

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 20th January 1976  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs. Russell  
Mrs. Catterfeld, Mrs. Cunneen (part-time), Mrs. Elliott,  
Mrs. Goss, Mrs. Johnstone  
Mr. Borthwick (part-time), Dr. Bowden, Mr. Dixon,  
Mr. Nixon, Mr. Savage (part-time), Mr. Scowen

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Booth, Mr. Evans  
and Mrs. Jones

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 1975 were approved, subject to the following amendments:

Mrs. Johnstone's name should be added to those present.

Item 5(c) The last sentence should read 'The Upper Lea Valley Group wished to retain their financial independence and to have their own bank account, so that their secretarial expenses could be paid by the District Council.'

### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (a) In view of this evening's heavy agenda, Mr. Harold Nixon's report on the work of the Conservation Corps had been postponed until the February meeting.
- (b) Car parking on the Common - Mrs. Russell had raised with County Councillor P. Burgin the possibility of using the land at the Silver Cup as a temporary car park, and the Parish Council were also interested. Mr. Burgin was going to get the key so that the plot could be inspected. The County Council had no money to spend on making a car park. The Society might be able to help in clearing and preparing the site, and possibly the land could be leased to the Parish Council.

Mrs. Elliott had spoken to Councillor Bond, who was very concerned about car parking on the Common outside Rothamsted Park. The Parish Council were looking into the possibility of making a bank and ditch there. Notices prohibiting parking on the Common were about to be produced, and stickers were now being printed.

### 3. REPORTS FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

#### (a) Plans Group

Mr. Dixon reported on the following planning applications.

Two houses at the Grange - He had written to the Council on behalf of the Society objecting to their poor design and siting. The developer has put in fresh plans, which Mr. Evans reports are an improvement, and the location has been slightly changed.

Redevelopment at the Consumer Tea Co. - New plans had been submitted which were no better than the previous ones.

Moat House hotel - