

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 18th January 1973
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

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

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Derrett, Hughes and
Wilson

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December were taken as read and approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Gorselands redevelopment

It had been understood that the proposed development plan would not be accepted and the emphasis of the Society's comments, therefore, had been on the importance of the site itself and its trees in relation to the Common rather than on those trees which would be particularly affected by the present plan. A copy of our report had been submitted to the local council for consideration at their meeting tonight, and a second copy had gone to the Clerk of the Council requesting that preservation orders be placed on certain trees.

The importance of this redevelopment was, of course, that it would set a precedent for other properties adjoining the conservation area. This wider issue ought to be aired both in the local press and in the Society's newsletter; the Plans Sub-Committee agreed to give Mr. Brandreth a piece on what the Society had done in this particular case.

(b) Spotlight on Leisure exhibition - 29th/31st March

This year's exhibit would concentrate on the Society's different activities with the objective of recruiting new members, and would be complementary to that of the Urban Design Group which was to be devoted to the town centre schemes. Mr. Crumplin hoped that arrangements could be made to enrol new members on the stand; unfortunately it seemed unlikely that copies of the revised membership leaflet would be available. He also suggested that another questionnaire might be valuable, and this would be discussed further.

(c) Newsletter

Mr. Brandreth reported that he had received a fair amount of material

for the next issue which should be ready in 2-3 weeks.

Mr. Bowran suggested that a meeting being organised by the St. Albans Civic Society might be of general interest to members.

This was a lecture on 'Pedestrian priority in city centres' (taking Kings Lynn and Norwich as examples) on Thursday, 22nd February at 8.00 p.m. in the Old Folks Centre, St. Peter's Street. Notices of other meetings of general interest might also be included in the Newsletter.

3. REPORT ON THE PRESENT MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Brown reported that at the end of the year the total membership of the Society stood at 409, of whom 34 had joined during 1972 and 10 members had resigned for a variety of reasons.

Reminder letters had been sent to all those whose subscriptions were outstanding and there remained only 48 subscriptions unpaid for 1972. However, in addition there were 27 members who had not paid a subscription for 1971 or 1972, and while those who were known personally to members of the committee would be contacted to ask if they wished to continue membership, the rest would be assumed to have resigned.

4. MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET AND PROPOSALS FOR INCREASING MEMBERSHIP

These items would be deferred until the next meeting.

5. ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Bowran felt that copies of the minutes should not go to those members of the committee who did not attend meetings or take any interest in the work of the committee. This would be raised again at the next meeting, together with the resignations/elections at the forthcoming A.G.M.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Hatching Green

Although it was obviously impossible to enter Hatching Green for this year's Best-Kept Village competition, it was suggested that the corner of High Elms might be a suitable place for planting some trees under the 'free tree' scheme.

(b) Dinner

The sub-committee reported on the arrangements made for the dinner, details of which would be included in the January newsletter together with an application form for tickets. The date had been changed to Wednesday, 4th April (instead of the 5th when there was another booking for the Small Public Hall). The sub-committee were asked to find a speaker to round off the evening once the dinner itself was over.

(c) Common Sub-Committee

It was agreed that the Common Sub-Committee should seek wider publicity

through the local press for their intention to prepare a management plan for the Common.

Now that a second pitch for the football club was nearing completion it was understood that a club pavilion was to be built. The sub-committee were asked to find out where this was to be sited.

(d) Temporary car park

A member of the Society had suggested that the vacant site behind the Silver Cup public house might be used as a temporary car park. The committee felt that this was an excellent idea which would certainly relieve the parking problem in this area. The secretary was asked to put this proposal to the local council who would have to approach the county council who owned the land.

(e) Tree survey

A comprehensive tree survey in Harpenden would take some 2-3 years to complete and the Society's resources may well be inadequate to undertake such a project. It was agreed that Dr. Potter should contact the organiser of the St. Albans tree survey and perhaps invite him to attend a committee meeting so that we would have a better idea of the work involved and of the usefulness of the data collected.

(f) Summer outing

Mr. Green was asked to make arrangements for the Society to visit Luton Hoo one Saturday at the beginning of June; this would be of particular interest following the lecture to be given by the Curator on May 3rd. Although Luton Hoo was so close to Harpenden, transport by private car or coach might be required by some members.

(g) Lecture programme 1973/74

Mrs. Elliott was starting to arrange next year's lecture programme and the following topics were suggested:

- Mr. Wilson might be willing to talk to members about Harpenden; this would certainly be a most popular meeting, especially for those people who were unable to attend his 'Living in Harpenden' series.
- A speaker from the Department of the Environment on the use of leisure.
- Mr. Boutwood from the St. Albans branch of the National Trust lectured on a number of topics, and might be willing to talk about canals.
- Mr. Doncaster would be able to give a talk on ornithology.
- A speaker might possibly be found to describe the work which had been done in Stoke-on-Trent in opening up disused railways as footpaths, reclaiming slag heaps and waste ground for public use, etc.
- A talk by members of the Lea Valley Group would bring their activities to the attention of the membership as a whole.

- Next spring the Common Sub-Committee might be in a position to outline and discuss their recommendations on the management of the Common; a short talk on this topic could follow the A.G.M. in March '74.

When the details were finalised, consideration should be given to having a printed programme for the lecture series. As our lecture 'season' did not coincide with the financial year, it was not feasible to include a detailed programme on the membership cards. In fact arrangements were in hand to have cards instead of receipt slips for 1973 subscriptions.

(h) St. George's footpath

Mr. Dixon reported that on the Society's behalf he had put in an objection to the closure of this footpath. However, some of the committee members did not agree with this, and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

(i) Urban Design Group

Mr. Squires reported that the Urban Design Group were arranging an exhibition in the library on 17th-24th February showing the buildings which had been listed for preservation, and asked if the Society wished to take advantage of this for some publicity. Mr. Crumplin was asked to see that a supply of leaflets was available.

The county planning department's exhibition on the alternative schemes for the town centre would be shown to the public in the Small Public Hall from 12th-17th March, and a public meeting would be held during that week. However, the Group would be able to provide a speaker to discuss these plans after the A.G.M. on Monday, 19th March.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday, 15th February at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, and the date of the following meeting is provisionally arranged for 15th March.



THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 15th February 1973
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - Mr. Bowran
Messrs. Booth, Brandreth, Brown, Crumplin, Hughes,
Squires, Usher, Wilson
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Jones, Miss Pratt

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Derrett, Green,
Nixon, Potter and Savage

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January were taken as read and approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Spotlight on Leisure exhibition

Messrs. Crumplin and Wilson had drafted a very comprehensive questionnaire, which the secretary read to the committee. It included not only a description of the Society's work and details of the different sub-committees and working groups but also listed other areas in which the Society might become involved. At the end was a questionnaire seeking comments on our present activities, and help and ideas for other projects. The committee agreed that this was an excellent document and the secretary proposed that the new membership leaflet should be based on the first part of it.

Arrangements would be made to have copies prepared of a single-page handout containing only the general description of the Society and a membership leaflet, as well as the full questionnaire which would be aimed at those who showed more than a passing interest in our exhibit. In addition copies of the shorter version would be available on the exhibition stand being put up by the Urban Design Group in the library next week.

(b) Dinner

It had been suggested that Mr. Harold White of the White Crescent Press and a member of the Society might be invited as the after-dinner speaker. The sub-committee had the other arrangements in hand and tickets should be ready at the end of next week. Each committee member was asked to try to sell at least six tickets (not necessarily to Society members).

(c) Newsletter

This bumper issue was now ready and would be posted shortly, together with the notices of the A.G.M. The secretary hoped to arrange hand distribution for the next issue.

(d) Football pavilion

The application by the football club for a cedarwood pavilion and adjacent car park was before the council's Plans Committee this evening. The proposal is to build this pavilion on the Common alongside Cravells Road and opposite the driveway to the gold club, and for a car park for 30-40 cars (which would no doubt be used by the public at other times). It was felt that special consideration should be given to the siting of this pavilion as it was within the conservation area and would occupy a prominent position on the skyline, although partly screened from the town end of the Common by the brickle dells. Although concern was expressed by the increasing area of the Common being given over to organised sporting activities which might make the Common more of a park than an open space, the committee did not feel this was a valid reason for objecting to the football pavilion.

It was agreed that the Common Sub-committee should be asked to find out whether the application was approved and also to look at alternative proposals for siting the pavilion and particularly the car park. The committee's executive would then consider these and decide what representations should be made to the council on this application.

(e) Tree survey

Mr. Geering, a member of the St. Albans tree survey team, has been invited to the next committee meeting to describe what is involved in such a project.

The secretary would also give further details of a talk being given in St. Albans on 27th March by the council's 'tree expert'.

(f) St. George's footpath

While it might have been advisable for Mr. Dixon to have consulted the committee's executive before opposing the closure of this footpath on behalf of the Society, in fact this was the majority decision of the Footpaths Sub-committee at their recent meeting. The Sub-committee understood that there were proposals for re-routing this footpath and the matter would be kept under review.

(g) Temporary car park

The secretary had heard from the council that consideration could not be given to the Society's suggestion that the vacant site near the Silver Cup public house might be used as a temporary car park because it was intended to move the firestation to this site next year.

(h) Town centre proposals

Mr. Squires confirmed that the Urban Design Group would be able to provide a speaker on March 19th, although there having difficulty in obtaining advance information on the proposals. He also said that the public meeting would not be held while the exhibition was open to the public (17th-24th February) but would be on April 2nd.

3. MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET

As it had been agreed that the text of the revised leaflet should be largely based on the questionnaire, the secretary was asked to obtain proofs for consideration at the next committee meeting.

4. LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The committee welcomed the excellent report which had been prepared by the sub-committee and circulated with the agenda. It proposed that a local history society should be formed and a local history centre be set up in Harpenden to house objects and records of local interest, and that a public meeting should be arranged so that the proposal could be debated by all interested residents. It was agreed that the Society should do all it could to sponsor the formation of such a society.

The two most important points likely to arise at a public meeting were how it could be financed, and where the centre might be located. On the latter point, it would probably be difficult to find a suitable home for it until the impending local government reorganisation was completed. However, the secretary was asked to write to the County Librarian and the Clerk of the local council urging them to make provision a local history centre in Harpenden - ideally within the library or Further Education centre.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE A.G.M.

Notices for the A.G.M. on Monday, 19th March would go out with the Newsletter. After the business meeting, Mr. Cunneen of the Urban Design Group would be talking on the subject of 'What is Harpenden's Future?'. Mrs. Elliott kindly agreed to provide coffee before the meeting (and again there would be a bowl for contributions - this netted 50p at the last meeting). If possible, one or two posters advertising the meeting would be put up.

6. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Copies of Mr. Hughes' proposals for widening and strengthening the membership of the Society were given to members; these would be discussed at a future meeting.

7. PRESS SECRETARY

Mr. Savage had been in touch with Mrs. Russell, a freelance journalist who might be willing to take on this important job. The secretary was asked to invite her to the next committee meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Report of the Footpaths Sub-Committee

Mrs. Jones reported on a recent meeting of the sub-committee. In

addition to the St. George's footpath already mentioned, they discussed the footpath between the Lower Luton Road and Mackerye End which was slowly being cleared.

Several reports had been received about the increasing litter on footpaths within Harpenden, and particular black spots would be drawn to the attention of the council which would then arrange for it to be removed; the council would also be asked to improve the surface of the path running from the Close to Kinsbourne Green. The sub-committee also suggested that letters should be written to the heads of all the local schools drawing their attention to the increasing amount of litter. However, this idea was rejected as it was unlikely only children were responsible and it was hoped to enlist the support of the schools for some of the Society's other projects.

Mrs. Jones also believed that the facilities at the Dark Lane depot for the dumping of household rubbish should be more widely publicised. The secretary was asked to suggest to the council that details of this free facility might be included with the rate demands.

(b) Outstanding subscriptions

At the Treasurer's request the committee confirmed that the names of those members of the Society who had not paid a subscription for 1971 or 1972 in spite of reminder letters should be removed from the membership list.

(c) 1973/74 lecture programme

It was agreed that a date during the month of September, November, March (AGM) and May would be suitable for next season's programme.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 15th March at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, and the dates for the following meetings were provisionally fixed for 19th April and 17th May.

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J. C. Savage

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 15th March 1973
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - Mr. Savage
His Honour Judge Dow, Messrs. Booth, Brandreth, Brown,
Crumplin, Green, Nixon, Usher, Wilson, Dr. Potter
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Jones, Miss Pratt,
Mrs. Russell

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Bowran and Mr. Derrett

1. The Chairman first welcomed to the committee our new press secretary, Mrs. Russell. Members had in fact already seen the results of some of her efforts in the recent publicity given to the exhibition staged by the Urban Design Group, and he was sure that this function would become increasingly important as the Society widened its activities.

2. TREE SURVEYS

The Chairman then welcomed Mr. Geering, a member of the St. Albans Civic Society, who had played a very large part in the survey of trees being undertaken in the city at present, and who had kindly agreed to come and give us the benefit of his first-hand experience. A copy of the guidance notes for such a survey is appended to these minutes, and includes not only the objectives of the survey but also details of how it can best be carried out in practice. Mr. Geering described how he set out armed with a flexible steel rule and a notebook and sought permission from the owner of the property before starting to measure up. The position, species, size and condition of each tree over 3" diameter is noted - not only forest trees but also ornamental varieties (except fruit trees and large shrubs). Later these observations are transferred onto the 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map. Mr. Geering emphasised that the St. Albans City Council were very 'tree conscious' and in fact more than 3,000 trees were now protected by preservation orders. However, undertaking a comprehensive survey was a major task and even after four years' work only part of the St. Albans area had been covered. The secretary was asked to write a letter of appreciation to Mr. Geering for making time to come and talk to the committee this evening.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th February were taken as read and approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Dinner

Twelve members of the Harpenden Light Operatic Society had agreed

to provide a short entertainment towards the end of the dinner, and we were fortunate that Mr. David Overton, the County Planning Officer, would be our guest-of-honour and after-dinner speaker. Ticket sales were fairly steady and would also be sold at the A.G.. March 27th was the deadline for numbers to be notified to Miss Prat.

(b) Football pavilion

We understand that the application had been deferred at the Plans Committee's meeting on 15th February, and Mr. Pettingale was looking forward to receiving the Society's comments. The Common Sub-Committee had suggested three alternatives and a report is being prepared.

(c) St. George's footpath

The Highways Committee has proposed to the council that the footpath be diverted so that it runs around the perimeter of the playing field and that it is fenced off from the school grounds. Although diversion of the footpath would mean a loss of the views from the ridge, the type of fencing used was even more important - at worst the footpath could become an alleyway between high, close-boarded fences. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the Society should protest to the council about this loss of an amenity and urge that the diverted footpath be made as pleasant for walkers etc. to use as the present path. The secretary was asked to write to the council as a matter of urgency before their next committee meeting.

Following on from this, the point was raised about the proposal to re-develop the site at present occupied by the cottages in Stewart Road, which belong to the school. Although the planning application would probably be rejected on the grounds of too high a density, some more definite information on this would be sought.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Footpaths/litter

Mrs. Jones had received a letter from Mr. Pettingale stating that the surface improvements to certain footpaths were to be put in hand in the near future.

He was not so optimistic about the clearance of litter, largely due to the difficulty in recruiting staff. Any suggestions the Society might have for dealing with this problem at its source would be welcomed. One solution might be the provision of more litter bins in areas where litter accumulated, such as near school gates, although they were in themselves unsightly. Another approach might be to enlist the co-operation of the local police and ask them to include 'litter-dropping' in their talks to local schoolchildren on road safety, etc. - after all it was an illegal activity. The secretary was asked to write to the police expressing the Society's concern about the increasing litter problem and putting forward this suggestion to them; and also to write to the heads of the local schools suggesting that they include litter as well as road safety in their 'curriculum'.

(b) Disposal of bulky refuse

The secretary had received a letter from Mr. Best saying that the council were considering a newspaper advertisement about the facility provided at the Dark Lane depot on weekdays and weekends. Mr. Nixon thought that a permanent advertisement on the noticeboard outside Harpenden Hall might also be useful.

(c) Lecture meetings

All the arrangements, including a slide projector and screen, were in hand for the talk by the Curator of Luton Hoo on May 2nd, and the date fixed for the Society's visit there was Saturday, 12th May.

The public hall had been provisionally booked for the next lecture series as follows:

Tuesday, 25th September	-	Mr. Wilson
Wednesday, 5th December	-	Lea Valley Group
Tuesday, 12th March	-	AGM, followed by Common Sub-Committee
Monday, 6th May	-	to be arranged

(d) A.G.M. resolution

Mr. Brown raised the question of the resolution which appeared as Item 5 on the agenda of the A.G.M. - "That the resolution passed on 4th April, 1967 restricting the Society's power to re-elect committee members be rescinded". A lengthy discussion on the necessary balance between having some degree of continuity within the Society and the dangers of a self-perpetuating committee followed. The committee were unanimous in opposing the resolution as it stood, and proposed that an amendment should be put before the A.G.M. recommending that the chairman of the committee be made an exception to the three-year rule, i.e. that he might serve as chairman for two years from the date of his first election as chairman, and during the third year again become a member of the general committee.

(e) Statement of accounts

Mr. Booth circulated to committee members copies of the statement of accounts for the year ending December 1972, which he would be presenting at the A.G.M. on Monday.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, 12th April (not the 19th as stated previously) at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, and the date for the following meeting was fixed provisionally for 17th May.

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EPB/ 28.3.73.

*Signed as approved
R. Graham Daw
12/4/73.*

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 19th March 1973
in the Small Public Hall, Harpenden at 8.15 p.m.

The President, His Honour Judge Dow, took the chair with more than eighty members present.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th March, 1972 were read, confirmed and signed by the President.

