings.

Wednesday, 27th September - Mr. Samson, Vice-Principal of Hatfield Polytechnic, and some of his colleagues would speak on 'The Use and Misuse of Aircraft'; this would be a joint meeting with LADACAN.

Wednesday, 29th November - This evening had been booked for the Urban Design Group to discuss the plans for the redevelopment of the town centre.

Monday, 19th March - Following the A.G.M. it was hoped to have a talk on conservation in Hertfordshire by a speaker from the Hertfordshire Society.

Wednesday, 2nd May - Hopefully this date would be convenient for the curator of Luton Hoo to speak about the collection. (The summer outing in early June might therefore be to Luton Hoo.)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) The Secretary had received a letter from Miss Finnie offering the loan of a painting of the original Mary Ellen's to the record collection. This generous offer would be passed on to Mr. Brandreth.
- (ii) The Secretary had received a letter from Mr. Shirley, the Conservation

Officer of the Hertfordshire & Middlesex Trust for Nature Conservation, expressing concern over clearance of part of Harpenden Common. Mr. Nixon, who is also a member of the Trust, described the background to this, and it had been suggested that the Society might discuss with the Trust the possibility of a joint approach being made to the local council on the most effective way of managing the Common area. However, the Society was anxious to avoid being thought of solely as a conservation or preservation society; there were a great many different interests to be reconciled when considering the best way of managing such an area so it could be enjoyed by everyone.

- (iii) The Secretary had also received a letter from the County Planning Officer, Mr. Overton, saying that they were compiling a list of civic and other amenity societies currently active in the county together with their area of concern, and also requesting information on specialist skills among the members, such as architects, archaeologists, historians, landscape architects, quantity surveyors. The committee did not feel that the Society should supply such information on individual members without their consent, and suggested the Secretary should reply that the Harpenden Society's 'area of concern' includes the urban district and its immediate environs, that there are a number of members with the specialist skills mentioned in the letter and no doubt they would be willing to assist the County Council through the Society. In addition the Society had a professional arm - the Urban Design Group - consisting of x architects, y surveyors, etc. (Mr. Wilson would give Mr. Bowran the numbers.)

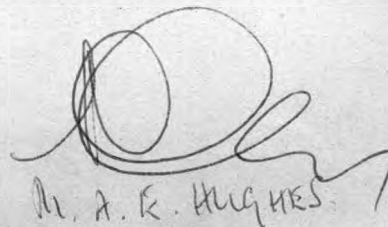
7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Mr. Squires had sent copies of the comments made to Mr. Pettingale on recent planning applications. The item causing the Plans Sub-Committee most concern was that by Berni Inns in respect of the George Inn in the High Street. The opening of two restaurants and 3-4 bars could mean up to 150 cars being parked nearby (this had caused a considerable problem in St. Albans). No provision had been made for car parking and since after 6.30 p.m. there were no parking restrictions cars would be parked in all the roads around.
- (ii) Miss Pratt suggested that the Society should become affiliated to the St. Albans Arts Council since for an annual fee of £2.00 the Society's events would be included in their publicity.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 13th July (NOTE - not Wednesday, 12th) at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library.

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M. A. E. HUGHES

ORGANISERS OF GROUPS AND SUB-COMMITTEES

<u>Plans Sub-Committee</u>		<u>Tel. No</u>
Mr. A.O. Squires	52, Crabtree Lane	3685
<u>Common Sub-Committee</u>		
Miss M.A. Pratt	33, Queen's Road	2012.
<u>Upper Lea Valley Group</u>		
Mr. E.P. Wilson	5, Salisbury Road, Batford	4474
<u>Town Centre Redevelopment Group</u>		
Mr. J.P. Cunneen	99, Crabtree Lane	2846
<u>Footpaths Group</u>		
Mrs. F.G.W. Jones	3, Wheatfield Road	5036
<u>Newsletter</u>		
Mr. E. Brandreth	10, The Close, Kinsbourne Green	3682
<u>Lecture meetings</u>		
Mrs. J. Elliott	Cherry Hayes, Mackerye End	4196
<u>Summer outing</u>		
Mr. Lorimer Green	Arden Lea, Hatching Green	3260
<u>Urban Design Group</u>		
Secretary - Mr. A.O. Squires	52, Crabtree Lane	3685

OFFICERSSecretary

Mr. G.W. Bowran	Chesters, Oakhurst Avenue	3980
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Treasurer

Mr. D.L. Booth	36, Townsend Lane	2957
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Membership Secretary

Mr. C.M. King	27, Milton Road	3587
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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 13th July 1972
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - Mr. Hughes
Messrs. Bowran, Brandreth, Brown, Nixon, Squires,
Usher, Wilson, Dr. Potter
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Jones, Miss Pratt

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Booth, Crumplin,
Derrett, Green, Savage and Mrs. Elliott

1. Correction to Minutes of 10th May

Mrs. Jones was in fact present at this meeting.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - 14th June

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read. Miss Pratt requested that the following addition be made;

Item 6 (ii) Action on the Common would be left to the Sub-Committee, which would draw up outline suggestions on the management of the Common and report back to the committee.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Lecture programme

Mrs. Elliott had confirmed the booking of the Small Public Hall for 27th September and 29th November, and May 3rd was a convenient date for the curator of Luton Hoo to address the Society. Mr. Squires confirmed that the Urban Design Group could provide a speaker for the November meeting, provided there were no unexpected delays in the County's proposals being put forward.

(ii) Affiliation to St. Albans Arts Council

Although Mr. Booth had pointed out that it had been the policy to limit subscriptions to outside bodies, the committee felt that the publicity to be gained from the inclusion of the Society's activities in their monthly programmes was certainly worth the annual £2.00 fee. The secretary was asked to arrange our affiliation to the St. Albans Arts Council so that the September meeting would be included in their programme.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Mr. Green had informed the secretary that there would be a small surplus from the summer outing to Audley End after printing and postage costs had been met. Forty-four people had taken part.

- (ii) Miss Haberer would be leaving for the U.S. shortly, and Mr. Brandreth offered to take over the indexing she had completed and incorporate it into a similar exercise being undertaken by the library.

5. DINNER - 5th April, 1972

A provisional booking of the Public Hall had been made, and the secretary was asked to confirm this, giving details of the facilities we would require. Again there was discussion of the reasons for arranging such an occasion and what form it should take. In the end it was agreed that the Society should arrange an informal social evening for members to get to know one another, and a dinner for over 100 people would be held in the Public Hall, ending at 11 p.m. Tickets would cost £1.25 for a sit-down meal, including sherry and wine; a bar would be open during the evening. Miss Pratt was at the moment obtaining quotations for the catering. Obviously a good speaker would have to be found for the evening, and the secretary agreed to contact Mrs. Elliott about this. Mr. Hughes very generously offered to meet the cost of hiring the Public Hall so that the cost of tickets could be kept down. Details of the dinner would be included in the first issue of the Newsletter.

6. NEWSLETTER

Mr. Brandreth reported that this was in the final stages of preparation; all copy should be in his hands not later than 25th July. The first issue would be introductory and describe what the Society tries to do and the activities of its various groups; each of these would be enlarged upon in future issues.

The secretary undertook to contact Mr. Booth about obtaining an up-to-date membership list, and to check on the arrangements for circulating the Newsletter. The committee members felt it was not unreasonable for them to deliver envelopes in their own area.

7. MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET

Another printing of the leaflet giving details of the Society and its aims would be required within the next few months. Before this could be done, however, several points would have to be resolved.

The committee agreed that the tone of the leaflet was somewhat heavy and the format not very modern; Mr. Hughes undertook to produce a revised version of the copy, which would also detail the Society's different activities and special groups. Mr. Nixon urged that a banker's order for payment of subscriptions be included with the membership form, and this was agreed. The name of the membership secretary also appeared on this and the secretary would contact Mr. King to see if he wished his name to appear on the new form and whether he would find it helpful to have an assistant. The question of the annual subscription would also have to be resolved before the leaflet could be reprinted - this would be discussed at the committee meeting in September. Finally, Mr. Wilson suggested that at a time when the Society was hoping to increase its membership it might be worth considering changing its name to the Harpenden Civic Society,

which might give people a clearer idea of what the Society is and avoid confusion with other local societies. Members were asked to consider this suggestion.

8. Plans Sub-Committee

The public inquiry on the proposed development of Roundwood Park would now be held on Wednesday week, 26th July. Mr. Squires said that he had been approached by a representative of the local residents - who were taking steps to challenge the developers' appeal - and been asked if the Harpenden Society would be prepared to support their case and to send a representative to the public inquiry.

As secretary of the Urban Design Group, Mr. Squires had already commented in writing to the local council on the proposed development saying that in their view some limited development of this site should be allowed. However, if the Society itself felt that the proposal, which would inevitably mean the destruction of the wood, might thereby cause a loss of amenity to the town, this might be grounds for the Society to object to the development. However, as the properties were privately owned and there was no public access to the woodland, we had a limited right to object to any change in its use unless the loss of Roundwood would have a serious adverse visual effect on the surrounding area. Mr. Nixon and Mr. Brown were asked to visit the site and see if this would be the case, and to discuss with Mr. Squires what the Society's position should be.

A number of wider questions had been raised during this discussion and Mr. Brown asked Mr. Squires if the Urban Design Group might consider the whole question of in-filling in different parts of the town and possibly suggest densities at which this could be done without having a deleterious effect on the surrounding areas. Such considerations would be helpful guide lines when other proposals for development within the town were put forward in future. It was difficult to object to individual schemes but the total effect might well be undesirable.

9. Common Sub-Committee

Miss Pratt reported that the Common Sub-Committee had met recently and their draft proposals on the management of the Common should be available for the September meeting of the committee.

In the local press this week there was a report on the efforts by pupils from St. George's School to clear rubbish from the Common. Miss Pratt agreed to draft letters for the secretary to send to both the headmaster of St. George's and to the local press saying how much the Society welcomed the pupils' interest and the practical steps they had taken.

10. Footpaths Group

Mrs. Jones said that at the moment the County Council were carrying out

a survey of all the rights of way in the county and in due course an up-to-date definitive map would be issued. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the County Planning Officer asking for an assurance that they would consult with us and other interested local groups as well as the local authority before completing their survey of Harpenden and the surrounding area.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, 21st September at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library.

R. Graham Dow
21/9/72.

* * * * *

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 21st September 1972
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - His Honour Judge Dow
Messrs. Booth, Bowran, Brandreth, Brown, Crumplin,
Derrett, Green, Nixon, Potter, Usher, Wilson
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Miss Pratt

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Goacher, Hughes and
Savage

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July were taken as read and approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Newsletter

Mr. Brandreth was congratulated on the first issue of the Newsletter which had now been posted to members; it was particularly helpful to give details of the forthcoming series of lectures. The Editor hoped that the next issue would be a two-page one and include details of the activities of the different groups.

(b) Roundwood Public Enquiry

Mr. Squires had represented the Society at the public enquiry held on 26th July which had been fairly fully reported in the press. Approval had been given to erect eleven houses on the site instead of the 29 originally planned - this result was probably as good as could be expected. In his report the Inspector had said that 'the general external appearance of a tree-covered area' should be retained, but many of the mature trees would inevitably be lost, later if not during the development, causing a noticeable gap on the skyline. Dr. Potter raised the question of subsequent, and sometimes extensive, modifications of the plans approved at a public enquiry, and the Plans Sub-Committee were asked to keep a watching brief on any modifications of the Roundwood development proposal which might appear in the plans list.

The local council were shortly to hold another public forum. This might be a suitable occasion for individual members of the Society to raise wider questions of major changes taking place in the character of Harpenden without their full impact being realised by the public.

(c) Lecture meetings

It now appeared very unlikely that the County Council's proposals for the development of the town centre would be published until the

New Year. Mrs. Elliott was asked, if possible, to rearrange the November and March lectures.

The title of the September meeting had been altered to 'The Implications of Luton Airport's Development' and Mr. Samson would be acting as chairman with two other speakers. Miss Pratt had informed the local press and had arranged for posters to be printed. No coffee would be provided.

(d) Dinner

Miss Pratt said that unfortunately she would be unable to undertake the catering for next April's dinner herself. It was agreed that she should arrange for an outside catering firm to provide a three-course meal, and that cost of a ticket be £1.50, including a glass of sherry (wine to be bought at the table).

3. PRESENTATION BY THE TOWN CENTRE GROUP OF THE URBAN DESIGN GROUP

For some time the Urban Design Group's working party on the town centre had been compiling a detailed list of those buildings within the town centre conservation area which they believed should be included in a revised 'Supplementary List'. Such buildings 'while not regarded as possessing a significant degree of architectural or historic interest to merit inclusion in the Statutory List (under Section 30 of the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947) are considered worthy of retention if this can be done without unduly affecting other and wider interests'.

The town centre group, led by Mr. Cunneen, included four architects, a team of three photographers and Rev. Norman Mable who had undertaken the historical researches. Mr. Wilson introduced his guest, Mr. Meadows, who over the last few months had photographed nearly every individual building in the town centre! Working from these photographs each of the architects involved had assessed each building on its merits and in relation to those surrounding it. These opinions were then pooled and a draft list of buildings prepared for further discussion by the whole working group.

Mr. Wilson then described in detail, and illustrated with photographs, the buildings which they were recommending should be included in a revised Supplementary List. These ranged from Connells, an 18th century three-storey brick house, to Coach Lane Cottage, in part 17th century, and Hatching Green Cottages Nos. 1-5, early 19th century, and also groups of buildings of no particular merit individually but which as a group were important to the general scale and character of Harpenden - for example, the shops between Bunty's on one corner and the Midland Bank on the other, especially when viewed from the opposite of the High Street through the trees.

The committee were most grateful to Mr. Wilson for his excellent presentation and extremely appreciative of the tremendous amount of work put into this project by Mr. Meadows and the other members of the town centre group. The Society would give its full support to the Urban Design Group in recommending these proposals to the local council.