2. Report of the General Committee

The General Committee had not circulated a report this year, as members were already aware of its activities from the Newsletters and the second part of the evening was to be devoted to a consideration of the town centre traffic proposals. However, the Secretary wished to thank Mrs. Brown who not only prepared minutes of the monthly committee meetings but had also become membership secretary. The committee were also grateful to Mr. Brandreth who had arranged for the use of the library for these meetings. This year the Society would be holding its first annual dinner and it was hoped that as many members and their guests as possible would support this new venture, especially as the County Planning Officer, Mr. Overton, had been invited as speaker.

3. Treasurer's Report

The statement of accounts had been circulated; it showed an income of £228.57 and expenditure of £148.54, giving a balance at the end of the year of £80.03, which compared favourably with the balance of nearly £50 at the end of the preceding year. In moving the adoption of the accounts, Mr. Booth said that the welcome increase in income was largely due to the increase in subscriptions received - partly as the result of a successful drive to persuade some members to pay their subscriptions before the end of the year and partly from the increased amounts paid by some members as well as the 34 new members we welcomed during the year. The Society now had more than 400 members and it was most important that this encouraging trend should continue so that funds were available to support our increasing activities. Expenses had continued to rise, but the largest of these - the cost of meetings - was wholly due to the very successful lecture series which had been arranged. The motion was seconded by Mr. Green and agreed by the meeting.

4. Election of Officers

The Chairman, Mr. Savage, formally proposed the re-election of the

President, His Honour Judge Dow, and the three Vice-Presidents, Capt. Bond, Miss Finnie and Mr. George. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones and agreed unanimously.

The President then thanked the Honorary Treasurer and Secretary for all the efforts they had made on behalf of the Society during the past year, and Mr. Booth was re-elected. However, Mr. Bowran was unwilling to continue as Secretary and there being no nominations from the floor, the meeting concurred with the President's suggestion that the committee be asked to find a successor.

The Hon. Auditor, Mr. C.P. Smith, was thanked for his services during the year and re-elected.

5. The following motion: "that the resolution passed on 4th April, 1967 restricting the Society's powers to re-elect committee members be rescinded" was put before the meeting. Several members spoke both for and against the motion before a vote was taken. The motion was rejected by a large majority, but the committee were asked to consider what constitutional amendments, if any, might be required to increase continuity.

6. Election of General Committee

Six members of the committee had retired and no nominations had been received seven days previously. However, nominations came from the floor and the following committee members were elected:

Dr. J. Bowden
Mrs. M. Johnstone
Mrs. A. Russell

7. Any other business

Mrs. Goss suggested that more information about the activities of the General Committee might be made available to ordinary members. Although the Newsletters were informative, additional information, especially for new members, would be welcome.

Councillor Williamson said that with the impending changes in local government Harpenden needed a strong ratepayers' association and suggested that the Harpenden Society, as a well-established group within the town, might be able to provide this. It was noted that there could be a conflict between the aims of an amenity society and those of the ratepayers, but it was left to the committee to investigate this suggestion further.

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

R. Graham Dow

12 March 1974.

Three members of the Urban Design Group then talked about the town centre. Mr. Cunneen discussed in detail the three alternative traffic schemes proposed by the County Council, which had been on public exhibition last week. As chairman of the Urban Design Group's working party on this project he had been making representations to the County Planning Department, and described the first alternative - two mini-roundabouts to be constructed on the Common - as the least disastrous of the three.

His colleague, Mr. Morris, described the exhibition 'Harpenden's Heritage' which had been staged recently in the public library and which was illustrated with some exceptionally fine photographs taken by Mr. Meadows. Rev. Mable talked about the history of some of the buildings in the town centre which had featured in this exhibition. The group had spent many months in preparing a list of buildings which, although not important in themselves, are an integral part of the townscape and which they believed should be protected by inclusion on the 'Supplementary List'. This list has in fact been accepted and extended by the County Council.

Most of the questions from the floor concerned the traffic proposals, and especially the trees which would be lost. Some of the members felt that none of the schemes were acceptable and that the County should also have considered placing traffic lights at the junction of the High Street and Station Road. Mr. Cunneen urged members to attend the public meeting on April 2nd to express their points of view.

The President closed the meeting by thanking all those members of the Urban Design Group not only for speaking to the Society this evening but also for the time and effort they had devoted to examining the possible future of the town centre.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 12th April 1973
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - His Honour Judge Dow
Messrs. Booth, Brandreth, Green, Nixon, Savage,
Usher, Dr. Potter
Mrs. Johnstone, Miss Pratt, Mrs. Russell

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. & Mrs. Brown,
Mr. Derrett and Mrs. Elliott

The President welcomed the new members, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Russell and Dr. Bowden.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The President explained that Mr. David Brown had been invited to succeed Mr. Savage as Chairman, and he was prepared to accept nomination on the understanding that he might not be able to attend every committee meeting in view of his commitments abroad. On the President's recommendation the appointment of Mr. Brown was unanimously agreed.

2. ELECTION OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The committee was invited to elect Mr. Savage as a co-opted member following the completion of his period of office as Chairman in the light of its proposal at the meeting on 15th March that the three-year rule should be applied to committee chairmen from the date of their first election as chairman. As this proposal could not be considered at the A.G.M. on 19th March, it was felt that it would be acceptable for him to serve as a co-opted member for a further year; this was unanimously agreed.

The President explained that Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Elliott who had served as co-opted members should normally have been proposed for election as full members at the A.G.M. but this was not done. Constitutionally it was now possible for them to continue to serve on the committee only as co-opted members until the next A.G.M. This was agreed.

Mr. Wilson proposed and it was agreed that Mrs. Goss should be co-opted to the committee if she was willing to serve.

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President proposed and it was agreed that Mrs. Russell and Mr. Crumplin should serve as members of the Executive Committee with the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

4. MINUTES OF THE A.G.M.

The President said that Mr. Bowran's action at the A.G.M. in refusing to continue as Secretary even though he had himself included his name on the agenda paper was quite inexplicable and entirely unexpected. The draft minutes of the meeting had been circulated to the committee for consideration as a correct record of what had happened while the circumstances were still fresh in everyone's mind. The committee felt that no amendment to the wording was required and approved this section of the minutes as drafted.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE A.G.M.

(a) Appointment of Secretary

A number of informal enquiries had been made among past and present members of the committee but no one had as yet been willing to take on the Secretary's duties. The committee considered one or two further names and agreed to refer the question of an appointment to the Executive Committee. Mr. Booth would meanwhile act as caretaker.

(b) Review of the Constitution

Following the rejection by a large majority of the motion to rescind the three-year rule, the committee had been asked to consider what constitutional amendments, if any, might be required to increase continuity. It was agreed that the Executive Committee with the addition of Mrs. Elliott and Mr. Savage should submit proposals for a revised constitution as a matter of urgency.

(c) Proposed Ratepayers' Association

The committee had also been asked to consider a proposition by Mr. Williamson that the Society should in future represent the views of ratepayers. The President recalled that he had expressed his personal doubt at the meeting in view of the possible conflict of interest between an association of ratepayers who would be looking for economies in public expenditure and members of a society whose activities were more likely to result in an increase in spending. It was agreed that the proposal was not compatible with the Society's aims and objects and should be rejected.

Mr. Wilson suggested that a change of name to Harpenden Civic Society or something similar which would indicate more clearly what the Society stood for should be borne in mind. It was agreed that this and any other suggestions should be considered by the sub-committee on the revision of the constitution.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th March which had been circulated were taken as read and approved with the addition of Mr. Derrett to the list of apologies.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Football pavilion

Miss Pratt submitted the report prepared by the Common Sub-Committee on the siting of the proposed pavilion and car park. In putting forward three possible sites she emphasized the importance of suitable landscaping and inoffensive surfacing. The Sub-Committee felt that the car park should be available for general use throughout the week.

The committee agreed that the proposals in the report should be forwarded to the Council and endorsed the preference for the site in the south-east corner of the plan (alternative one). There was general agreement with the Sub-Committee's view that it was undesirable in principle to reserve further areas of the Common for minority interests and organized sports which were better accommodated in Rothamsted Park.

(b) St. George's footpath

No action had been taken since the last meeting, but Mr. Booth reported that he understood from Mr. Pettingale that the proposal to divert the footpath had been referred back to the Highways Committee by the Council. He undertook to forward the Society's views in time for its next meeting.

(c) Proposed development in Stewart Road

The Council had turned down the planning application. It was understood that the school was in fact vitally concerned with the proposal and had offered to re-house the displaced staff in the new block.

(d) Spotlight on Leisure exhibition

Mr. Savage said that an estimated 8,000 people had visited the exhibition of whom a large number had undoubtedly seen the Society's stand. The committee warmly congratulated Mr. Crumplin and recorded its appreciation of the Design Group's exhibit.

(e) Annual dinner

The President said that the dinner had been a tremendous success, and he expressed the committee's thanks to Miss Pratt and her sub-committee for all their hard work. Miss Pratt said that 112 people had attended of whom 105 had paid for tickets. It had been agreed that the Council officers with the guest speaker and representative of the press should be the Society's guests for the occasion. There would be a small deficit.

The committee asked for its thanks to be sent to the Light Operatic Society, to Mrs. Manser for the flower arrangements and to Mr. Hughes for the hire of the hall. It was agreed that the date for the 1974 dinner was now a matter for urgent consideration, and Miss Pratt was authorised to form a sub-committee to handle the preliminary arrangements.

8. MEETING ON MAY 2ND

Mr. Green had prepared a letter reminding members about the meeting and explaining the arrangements for the visit to Luth Hoo on 12th May. This would be circulated generally in a few days time. It was agreed that no special arrangements for receiving the speaker were required. Coffee would be provided beforehand for members and a bowl for contributions.

The question of publicity was raised. It was agreed that a notice in the Herts Advertiser was no longer eye-catching and that posters were preferable. In view of the short time available it was left to Miss Pratt and Mr. Wilson to arrange with Mr. Usher for the preparation of a few posters pending fuller consideration of a long-term plan for poster publicity when comparative costs were available.

9. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed to continue to hold meetings normally on the third Thursday of the month, which was convenient for the majority of members. The next meeting would, therefore, be held on 17th May. The meeting in June was fixed provisionally for the 21st.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Upper Lea Valley Group

Mr. Wilson said that the annual public meeting of the Group would be held on 26th June. In view of the continuing interest in the first Lea Valley Report he asked the committee to approve a further reprint which would be ready in time for the meeting. This was agreed.

(b) Tree preservation

Mr. Brandreth said that he had been asked by a Mr. Stephens of Barlings Road whether the Society could help in preventing the destruction of trees in the grounds of Little Mam. It was agreed that in the circumstances she should be advised to approach the Council direct about the possibility of a Tree Preservation Order. The committee felt that this underlined the need for action by the Society in undertaking a survey of amenity trees in areas at risk - Mrs. Russell referred to the possibility of serious felling at Round Wood - rather than a general census of trees in Hatfield.

The committee agreed that urgent consideration should be given to a plan along these lines at the next meeting. Meanwhile it was suggested that as a first step towards the formation of a tree group within the Society Dr. Potter might be willing to collect information on trees worth preserving from the general public: this could be arranged through a notice in the press. Mrs. Russell would discuss this possibility with him.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Report on the meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd May at 8.00 p.m.
in the Small Public Hall, Harpenden

In introducing the speaker, the President said that the Society were particularly fortunate in welcoming this evening the Curator of Luton Hoo, Mr. Michael Urwick Smith, because the Society's outing this year on Saturday, 14th May was to be to Luton Hoo and this would be ideal opportunity to learn something of the treasures to be seen there.

Mr. Urwick Smith started by giving a brief history of the house and mentioned the different families who had owned it since the end of the thirteenth century. Among them were the original de Hoos (Hoo is a Saxon word meaning the spur of a hill) and the 3rd Earl of Bute, who was prime minister for a short time during the reign of George II and who initiated the rebuilding of the old Tudor house according to designs by Robert Adam - these included an exceptionally splendid library - and the park was laid out by Capability Brown, the famous landscape gardener of that period. In 1843 the house was almost completely destroyed in a disastrous fire, after which it passed through a number of hands until the estate was purchased by Sir Julius Wehner in 1903.

The Wehner collection at Luton Hoo is justly famous for its magnificent collection of English porcelain, but there are also very fine examples of medieval jewellery, religious ivories, silver and silver-gilt, and the jewelled flowers and other objects made by Faberge, as well as some superb French tapestries. Mr. Urwick Smith showed slides of just a few of these pictures and other treasures and told us something of the individual pieces. It certainly provided a stimulus for those of us who later visited Luton Hoo to look more carefully at the beautiful things to be seen there.

Nearly seventy members of the Society attended this final meeting in the present lecture series. A programme of meetings is already being arranged for 1973/74 starting in September of this year, and it is hoped that members will continue to support these meetings in future.

* * * * *

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 17th May 1973
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, Harpenden

Present: In the chair - Mr. Brown
Messrs. Booth, Brandreth, Crumplin, Derrett, Dixon,
Green, Squires, Wilson, Drs. Bowden and Potter
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Goss, Miss Pratt,
Mrs. Russell

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Nixon, Savage
and Usher, and Mrs. Johnstone

1. The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Goss, who had been co-opted onto the committee.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with the following addition: that thanks were also due to Mr. Usher for his help in arranging the stand at the Spotlight on Leisure exhibition.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (a) Appointment of Secretary

The Chairman said that Mr. Booth had indicated he would be willing to act as Secretary, and as he felt that Mr. Booth's long experience of the Society would be even more valuable as Secretary than as Treasurer, he wished to propose that Mr. Booth be appointed Secretary until he could stand for election at the next A.G.M. This proposal was seconded by Mr. Green and agreed unanimously by the committee,

In asking for possible nominees for the post of Treasurer the Chairman reminded the committee that as one of the officers of the Society the Treasurer should be able to take an active part in the Society's affairs as well as dealing with the accounts.

- (b) Luton Hoo

The Chairman expressed the committee's thanks first to Mr. Green for arranging the recent visit to Luton Hoo - a considerable number of members and their families had visited the house that afternoon in spite of it being so close - and secondly to Mrs. Elliott for inviting its curator to talk about the collection beforehand. This had been the last meeting of the present lecture series which could certainly be regarded as a success to judge from the very good attendance.

3. (c) Proposed development in Stewart Road

Mr. Dixon believed that the school was intending to put in another application for development on this site.

(d) St. George's footpath

The Society's views on the diversion of the footpath had been passed to the council. We understood that the Clerk was now investigating the legal technicalities involved in retaining the footpath as it is but only allowing access during daylight hours.

4. Local history group

Mr. Wilson reported on the interest shown in the proposal to form a local history society. A dozen or so replies had been received from the questionnaire at the recent exhibition, and the W.E.A. local history class, now well into its fourth year, was hoping to publish the first of perhaps twelve booklets on different aspects of local history arising from their researches. A meeting had been held with Mr. Best, Clerk of the Harpenden council, and Mr. Gareth Davis, Director of the St. Albans Museum, who was very much in favour of a local history centre being set up in Harpenden. They were hopeful that room for this might be found in Harpenden Hall when the new District Council decided on its future.

The committee welcomed the possibility of support from the local authority, especially with regard to the provision of suitable premises, and were in favour of the Society helping to set up such a group. However, to avoid confusion with the Harpenden Society itself, it was felt that it should be called a local history group rather than society, and should be regarded as one of the Society's sub-groups. It was not anticipated that initially the expenses of the new group would be much more than those of the Upper Lea Valley group, but the sub-committee were asked to prepare a detailed proposal for discussion at the next meeting.

5. Tree preservation

The general feeling was that this is something in which the Society should take an active interest and that a survey of the important trees in high-risk development areas and those in dominant positions, e.g. on the skyline, at the end of a particular viewpoint, etc. should be undertaken with the aim of eventually getting these trees protected. Mrs. Goss said she had been unable to get from the local council a list of trees covered by TPOs, but Mr. Squires confirmed that a fair number of trees were protected, usually as the result of having been threatened in the past.

A certain amount of expertise would be required to carry out even a limited survey, not only in identifying trees but also in recognising those which are particularly important in the townscape; unfortunately the Urban Design Group do not have among their members a landscape architect who could help in this respect. No doubt assistance with identification, etc. could be sought from Mr. Arnold, the St. Albans

City aborist. It was suggested that Mr. Arnold be invited to give a lecture to the Society and Mrs. Elliott was asked to try to arrange this for the May meeting.

Another suggestion came from Mr. Brown who had mentioned to Mr. Meadows at the recent 'Harpenden's Heritage' exhibition the possibility of putting together a similar exhibition to illustrate the importance of trees to Harpenden and the strong influence they have on the character of the town. The committee agreed that this was certainly an idea worth pursuing.

However, the first priority at the moment was the formation of an active tree group within the Society, and to find someone willing to undertake the necessary organisation, or the whole idea would have to be dropped. Dr. Potter agreed to approach some of the staff at Rothamsted, and one or two other names were mentioned.

6. Any other business

(a) Bowers Way development

The council had rejected a planning application for an office block with flats over in Bowers Way on the land behind the Methodist church on the grounds that it was contrary to the policy of restricting office development to the Arden Grove area and to the requirements of locally-based firms. The Church trustees were appealing against this decision and a public enquiry was to be held on the morning of Wednesday, 20th June. The committee asked the Plans Sub-Committee to look again at their comments on the original proposal and Mr. Dixon undertook to let the Chairman have comments to be submitted on behalf of the Society to the public enquiry after discussion with the executive committee and any interested committee members.

(b) Constitution sub-committee

Copies of the constitution were given to all committee members and the Chairman asked each of them to look at the objectives and general rules of the Society and to let him or any member of the Constitution Sub-Committee have their comments. It was hoped that the sub-committee would be able to produce a preliminary report at the September committee meeting.

In order to obtain the views of the membership as a whole on the objectives and activities of the Society, it was agreed that copies of the descriptive questionnaire prepared for the recent exhibition should be included with the next issue of the Newsletter. This would also be valuable in assessing the degree of interest in the Society's different activities.

(c) Proposed ratepayers' association

The Chairman reported that following the decision at the last meeting he had been in touch with Mr. Williamson and explained to him where the conflict appeared to lie between the Society's aims

and those of a ratepayers' association. In fact Mr. Williamson had been more concerned that there should be some body to represent the views of Harpenden to the new District Council, especially if Harpenden fails to get its own parish council; he was obviously not fully aware of the Society's different activities and in particular the work of the Plans Sub-Committee.