One suggestion made by the committee was that the group of houses on

East Common backing on to Cravells Road might also be included in the list as they had a considerable visual impact on the common area. Mr. Wilson promised the group would reconsider these particular houses before submitting the list to the local council.

4. LOCATION OF NEW SPORTS HALL

Lorimer Green raised the question of the suitability of the site just on the right inside the entrance to Rothamsted Park, and suggested that the new sports hall might more appropriately be located above the new Crabtree Lane housing development near the planned playing fields. The committee agreed to defer full discussion of this suggestion, and what representations the Society might make to the local council, until the next meeting.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mr. Booth had discussed with Mr. King his position as membership secretary. Mr. King would be glad to relinquish the post as he frequently finds himself away from Harpenden, and Mrs. Brown was willing to take it on. The Treasurer formally proposed that Mrs. Brown should assume responsibility for membership, and this was agreed.

6. PROPOSED INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Treasurer reported a balance of some £84.00 in the bank at present, and expected that at the year end this would amount to the 'usual' figure of about £50.00. Some subscriptions for the current year were still outstanding, and efforts would be made to collect these.

The present minimum subscription is 25p a year or 37½p for a husband and wife, and the Treasurer proposed that the minimum subscription be raised to 50p for an individual and 75p for a joint family membership with effect from 1st January, 1973. Out of the 400 members, only 49 paid the minimum subscription and a further 37 the minimum joint subscription; most members paid more than the minimum. This meant we would not immediately double the subscription income, but might expect to increase it by one half. Naturally in the long term we should endeavour to increase our subscription income by increasing the membership, and if this proposal was accepted, no further subscription increases would be necessary for several years. Mr. Booth also suggested that new members joining after September 1st would not be required to renew their subscription until the end of the following year (i.e. 16 months membership for the price of 12).

The committee accepted the Treasurer's recommendation for increases in minimum subscription, and a formal resolution would be put to members of the Society at the November meeting so that the new subscription rates could take effect in 1973.

The Treasurer also proposed that 'older' members of the Society should not be asked to pay an increased minimum subscription but should continue to pay 25p. The committee was not entirely happy about this suggestion,

although it was probably easier to work in practice than to put down on paper, and the matter would be discussed again at the next meeting.

Mr. Booth said that he would arrange for membership cards to be issued to members, as this was a convenient form of receipt for the annual subscription. The year's programme would not appear on the back, as the annual programme and the subscription year did not run concurrently and the cards would, of course, be considerably more expensive.

Finally, Mr. Booth suggested that the question of life membership of the Society be deferred for the time being as this raised quite different issues.

7. NEXT MEETING

The remaining items on the agenda were deferred until the October meeting.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, 19th October at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, and the date of the following meeting provisionally set for 16th November.

* * * * *

J. C. Savage

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Report on Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th September 1972
at 8.00 p.m. in the Small Public Hall, Harpenden

Seventy-six members and their guests, including a number of LADACAN supporters, were present at this meeting on 'The Implications of Luton Airport's Development'.

Mr. Brown introduced Mr. Samson, Vice-Principal of Hatfield Polytechnic and Chairman of the Harpenden branch of LADACAN, who was to be chairman for the evening. In his opening remarks Mr. Samson stressed the need for a rational national policy for aviation, covering fare structure, airport development, impact on environment, etc. so that society could take full and proper advantage of technological advances in aviation. In January of this year a Public Enquiry had been held into the proposed extension of Luton airport and the Minister's decision had been expected by now. Nevertheless, it was still worthwhile discussing the implications of the proposed development and he invited his two guest speakers to open the discussion.

Councillor Donnington of Luton Borough Corporation, member and former chairman of the Corporation's airport committee, outlined in some detail the reasons for the proposals - extensions to the taxiways etc. to allow up to five wide-bodied (and quieter) aircraft of the 'Tristar' type to use Luton, the considerable roadworks and car parks which would be required, and a new terminal building capable of handling up to 2,500 passengers an hour. Mr. Allen, an architect, planner and expert in acoustics, who is a consultant on noise problems to a number of different bodies and who appeared as an expert witness at the Public Enquiry, then presented the other viewpoint. He questioned Luton Corporation's figures for the projected expansion, believing the expansion of traffic would be much greater than estimated, and discussed the extent of noise nuisance from different types of aircraft as well as new, and more meaningful, ways of measuring noise.

Questions from the floor were directed chiefly at Councillor Donnington, who was certainly in the 'hot seat'. However, one useful point to emerge was that aircraft coming into land and flying low over Harpenden were causing more nuisance than those taking off - the latter do in fact follow more closely defined routes. Neither of the speakers were aware of this and promised that noise nuisance arising from landing aircraft would receive more study in future.