(d) Membership of the sub-committees and special responsibilities

The Chairman asked all committee members to bring to the attention of the sub-committees or the officers topical items on which the Society ought to have an informed and considered view within a fairly short time - for example, on the development plans for the station. He hoped that it would be possible to draw in other members of the Society into the sub-groups, and in particular to strengthen the Plans Sub-Committee so that in addition to the valuable work they did in scrutinising planning applications the Society might also form views on more general aspects of development within the town. A draft list of committee members' involvement with the sub-groups is appended, and consideration would be given at the next meeting as to how the work of these groups could be strengthened.

Mrs. Brown was also asked to provide an updated list of committee members.

(e) Common Sub-Committee

Two points had arisen from a recent meeting of the sub-committee. The first concerned the proposal to cut a new road across the Common to allow access to the houses being built on the site of Little Manor on West Common. The Urban Design Group's observations had already been passed to the council by Mr. Squires, but the Common Sub-Committee felt that the Society should also draw attention to the serious effect destruction of the dense scrub in this area would have on wild-life. The committee endorsed this opinion, and the Secretary was asked to send a revised draft of Miss Pratt's letter to the council.

A wider discussion followed on the problem of the gradual urbanisation of the Common, with particular reference to the extension of the gardens in front of the houses on West Common. However, it was felt that comment on this should be more properly included in the recommendations for the management of the Common being prepared by the sub-committee.

The second item concerned a request from the council for a suitable site for the two dozen rose bushes being given by the Townswomen's Guild. The original proposal was to plant them in the triangle in front of the Inn on the Green, but the sub-committee had suggested several alternatives, e.g. in front of the library or the public hall, in the garden of Harpenden Hall, at the entrance of the park, on the embankment above the railway bridge in Station Road. The committee agreed any of these would be preferable, and ~~the Secretary~~ was asked to pass these suggestions on to the council. *Miss Pratt*

Townswomen's Guild,

(f) Public meeting of the Upper Lea Valley Group

Mr. Wilson said that the Upper Lea Valley Group would be holding their third public meeting on Tuesday, 26th June at 8.00 p.m. in All Saints Church Hall. The meeting would be preceded by an exhibition of the group's activities from 1.00 p.m.

(g) Heasman exhibition

An exhibition of paintings and other work by Ernest Heasman (many of old Harpenden) was being held in the Further Education Centre on 4th-9th June.

(h) Appeal from the High Wycombe Society and the Chiltern Society

A joint letter requesting support for their efforts to preserve a well-known timber-frame building in the heart of the High Wycombe conservation area had been received. The societies regard this second public enquiry being held shortly as a test case which, if lost, would endanger other listed buildings within conservation areas. It was agreed that a £10.00 donation towards their legal costs should be sent.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, 21st June at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, and the date of the following meeting was provisionally fixed for 19th July.

* * * * *

J. C. Savage
21.6.73

Committee members involved with sub-groups and other activities

Plans Sub-Committee (in conjunction with Urban Design Group)

Messrs, Dixon*, Usher

Common Sub-Committee

Miss Pratt*, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Nixon

Footpaths Sub-Committee

Messrs. Crumplin*, Usher

Upper Lea Valley Group

Messrs. Crumplin, Usher, Wilson*

Local History Group

Messrs. Brandreth, Crumplin, Wilson*, *Salage*

Newsletter - Editor

Mr. Brandreth

Lecture meetings

Mrs. Elliott

Summer outing

Mr. Green

Press secretary

Mrs. Russell

Membership secretary (and committee minutes)

Mrs. Brown

Tree group

Dr. Potter, Mr. Derrett*, Mrs. Goss, Mr. Sculley*

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

President

His Honour Judge R.G. Dow	2, Kirkwick Avenue	Tel. 2006
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Vice-Presidents

Capt. K.H. Bond	21, Kirkdale Avenue	
Miss H. Finnie	43, Milton Road	
Mr. L.S. George		

Hon. Secretary

Mr. D.L. Booth	36, Townsend Lane	2957
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Hon. Treasurer

Mr. J.M.B. Borthwick	6, Wheathampstead Road	63712
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Committee members (date of election)

Chairman - Mr. D.A. Brown (1972)	4, Wheathampstead Road	5575
Dr. J. Bowden (1973)	23, Carisbrooke Road	5647
Mr. E. Brandreth (1972)	10, The Close, Kinsbourne Green	3682
*Mrs. E.P. Brown	4, Wheathampstead Road	5575
Mr. J.D. Crumplin (1971)	28, The Close, Kinsbourne Green	63502
Mr. A. Derrett (1972)	42, Lyndhurst Drive	61935
Mr. R.G. Dixon (1971)	19, Stewart Road	3918
*Mrs. J. Elliott	Cherry Hayes, Mackerye End	4196
*Mrs. R.O. Goss	1, Broad Fields	5993
Mr. L. Green (1972)	Arden Lea, Hatching Green	3260
Mr. H.L. Nixon (1972)	101, Crabtree Lane	3640
Mrs. M. Johnstone (1973)	6, East Common	3504
Dr. C. Potter (1972)	Brambledene, East Common	3432
Miss M.A. Pratt (1972)	33, Queen's Road	2012
Mrs. A. Russell (1973)	10, Roundwood Gardens	60496
*Mr. J.C. Savage	4, St. Michael's Close	63584
Mr. P. Usher (1972)	55, Crossway	63333
Mr. E.P. Wilson (1972)	5, Salisbury Road, Batford	4474
Urban Design Group representative		
Mr. A.O. Squires	52, Crabtree Lane	3685

* co-opted members

Resigned 1973

Messrs. Bowran, Curl, Eden, Goacher, Hughes, Savage, Mrs. Jones

to ensure that the pruning was carried out by professional tree surgeons and to the satisfaction of the St. Albans city arborist, if it was not too early to seek his support and involvement in such a matter.

(c) Bowers Way development

After the last meeting Mr. Dixon had inspected the plans for an office development with flats over on the site at the back of the Methodist church immediately opposite the telephone exchange. The Plans Sub-Committee had not in fact commented on the original application. Mr. Dixon had written to the Inspector holding the public enquiry saying that the Society supported the Council in its refusal of planning consent for the following reasons: that it would be contrary to the town centre study - which the Society supported in broad principle - and that it would have a detrimental effect on the houses in Bowers Way and cause additional traffic in an already busy street. The result of the public enquiry would not be known for at least three months.

A member of the Society had also raised the question of proposals to develop the site at the north end of Bowers Parade, involving the last three shops and the area formerly occupied by Dickenson's garage and workshops. Tesco were believed to want to put up a supermarket and the other application was for a block of flats. A number of factors were involved here, and the Plans Sub-Committee were asked to look into this matter and obtain more information for discussion at the next meeting.

(d) St. George's footpath

The Council's proposal that the footpath should only be open during daylight hours had been rejected, and the matter was again in the hands of the Highways Committee. The secretary was asked to write to the Council asking that the Society's views be sought before any final decision is taken and urging that if the path is diverted, it should be properly landscaped so that it remains pleasant to use.

(e) Football pavilion

The Parks & Open Spaces Committee were shortly to meet with three members of the Common Sub-Committee to look at the alternative sites proposed by the Society.

(f) Heasman exhibition

A letter of thanks had been received from Mrs. Strickland (daughter of Mr. Heasman). The recent exhibition had aroused considerable interest, especially the pictures of old Harpenden.

3. Local history group

The report prepared by Mr. Wilson was discussed. The committee agreed that the small public hall should be hired for a public meeting, which

could be in addition to those already arranged on September 25th and December 5th. The Society would also meet the cost of the necessary publicity and fees for a speaker, and several names were discussed.

In the autumn No. 2, Southdown Road was to be sold by auction and the asking price was expected to be about £25,000, on top of which a considerable amount of work on the property would be required. While this would be a most suitable home for a local history centre, it was felt that it would be impossible to raise such a large sum from charitable trusts or by public subscription in such a short time.

4. Operation of groups and sub-committees

Each group within the Society had powers to co-opt and consult outside people who were not necessarily members of the Society. However, it was agreed that within each group there should be one person, who need not be the convenor of that group, who might be contacted in the first instance by the Society's officers or members; this person should be a member of the main committee so that the committee could be kept informed about the group's activities.

The whole question of the relationship of the different groups and sub-committees with the main committee would inevitably come up during the discussions of the Constitution Sub-Committee, and would no doubt be included in their recommendations.

5. Any other business

(a) Posters

Mr. Savage reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Best stating that the Society could use the shield from the Hapenden coat of arms on its headed paper and posters. He had made enquiries about the cost of printing posters (15"x10") with the name of the Society and the shield so that details of particular meetings could be filled in later - 100 copies would be less than £5.00. Mr. Brown was also investigating the cost of having a small number of posters printed for each separate meeting. However, before any decision was taken consideration should be given to a distinctive layout and typeface (perhaps similar to that on the dinner tickets).