The meeting reviewed at least some of the issues involved in the growing use of aircraft, especially from airports used chiefly by charter companies, and was certainly a lively start to this year's lecture series.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 19th October, 1972
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - Mr. Savage
Messrs. Booth, Bowran, Brandreth, Crumplin, Dixon, Green,
— Hughes, Squires, Usher, Wilson, Dr. Potter —
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Brown, Derrett and
Nixon, Mrs. Jones, Miss Pratt

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September were taken as read and approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Roundwood development

As expected, one of the objectors at the recent public enquiry has put in a planning application for the redevelopment of his property on the opposite side of the road. It is probable that this application will go through.

(b) Lecture meetings

The meeting on the development of Luton airport held in September had been most successful; over seventy people had attended and there had been lively discussion of the issues involved.

Despite repeated attempts Mrs. Elliott had been unable to contact the County Planning Officer about providing a speaker for the November meeting because of the delay in the publication of the alternative town centre schemes. Mr. Dixon offered to try tomorrow.

(Post-meeting: A speaker from the County Planning Office will address the Society at the meeting on 29th November.)

(c) New Sports Hall

Mr. Green had made further enquiries about the location of the new sports hall and obtained a copy of the plans for the new building and its siting inside the entrance to Rothamsted Park. These plans had in fact been considered by the County Council's planning committee in June, been advertised to the public in July and planning approval for the whole scheme had been given a fortnight ago.

Although the site chosen will mean that the view up the park from the entrance will be lost, and there may well be considerable nuisance from noise and lack of adequate parking space, this central position for a sports hall is probably the best that could be found. Some criticism was made of the large expanses of blank brick wall, and the general feeling was that the building's appearance could be improved.

It was felt that the Society had missed its chance formally to comment on the plans, but if individual members of the Society felt strongly that an improvement would result from moving the building further back into the corner and some attempt to soften the harsh appearance, it might be appropriate for them to submit written questions to the council at their open meeting next month. In addition, the Plans Sub-committee would make similar comments informally to the council's officers.

(d) Subscription rate for older members

The Treasurer was still of the opinion that it would be appropriate to offer a reduced minimum subscription to older members, and after considerable discussion it was agreed that this should be extended to full-time students as well. The resolution to be put to the November meeting of the Society will, therefore, include a minimum annual subscription of 25p for members over 60 years or under 18 (or those receiving full-time education)

3. MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET

Mr. Hughes presented a draft of the membership leaflet for discussion (a copy is enclosed for those not present at the meeting). The layout and wording had been brought up to date, but no substantial changes made. One or two minor amendments were suggested, and also that it might be preferable to paraphrase the Constitution rather than incorporate a direct quote. The officers were asked to produce a final draft for consideration at the next meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Open Forum

The secretary had received a notice from the local council informing the Society that at 7.30 p.m. on 2nd November representatives of the council would be holding a public meeting to answer questions put forward by local residents and societies.

(b) Datchworth Rural Preservation Society

The Datchworth Society was arranging a meeting of representatives of all the Hertfordshire amenity societies in the hope of encouraging co-operation and exchange of information between them. Messrs. Bowran and Savage hoped to attend this meeting.

(c) Moat House Hotel

The secretary had received two letters complaining about the extremely bright illumination of the signs at the Moat House. The Urban Design Group had already commented on this to the council, who were already aware of the matter and were discussing it with the hotel management and the architect. In fact approval had not yet been given by the council's planning committee.

The secretary was asked to reply that the Society had made representations about these illuminated signs, and the matter was under consideration by the local council.

(d) Housing development, Highfield Road

Mr. Nixon had informed the secretary that land at the rear of Highfield Road was no longer designated for educational purposes and part of it would be released for housing. Concern was expressed at the County Council's decision because of the present uneven distribution of schools, especially secondary, in the town.

(e) Slide collection

At the moment Mr. Brandreth held the collection of some 100 slides of Old Harpenden (used chiefly by Capt. Bond, Mr. Curl and Mr. Wilson to illustrate their talks on the history of the town). Capt. Bond had recently added more slides to this collection and had written offering them to the Society. It was agreed that these should be acquired for the Society and the secretary was asked to arrange this with Capt. Bond.

5. PRESERVATION OF TREES

Dr. Potter has been making enquiries into the procedure for making tree preservation orders, which afford fairly good protection and are generally respected. It appears that any member of the public or any society can put in a request to the local council. If this is approved by the appropriate committee, the council makes out an order which receives what is usually 'rubber stamp' approval from the Ministry of the Environment.

The difficulties of undertaking a tree survey and preparing sufficiently detailed plans for making a blanket preservation order were discussed. A local council seldom had resources to undertake a project of this sort and welcomed the efforts of local groups to carry out a tree census; the CPRE had produced a leaflet about this in connection with national tree-planting year next year. The St. Albans Society were carrying out a tree survey at the moment and Dr. Potter would find out about their experience.