(b) Footpath Sub-Committee

Some concern had been expressed about the future of the footpath from Crabtree Lane to Piggottshill at the back of Highfield Avenue when this area was developed. It was suggested that the Society should urge the council to make sure that the footpath remained as a pleasant walk, at least 5 yards wide and preferably ten times this so that it could be a play area. Mr. Nixon undertook to look into this matter and draft a letter for the secretary to send to the council.

(c) Tree planting suggestions

Two suggestions had been received - one for trees on the south side of the extension of Dalkeith Road, and the other for trees in Aldwickbury Crescent. These would form a tree belt on the skyline and would improve the view from both Batford and the Common. Both suggestions were passed to Mr Nixon.

(d) Civic service

The council had invited the Society to send representatives to the annual civic service in the parish church at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday, 8th July.

(e) Land in Southdown Road

The council were considering taking over from the Harpenden Trust the triangle of land at the side of the Trust's Centre (formerly St. John's Hall) and would lay it out with turf, trees and one or two seats.

(f) A letter had been received from Mr. Goacher saying that he and his wife would be leaving Harpenden shortly and were resigning from the Society. The committee asked the secretary to send our good wishes to them both and our thanks for his services to the Society.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 19th July at 8.00 p.m. in the public library. As usual no meeting would be held during August, and the date of the following meeting was provisionally fixed for 20th September.

* * * * *

J. H. Swain

EPB/ 9.7.73.

HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

D. G. BEST LL.B., D.P.A.
Solicitor
Clerk of the Council
Telephone 60106



HARPENDEN HALL
HARPENDEN
HERTS AL5 1SA

My Ref: B/M L.5/14

10th July, 1973.

Your Ref:

Dear Mr. Booth,

Local Government Reorganisation Successor Parish Status for Harpenden

You will be aware from recent Press reports that the Council have been unsuccessful in their attempt to procure the continuation of an elected body in Harpenden in the form of a successor parish council. Further representations are being made to the Secretary of State, through Mr. James Allason M.P., and the Council hope to send a deputation to put forward their views more fully.

The Council believe that there is considerable support in Harpenden for the idea of a successor parish council, even though their powers would not be very great. The parish council would have a statutory right of consultation on planning applications within the parish and, in addition, they would propose to retain Harpenden Common, Hatching Green, Leyton Green, the High Street Greens and the allotments.

If a parish council had been created in Harpenden it would initially comprise the members of Harpenden Urban District Council, the first elections to the parish council being held in 1976. Despite the present position, the possibility of a parish council in the future could not be ruled out because one of the duties of the new District Council will be to review ^{the} parish structure of the district and altering it if thought fit, but my Council take the view that if, as is not improbable, the District Council supported the idea of a parish council in Harpenden, it would be much simpler for the successor parish to come into being now instead of later.

If the Society feel able to support the Council in this matter they would be most grateful. A letter to the Secretary of State for the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB would be the appropriate form in which such support could be expressed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Best'.

Clerk of the Council

D.L. Booth, Esq.,
The Harpenden Society,
36, Townsend Lane,
Harpenden, Herts.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the committee meeting held on Thursday, 26th July
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mr. Brown
Messrs. Booth, Crumplin, Dixon, Nixon, Squires,
Usher, Wilson, Drs. Bowden & Potter
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Goss, Miss Pratt, Mrs. Russell

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Brandreth, Mr. Derrett,
Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Johnstone

1. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

(a) Bowers Parade

Mr. Dixon had examined the revised application for this development consisting of a supermarket (believed to be Waitrose not Tesco) with a car park for customers, first floor office accommodation and flats over. He believed it was most unlikely that this application would be approved, chiefly because of the problem of access for both cars and delivery lorries. Furthermore in the Town Centre Study rear access to this parade had been proposed, and no increase in shopping facilities had been envisaged. The Plans Subcommittee were keeping a watching brief on this proposed development, and when more detailed information became available, the committee might discuss the frontage, access, effect on the open space in front of the parade, etc.

(b) Gorselands

Demolition of the stables had started, although no planning permission has been granted or is contemplated. The Secretary was asked to contact Mr. Pettingale before the meeting of the Plans Committee tomorrow urging the council to place tree preservation orders immediately on the important trees mentioned in our report to the council; this was particularly urgent because of any damage which might be done during demolition on the site.

(c) Football pavilion

Following the meeting of three members of the Common Subcommittee with the council, they had agreed that the pavilion and car park should both be sited on the opposite side of Cravells Road where they would be screened by existing scrub and small trees. In addition they accepted the point made in our report that further organised sport on the Common should not be encouraged.

(d) Little Manor

It was understood that the road with a modest footpath alongside was to be moved back a considerable way, thus creating an area through which

people could walk from Beeson End to the town. The Common Subcommittee's recommendations for this area of the common would be contained in their draft report. It was agreed that it would be useful to circulate this to members before the committee meeting at which it was to be discussed, probably in October.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

Miss Pratt asked that a correction be made to the previous minutes, 17th May - suggestions for rose planting sites were passed to the Townswomen's Guild and not to the council.

3. HON. TREASURER

The Chairman was glad to report that a member of the Society, Mr. John Borthwick, had agreed to act as Treasurer until the next AGM.

4. TREE GROUP

The Chairman reported that he and the Secretary had had an interesting discussion with Mr. Scowen, who was most willing to help with this new venture and would be able to devote more time to it when he retired in April if he was able to find somewhere to live in the locality. The group - Mr. Derrett, Mrs. Goss, Dr. Potter, Mr. Scowen - would hold their first meeting shortly. The council had not yet supplied a list of protected trees, but the group might suggest particular 'high risk' areas within the town where trees should be protected and also give the committee some idea of how best these might be selected and what help would be required to do this. Their preliminary report would be discussed at a future committee meeting.

The Secretary reported that he had been in touch with Mr. Wing about the tree in Eastmoor Park. The owner had now re-applied to the council for permission to fell the tree on the grounds that it was dangerous and the matter was to be considered by the Plans Committee tomorrow evening. It appeared that the St. Albans city arborist was not able to give advice in a case outside his area unless it concerned Dutch Elm disease; a number of trees within the town had been treated by his staff and others recommended for felling because they were too badly affected.

5. LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Inaugural meeting - The small public hall had been booked for this meeting on Wednesday, 24th October. Mr. Anthony Palmer, the deputy county archivist, would be arranging an exhibition and talking briefly about the exhibits; Mr. Lionel Munby, tutor of the local WEA history class, would be talking about the importance of a local history group. The doors would open at 7.00 p.m., coffee served from 7.45 - 8.15 and there would be time at the end of the evening to enrol members to the new group.

Arrangements were in hand to circularise local organisations with a special leaflet, posters were being prepared, etc. Mr. Wilson would be discussing with Mrs. Russell what advance information could be supplied to the press. The Local History Group Subcommittee would be discussing the question of junior members at their next meeting.

No. 2 Southdown Road - Harpenden council appeared unwilling to buy the property and find a use for it until April 1974 when the new District Council could adopt it for museum purposes. However, it might be helpful if the Society were to send a formal letter to the council stressing this would be ideal for a local history centre, especially if Harpenden Hall was likely to be fully utilised by a department of the District Council, and the property would also be a useful extension to council property in that area. It was also suggested that informal approaches might be made to the local Round Table and Rotary Club to interest them in the project.

6. CRABTREE LANE/PIGGOTSHILL FOOTPATH

It was understood that this 26-acre area behind Highfield Road scheduled on the town map as green space and for educational purposes was no longer required by the County for a secondary school. In the Hertfordshire 1981 plan the area was re-zoned for residential development, but this change in use would probably have to be advertised.

The committee examined the maps produced by Mr. Wilson and discussed his detailed proposals for a wide swath of the area to remain as an open space. This would allow sufficient space for mature forest trees to be retained along the skyline and visible from both the Common and the Lea valley, would provide a green area between the surrounding built-up areas and if landscaped with mixed woodland, open grass, and possibly play areas, with the existing footpath diverted to run its whole length, it would become a most valuable space for recreation and relaxation for local residents.

Since an outline planning application for residential development was believed to have been put in, the committee decided that a letter should be sent to the council asking that consideration should be given to retaining a substantial area (up to 10 acres) of continuous landscaped open space between the back of the properties in Highfield Avenue and the new housing development.

When the change of use is advertised in the press, it might also be helpful to see that the Society's proposal also got into the press. The Plans Subcommittee were asked to keep a watching brief on planning applications for this area.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman asked the groups and subcommittees when writing to outside bodies on behalf of the Society to send the letter through the Secretary or to make sure that he received a copy. It was hoped that at future committee meetings a file of correspondence since the previous meeting would be available for members to see.

A letter had been received from a new member saying that since joining he had received no information on the Society or its activities. In future extra copies of the newsletter would be prepared so that these could be sent to new members, together with a list of committee members and the revised questionnaire. The results of the previous questionnaire have been lost, and copies of the revised one would be sent out to all the membership with the August newsletter.

8. SUCCESSOR PARISH STATUS FOR HARPENDEN

Copies of the letter the Secretary had received from Mr. Best had been circulated to the committee. Although some objections of principle were raised, the committee agreed that the Secretary should write to the council supporting them in their efforts to retain local control of the areas mentioned in the letter.