6. HARPENDEN COLLECTION - Sub-Committee

As preparations for merging Harpenden U.D. with St. Albans City and R.D. Councils go ahead, the survival of Harpenden's identity, with its unique character and historic past, becomes a matter for urgent consideration.

Last year, when No.2, Southdown Road was on the market, the Society appointed a sub-committee (Messrs. Brandreth, Crumplin and Wilson) to see if it could be acquired as a local history centre but, at that time, this was not possible. Knowing that Harpenden has the nucleus of a historic collection in the Hedgson bequest, and other items of interest which the librarian is assembling, and also that there is a very active local history class, now in its third year, preparing to publish a history of Harpenden, it was agreed that the same sub-committee should be asked to look again into the possibility of providing permanent quarters (preferably in association with the public library) to house and foster a Harpenden Collection and act as the focal point for local historical interest. A report from this sub-committee would be considered in due course.

7. LEA VALLEY WALKWAY

The Upper Lea Valley Group would like to bring together the various authorities and parties involved in the provision of a through walk between Leasybridge and East Hyde - as advocated in the 'Lea Valley in Harpenden' report. The secretary, in conjunction with the secretary of the Upper Lea Valley Group, was asked to take steps to arrange such a meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, 16th November at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, and the following meeting has been provisionally fixed for 14th December.

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J. C. Savage

EPB/ 25.10.72.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 16th November 1972
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - Mr. Savage
Messrs. Booth, Bowran, Crumplin, Derett, Nixon, Potter,
Squires, Usher
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Jones, Miss Pratt

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Brandreth, Brown,
Curl and Wilson

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19th October were approved
with the following amendment:

item 2(a) Roundwood development - "It is probable that an amended
application will go through".

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) November 29th meeting

The Treasurer had circulated to all members the resolution on the
new subscription rates which is to be put to the Society at the
meeting on 29th November. There were no comments on the wording
of this resolution.

Mrs. Elliott confirmed that after this short business meeting
Mr. T.L. Jones from the County Planning Office would give an
illustrated talk on 'Conservation in Hertfordshire', what has been
achieved and what the future will be. The committee agreed that
the serving of coffee was much appreciated by members and
Mrs. Elliott was asked to see if the necessary arrangements could
be made for the November meeting. A bowl for contributions
towards the cost of coffee would be put on the table.

(b) Slide collection

It was agreed that the question of acquiring the thirty slides
which Capt. Bond had had remade to the modern size at a cost of
£9.45 should be deferred until Messrs. Curl and Wilson were
present, as they were most closely involved.

(c) Preservation of trees

Dr. Potter had not been in touch with the organiser of the St. Albans
tree survey but hoped to do so before the next meeting. The
committee discussed generally the feasibility of undertaking a tree
survey in Harpenden and the value of the data eventually collected.
Not only were mature trees with some 20 years of life at risk in
any redevelopment, especially those in the gardens of the older parts
of the town, but attention should also be given to the younger trees
which will provide the specimen trees of tomorrow.

The particular case of the trees on the site of Gorselands at the junction of Walkers Road and Queens Road was considered in detail. A planning application for this site had already been submitted and some concern was expressed about the unfortunate impact this development might have on the Common if inadequately screened by trees. A sub-committee of Messrs. Usher, Derett and Nixon and Miss Pratt was asked to investigate the position and to recommend to the local council which trees, if any, on this site should be subject to a preservation order.

(d) Lee Valley walkway

Mr. Wilson had been in touch with Mrs. Cory-Wright who was in sympathy with the proposal and had agreed to chair the first meeting of the various parties involved.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Hertfordshire Association of Architects

The secretary had received a notice from the Association's Eastern Region branch inviting members to attend a meeting on planning to be held at Hatfield Lodge Hotel at 8.15 p.m. on 13th November.

(b) Spotlight on Leisure exhibition - 1973

The Society has been asked if it wished to take a stand at next year's exhibition to be held at the end of March. The committee felt that this was an especially worthwhile exercise and might well play an important part in our drive for new members; an illustration of the issues involved in the different proposals for the town centre, for example, might be an effective way of stimulating interest. Mr. Crumplin was asked once again to take charge of the Society's exhibit, and the matter would be discussed again at the next meeting.

4. MEETING OF HERTFORDSHIRE AMENITY SOCIETIES

Mr. Bowran had attended this preliminary meeting organised by the Datchworth society. It had been generally agreed by the representatives of the 24 societies present that there was considerable scope for mutual help and exchange of information, and a common interest in certain problems would obviously carry more weight with the County Council and planning authorities. As a start a short questionnaire on the activities of the different societies and what they had achieved would be circulated and a meeting was scheduled for 6th December.