9. PUBLICITY

The question of posters, etc. for the autumn meetings would be sorted out between Messrs. Brown, Booth, Savage and Usher.

10. ANNUAL DINNER

The public hall had been booked for the annual dinner on Wednesday, 3rd April, 1974.

11. NEXT MEETING

As usual there would be no committee meeting during August. The next meeting would be held on Thursday, 20th September at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library and the following meeting was provisionally fixed for 18th October.

* * * * *

J. A. Brown.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the committee meeting held on Thursday, 20th September
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mr. Brown

Messrs. Booth, Borthwick, Brandreth, Crumplin, Derrett,
Dixon, Green, Nixon, Usher, Wilson, Dr. Potter, *Bowden*.
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Goss, Mrs. Johnstone,
Miss Pratt, Mrs. Russell

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Savage and Mr. Squires

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th July were taken as read and approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Bowers Parade development

Nothing further to report. The Plans Sub-Committee would keep a watching brief, especially on any additional proposals for improving access by altering the open space in front of the site.

b) Gorselands

Demolition has already started. We understand that the council have recommended that a tree preservation order be placed 'on all the important trees on the site'. The Secretary was asked to find out if this had been done, and whether the shrubs along the front were included.

c) No.2 Southdown Road

This property had been sold to a Mr. Bateman from St. Albans, who intends to live in it after carrying out only such alterations as necessary to make it comfortable. A number of members of the Society were invited to go over the house before work started because of its historical interest; Rev. Mable and Mr. Meadows had had a detailed look at the house and taken some photographs.

d) Tree Group

The Secretary had received from Mr. Best a detailed list of all the trees within the town protected by preservation orders. This information would be circulated to members of the Tree Group, who hoped to hold their first meeting before the October committee meeting.

3. LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Arrangements for the inaugural meeting on 24th October were well in hand; posters and handbills had been printed and circularised. The Society had agreed to meet the expenses involved in publicising and arranging the inaugural meeting.

Mrs. Elliott kindly agreed to organise the serving of coffee from 7.45 to 8.15. During this time and after the meeting application forms for membership of the Local History Society would be available. The cost of membership would be 30p for adults and 15p for OAPs and those under 18; receipt cards would be issued to those enrolling. This would allow the new society to be self-supporting. However, contact would be maintained with the steering committee when this was elected.

After close liaison with the committee of the local W.E.A., it had been agreed that their reception to launch the first booklet on local history to be published by the W.E.A. class would be held the same evening from 7.00 to 7.30. Naturally it was hoped that some of the press representatives and others would stay on to attend our meeting.

4. CRABTREE LANE AND PIGGOTTSHILL LANE

The Public Notice concerning an outline planning application for the residential development of the 26 acres between Crabtree Lane and Piggottshill Lane appeared in the press on September 7th. Since the proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan, any objections to the granting of permission for this development are to be made to the council by October 5th.

Interestingly this advertisement did not specifically mention the change from educational use, which is the basis of the vigorous protest being organised by local residents. After considerable discussion the committee felt that it could not argue this case, and therefore its objections would be against the development of the whole site for housing.

The Secretary was asked to write to the council urging them not to entertain any proposals for residential development of the site unless they included a substantial area of continuous landscaped open space between Crabtree Lane and Piggottshill Lane, and detailing the reasons for this as in our previous letter. Since the future use of this area of land is of particular concern to many people in Harpenden, the Society feels it to be most important that before any decision is taken to alter the provisions of the development plan the Secretary of State should hold a public inquiry into the proposal to develop the whole area for residential purposes.

The committee agreed that a copy of this letter should be given to Mrs. Russell for her contact with the press, and a copy of this letter and our earlier letter should also be sent to the organisers of the local protest group so that they can see the Society is objecting to the total loss of this area to housing and is urging that a public inquiry be held.

5. SUB-GROUPS AND SURVEY OF MEMBERS

At the previous meeting it had been agreed that copies of the questionnaire should be sent out with the August Newsletter to all members of the Society. However, the Chairman did not feel that we were in a position to deal effectively with any interested replies and unless each sub-group had one or more specific projects which could make use of any enthusiasm generated there was no real point in sending out the questionnaire. He intended to get in touch with the convenors of each of the sub-groups about this and hoped that by November we would have a frame-work for involving members

in their Society. As part of this, we might perhaps produce a smaller Newsletter more frequently and include information on the topics being discussed by the committee, especially planning applications, so that members could become more informed about what the Society is trying to achieve.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Lecture - September 25th

The season's first lecture was an illustrated talk by Pat Wilson intriguingly titled 'Partly Living in Harpenden'. Coffee would be served from 7.45 and the meeting start at 8.15. Fifty posters (to Paul Usher's design) had been printed; Miss Pratt undertook to arrange for them to be displayed throughout the town.

b) Football Pavilion

The Rovers Football Club have appealed against the council's decision that the pavilion and car park be sited on the south side of Cravells Road. The secretary was asked to send a letter to the council before the meeting on Monday reiterating the reasons for our recommendation that the pavilion should not be placed on the skyline of the common as was originally proposed.

c) Correspondence

A letter had been received from a member who had been disturbed by the noise from aircraft using Luton airport. The question of whether the Society might take up this problem would be discussed at the next meeting.

A member of the Society had obtained a plan showing the final layout of the development in the grounds of Little Manor and the extension of West Common Grove for members of the committee to look at.

7. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Thursday, 25th October (instead of the 18th as stated in the previous minutes) at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, and the following meeting would be on 22nd November.

J. H. Snowdon

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the committee meeting held on Thursday, 25th October
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mr. Brown
Messrs. Booth, Borthwick, Brandreth, Dixon, Dr. Bowden
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Goss, Mrs. Johnstone,
Mrs. Russell

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Derrett, Green,
Nixon, Savage and Wilson, and Dr. Potter

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th September were taken as read
and approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Crabtree Lane/Piggottshill Lane development

An acknowledgment of our letter has been received from the council.
The Upper Lea Valley Group also submitted comments. The Secretary
was asked to contact Mr. Best to find out what was happening.

(b) Aircraft noise

Since LADACAN was primarily concerned with the problem of aircraft
noise nuisance from Luton airport, the Secretary was asked to renew
contact with them and ask what support the Society might give them,
and also to inform the member who had raised the matter what action
had been taken.

(c) Gorselands, The Stables and Pantiles development

A letter had been received from the council explaining that the planning
application had been refused on the grounds that the design of the
proposed development was of unacceptable standard, that it would seriously
affect the visual amenity of this part of the Harpenden conservation area,
and would result in over-development of the site in relation to the
height and character of the adjoining buildings (with particular reference
to the three storeys). However, Maytree Property Investment Co, Ltd,
were appealing against this decision and interested parties were asked
to submit written comments by November 2nd.

Concern was expressed that on appeal the developer might put forward a
compromise plan which could be accepted without any further comments
being sought. In submitting our comments we should urge the Minister
not to accept a modified plan without allowing the matter to go through
the normal planning channels.

With respect to our recommendation made on 16th January that certain trees on the site should be made subject to a tree preservation order, Mr. Best had informed us that the council had recommended that an order be made but this had not yet been done. The Secretary was asked to press Mr. Best about this, and write formally to the council urging that action be taken to protect these trees now (especially during demolition and building operations) and referring to our original request and the detailed report submitted with it.

Mrs. Russell undertook to bring the lack of a tree preservation order and the forthcoming appeal to the attention of the press.

(d) Tree Group

The first meeting of the group was to have been held last Tuesday, but was postponed due to Dr. Potter's illness. A preliminary report would be presented at the November meeting.

3. LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Yesterday evening's inaugural meeting had been extremely successful, some 250-300 people arrived and others were turned away at the door - and thanks were due to Mrs. Elliott and her helpers for providing coffee for them all. About 170 members of the new society enrolled during the evening and 100 copies of the first booklet on local history were sold. A steering committee of seven was formed and the suggestion made that the first AGM should be held in the new year. The organising committee were to be congratulated on the obvious success of their publicity.

4. FORTHCOMING PLANNING APPEALS

Notice had been received from the council of two public enquiries to be held during November. That on 13th November concerned the proposed residential development of the land between Cross Lane and Mud Lane (two lots of 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres and 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres). This was green belt land and in fact the urban district boundary ran through it. The second enquiry on 20th November concerned land between Bamville Wood and the railway. It was agreed that, if at all possible, the Society should be represented at both these enquiries to make representations against the encroachment into the green belt area, and Mr. Dixon would consult with the Secretary and Chairman to see if this could be done. (Post-meeting: In fact this area is not within the green belt, but is a white zone.)

Considerable discussion followed on the approach the Society should adopt to these development proposals, and also that on the Gorselands site; how we could best inform our membership of what was happening and obtain their views, how best to give information to the press without upsetting the close contacts we have enjoyed with Mr. Pettingale and his staff. The committee asked Mrs. Russell to draw the attention of Mr. Haynes to these two public enquiries and tell him that the Society would be supporting the council in their refusal of planning permission.