The committee unanimously gave its support to the idea of increasing co-operation between the county's amenity societies, and Messrs. Bowran, Savage and Squires were asked to complete and return the questionnaire.

5. MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET

Discussion of the final draft of the leaflet would be deferred until the next meeting of the committee.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Newsletter

Although Mr. Brandreth was not present, the secretary reported that he hoped to have the next issue ready for distribution in January and contributions ought to be given to him as soon as possible. Dr. Potter suggested that a small editorial committee might be of assistance to Mr. Brandreth; this would be discussed with him.

Mr. Booth confirmed that Mr. and Mrs. Williams had very nobly agreed to undertake the addressing and filling of envelopes for the Newsletter and other circulars, and the secretary was asked to write and thank them. Messrs. Booth and Bowran would also look into the feasibility of organising distribution by hand on an area basis.

(b) Buildings for the 'Supplementary List'

Mr. Squires reported that an amended list of those buildings in the town centre which it was felt might be controlled under the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947 had been forwarded to the County Council as well as the local council.

(c) Common Sub-Committee

The local council had welcomed the Society's offer of help and had asked for our suggestions on the management of the Common for a meeting on 4th December. It would only be possible by then to give them an outline of the areas in which the sub-committee believed we could make a contribution, e.g. the management of scrub, amenity aspects, the future of the young oaks in the area in front of St. John's church, etc.

(d) Dinner

There still appeared to be some misunderstandings about the function of this occasion and a sub-committee of Mr. Savage, Miss Pratt and Mr. Derett was asked to go into the detailed arrangements for this dinner.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, 14th December at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, and the following meeting has been provisionally fixed for 18th January, 1973.

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J. C. Savage

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Report on meeting held on Wednesday, 29th November, 1972
at 8.00 p.m. in the Small Public Hall, Harpenden

Nearly seventy members of the Society were present at this meeting, which was opened by the Chairman. The Secretary (due to the unavoidable absence of the Treasurer) presented the following resolution which had previously been circulated to all members:

"That as from 1st January 1973 members shall contribute an annual subscription of not less than 50p for an individual or 75p for a family except that for members who are over 60 years old or under 18 years old or who are receiving full-time education the annual subscription shall remain at a minimum of 25p, and the subscription for members joining after 1st September in any year shall be deemed to be for the period to 31st December in the next year."

The motion was carried nem.com.

Following the business meeting the Chairman introduced Mr. T.L. Jones a Countryside Officer from the County Planning Department, who spoke on Conservation of the Countryside in Hertfordshire and illustrated his talk with some excellent slides.

Mr. Jones discussed the main pressures on the countryside arising from modern technology in the form of power lines, major roads, gravel extraction, intensive farming, and from the increasing demand for leisure activities, not only locally but also from London. The countryside offered not only opportunities for agriculture and forestry but must also afford protection to wild animals and plants, and some attempt had to be made to reconcile all these different interests this had been the aim of a recent report 'Hertfordshire Countryside Plan 1970'. Mr. Jones described in detail two very different examples - a 'country park' proposed at Aldenham and the area of Broxbourne Woods. At the former it was hoped to provide sailing and fishing in the reservoir and to make provision for horse-riding and walking in the surrounding area. Naturally near-by residents were not entirely happy about the increasing numbers of people and cars which would be attracted by the country park. The aim in the Broxbourne woods was somewhat different. This is a fairly extensive area of woodland intersected by a few narrow roads and as yet virtually 'untouched'. It was hoped that by encouraging cars to follow a special scenic route and designating particular areas for picnicking it would be possible for walkers and others to continue to enjoy the woods as they are today. To this end a local action group had been set up to enable the County Council to get some feedback on their proposals from the people who live and use the area.

A lively discussion followed in which Mr. Jones answered many queries from members concerning, among other things, erosion of the Common by cars, siting of agricultural buildings. Another interesting point arose from the County's scheme to provide free of charge young hardwood trees such as oak and ash to societies and individuals who found a suitable site (with the owner's permission) for planting.

In thanking Mr. Jones for a most interesting evening the Chairman suggested that members of the Society might well be able to put forward suitable sites within Harpenden for the planting of young trees. Any suggestions would be welcomed by the committee.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 14th December, 1972
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - Mr. Savage
Messrs. Booth, Bowran, Brandreth, Crumplin, Curl, Derrett,
Green, Usher, Wilson
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Jones, Miss Pratt

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Brown, Dixon, Goacher,
Nixon and Dr. Potter.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November were taken as read
and approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Gorselands redevelopment