The committee went on to consider the recent broadsheet from the County Planning Officer "How Do You See Herts?" asking for ideas from people living in the county on how they would like to see the shape of Hertfordshire in the future. These were being sought in connection with the Structure Plan currently being prepared by the County Council. Obviously this is an area in which the Society should make a definite contribution, and committee members were asked to look carefully at the documents so our strategy on this could be decided at the next meeting - the planning department were hoping to receive comments by Christmas. Again this was a matter which should be drawn to the attention of the membership via the Newsletter.

Arising from this, it was agreed that the final meeting of the present lecture series to be held on 6th May should take the form of a discussion meeting and Mrs. Elliott would invite Mr. Overton, the County Planning Officer, to the meeting. A discussion meeting might be particularly appropriate as the two previous lecture meetings had covered the activities of two of the Society's groups, the Upper Lea Valley Group and the Common Sub-Committee.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) The Secretary had received an invitation from the Hertfordshire Federation of Amenity Societies (to which we are affiliated) to a meeting on Thursday, 15th November at 8.00 p.m. in Datchworth Village Hall when members of the staff of the county planning office would be giving an illustrated talk, on the County's Structure Plan. Members of the committee who wished to attend were asked to contact Mr Booth.
- (b) Upper Lea Valley Group - Members of the group had had a meeting with the new District Councillors on October 19th. They seemed uncertain what staff the new authority might have or what support might be available for groups such as ours. However, they promised to represent our interests fully.
- (c) A one-day conference on 28th November was being arranged by the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society which would deal with the implications of the Local Government Act 1972. The committee agreed that one of the members of our Footpaths Group should attend this conference, the fee for which was £4.75, and the Secretary was asked to get in touch with Mrs. Jones.
- (d) Spotlight On Leisure Exhibition - A preliminary meeting was being held at the Further Education Centre on 9th November to discuss arrangements for the exhibition to be held on 14th-16th March 1974. Mr. Savage would be asked to represent our interests.
- (e) The Secretary had received a copy of the first newsletter to be issued by the Hertfordshire Society; it was interesting to note the different fields in which they have been active.
- (f) Transport 2000 - A circular had been received from the North London & Home Counties branch of this pressure group set up to promote the increased

use of the railway system as opposed to motorways inviting us to become affiliated to Transport 2000 at a cost of £1 for every 100 members. A note of this would be included in the next Newsletter, but the committee did not feel that we should do more than express a general interest.

- (g) Mr. Crumplin suggested that in future there should be a guillotine on discussions at these meetings at 9.45 which would then leave 15 minutes for questions from the floor.
- He had received a request that the Society should press for more bus shelters to be provided within the town. It was felt that this would be done more effectively if our request to the council referred to specific spots where these were required, and Mr. Crumplin undertook to obtain suggestions from the individual concerned.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday, 22nd November at 8.00 p.m. in the public library. The committee felt that a December meeting was unnecessary, and might be difficult to arrange just before Christmas; the date of the following meeting was, therefore, provisionally fixed for 16th January, 1974.

J. H. Brown

EPB/ 7.11.73,

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the committee meeting held on Thursday, 22nd November
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mr. Brown
Messrs. Booth, Borthwick, Crumplin, Derrett, Squires,
Usher, Dr. Bowden
Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Goss, Miss Pratt

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Brandreth, Mrs. Johnstone,
Dr. Potter, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Savage.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Scowen to this evening's meeting at which the
Tree Group were to present their preliminary report. He was sure that
Mr. Scowen's expertise would prove immensely valuable in their activities.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th October were approved with the
following addition: that Messrs. Crumplin and Usher were in fact present
at the meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Cross Lane planning applications

Mr. Dixon had submitted written comments to the first enquiry along the
lines discussed at the last meeting. The second public enquiry had
been postponed.

(b) Crabtree Lane/Piggottshill development

We understand unofficially that the Department of the Environment has
informed the council that the matter is back in their hands.

(c) Gorselands

The committee were very concerned that no action had yet been taken by
the council to have tree preservation orders placed on certain trees on
this site. The Chairman agreed to bring the matter to the attention of
the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Fulton.

(d) Footpaths

Mrs. Jones would be attending the conference at the end of the month and
had been invited to report on it at the January committee meeting.

(e) Spotlight on Leisure exhibition - 14th-16th March

John Crumplin expected to be leaving for Australia early in the new year
and would not, therefore, be able to organise the stand. Mr. Borthwick
offered to take on this task, unless he should find himself in Germany
next March.

3. TREE GROUP

Two major points had arisen out of the first meeting of the Tree Group Committee. The first concerned the relationship between the Tree Group and the other groups of the Society, especially the Plans Sub-Committee. The Group anticipated that they will be working very closely with the Plans Sub-Committee, and, with the expert help of Mr. Scowen, will, if necessary, seek preservation orders on trees in the 'soft' areas - two suggestions for early consideration were around St. George's and Gleneagles.

The second main point discussed was how best to involve members interested in the Group's activities in certain specific projects. Initially members would be asked to supply information about trees in their own locality which they felt should be preserved; this would also serve to make them interested in looking more critically at trees within Harpenden. Later volunteers might be asked to act as wardens to keep a watch on events in a particular area which might impinge on the work of the Group. Mrs. Goss had kindly agreed to act as co-ordinator and collate this incoming information. Mr. Derrett had offered to be convenor for the new Group, and the committee agreed that he should purchase the large-scale maps which the Group would obviously require for their work.

The Group had not dealt at this first meeting with the question of planting new trees. Again this would involve discussion with other groups, especially the Common Sub-Committee.

The committee felt that the new Group had got off to a good start and would no doubt make good use of the Newsletter and the Spotlight on Leisure exhibition to inform the membership and the general public of their existence and to enlist support for their activities. Mr. Haynes of the Herts Advertiser and Mr. Smith of the Review may also be interested in these projects.

4. HOW DO YOU SEE HERTS?

Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. Goss attended a recent meeting arranged by the Herts Federation of Amenity Societies at which the speaker was Mr. Steeley, the deputy county planning officer. Arising from this meeting it became obvious that the county were not seeking detailed comments on local aspects of their proposed Structure Plan but wanted responses on the general questions set out in the consultative document - questions such as the desirability or otherwise of an east/west route, provision of public transport v. provision for private motoring, the need for increased housing to be balanced against retention of the green belts, etc.

The following course of action was then agreed. In order to meet the objective of having our considered view ready to submit to the country planning office by the middle of January, the finalised draft must be available for discussion by the beginning of the month. To this end a meeting would be held on Tuesday, 11th December at 4, Wheathampstead Road to consider the questions involved, after which the Chairman offered to pull together a paper to be considered at a special committee meeting on Thursday, 10th January (time and place to be arranged).

To facilitate discussion at the meeting on December 10th, members were asked to make brief notes on their views and Dr. Bowden kindly offered to photocopy and circulate these beforehand. If possible, parts of the final draft might be included in a Newsletter in January.

5. CONSTITUTION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman regretted that he had not yet drawn together the comments of the sub-committee, but hoped these would be available for discussion at the January 17th committee meeting so that any alterations can be put to the A.G.M. in March.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Questionnaire/membership leaflet

An updated version is being prepared; it is hoped to include notes on the projects currently planned by each of the sub-groups.

(b) Hertfordshire 1981

The committee agreed that the Secretary should purchase two copies of the Hertfordshire 1981 document together with the relevant maps. These would not only be useful during the current exercise on the Structure Plan, but would also be valuable for the Town Centre Group and the Planning Group.

(c) Status of the District Council

The committee had no strong views on whether the new District Council should seek city status and therefore have a mayor; but did feel that the present name was preferable to some of the conglomerates which had put forward.

(d) Bus shelters

We understand that a report is being prepared.

(e) Arrangements for future meetings

December 5th - Paul Usher, Chairman of the Upper LeavValley Group, would be giving an illustrated talk 'The Upper Lea Valley: Neglected/Resurrected' at 8.15. Mrs. Elliott kindly agreed to arrange for coffee and the Chairman to arrange for the distribution of posters.

March 12th - The A.G.M. to be followed by a presentation by the Common Sub-Committee on their draft recommendations for management of the Common.

May 6th - The committee felt that it would be appropriate to invite Mr. Overton or his deputy to talk to the Society, especially as some come-back on the town centre study should have been made public by that time (surveyors had seen examining the Station Road junction).

Members might like to make a note of these dates in their 1974 diaries, and also of the annual dinner on April 3rd. It was agreed that

Mr. Hislop, the newly appointed countryside officer, should be invited to be the after-dinner speaker. He might also be interested in coming to the Lea Valley meeting.

(f) Football Club pavilion

It was agreed that the Chairman should write to Mr. Fulton, Chairman of the Council, saying how disappointed the Society was that the Parks & Open Spaces Committee had reverted to their original decision on the siting of the pavilion and car park without any further discussions taking place.

7. NEXT MEETING

As had been agreed, there would be no committee meeting during December. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 17th January, 1974 at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library, and the following meeting was provisionally arranged for February 21st.

In addition there would be a special committee meeting to discuss the final draft of the Society's comments on the Hertfordshire Structure Plan on Thursday, 10th January.

J. A. Brown.