Mr. Usher had obtained an outline plan of the proposed development, a three-storey block of luxury flats sited well forward of the present building line with an archway through the block to a service road at the rear. Mr. Derrett read a comprehensive draft report prepared by Mr. Nixon on the trees and shrubs on this site - those that would go during building, those (in particular the large oak) which would be very close to the flats and which would inevitably be lopped and probably lost fairly soon afterwards, and those which ought to be retained. He recommended that, among others, the specimen trees in the present garden of the Pantiles, the large cypress tree at the corner of Gorselands be protected, together with the characteristic flint-and-brick walls. He also suggested a small spinney be planted on the Common on the opposite side of Queens Road at the junction with Walkers Road to provide a natural feature which would put the new development into proportion. The committee were appreciative of the very detailed work which had been done and discussed the proposals at length. Mr. Usher would be attending a briefing session on the plans tomorrow evening and hopefully would have a chance to discuss the committee's comments with Mr. Nixon before the Society's views were put forward to the meeting of the Plans Sub-Committee.

(b) Spotlight on Leisure - March 1973

Mr. Crumplin had requested a double-sized stand at the exhibition, and the Urban Design Group were believed to have asked for an adjacent stand.

(c) Newsletter

Mr. Brandreth felt that if members of the committee were willing to be approached for contributions, an editorial committee would probably be unnecessary. The next issue of the Newsletter was due at the end of January and all copy should be in his hands as soon as possible after Christmas.

(d) Slide collection

The committee were glad to accept the generous and anonymous offer to defray the cost of acquiring these slides for the Society from Captain Bond. It was also suggested that as these slides were used frequently, it might be advisable to consider having a second set made in case of loss or damage. Enquiries would be made as to the cost of doing this.

3. MEETING OF HERTFORDSHIRE AMENITY SOCIETIES

Messrs. Savage and Bowran had attended a second meeting at which it had been agreed that a federation of the amenity societies in the county should be formed, and a small sub-committee had been asked to put forward more definite proposals for mutual cooperation. The payment of an affiliation fee of £1.00 was approved.

4. MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET

The final draft was not yet available but this item would be discussed at the next meeting which would be devoted almost wholly to a report on the present membership and proposals for increasing this.

5. COMMON SUB-COMMITTEE

Miss Pratt read a letter from Mr. Pettingale welcoming the Society's interest in the management and use of the Common and asking for detailed recommendations by the middle of next year. It was suggested that a report on what we are doing in this connection, and an appeal for the help required for this project, be included in the next Newsletter.

6. PRESS SECRETARY

The Chairman and Secretary reported that they had been unable to find anyone willing to undertake this task. Any suggestions from the committee would be welcomed.

7. LEA VALLEY WALKWAY

The National Children's Home were reluctant to allow a public footpath over their farmland because of the possibility of people straying from

the path into the grounds of the Home. However, Mr. Wilson was hopeful that if a representative of the NCH would be persuaded to actually come and see the planned route, permission might be granted and, therefore, it would not be necessary to hold a meeting of all the interested parties along the route. In the meantime it might be possible to open the section between Leasey Bridge and Harpenden, as the land was already owned by the County Council. However, the possible effect of doing this on negotiations between the Herts & Middlesex Trust and certain landowners for limited access to certain areas to be nature reserves would have to be considered.

8. LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE

It was agreed that the present sub-committee should co-opt a member of the local history class and report at a future meeting on the feasibility of sponsoring a local history group which would be responsible for trusteeship of local records. A suitable location for such a collection was difficult to find. It appeared unlikely that a room would be available at Harpenden Hall when the new District Council came into being. The library was probably the ideal place, and Mr. Brandreth was willing to keep a collection of local records, pictures, etc. and to display them. Some records would have to be kept in a strong room and only copies held at the library, but the chief difficulty was to find a room for this purpose, and the County library committee had many calls on their funds. The secretary was asked to write formally to both the local council and to the county council urging the case for a local history centre in Harpenden.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) County tree planting scheme

At the November meeting Mr. Jones, a countryside officer from the county planning department, had mentioned the county's scheme for providing young trees such as oak and ash free of charge to societies and individuals willing to plant them. In the January Newsletter members of the Society would be invited to put forward their suggestions for suitable sites within the town. The Lea Valley group were hoping to plant a fairly large number of trees next autumn.

(b) Urban Design Group

The latest information from Mr. Squires is that the exhibition outlining the alternative town centre schemes will probably be arranged for March. He also understands that only one or two items have been deleted from the list of buildings submitted for protection and Mr. Best has been asked to check on the ownership of the properties involved so that the necessary orders can be served.

(c) Subscription box

It was agreed that because of the difficulty of finding a secure place for a subscription box no attempt would be made to continue this arrangement. Now that meetings were held more frequently subscriptions could easily be paid to the Membership Secretary or Treasurer on these evenings.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, 18th January at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, and the following meeting has been provisionally arranged for 15th February.

* * * * *

J. C. Savage
18.1.73

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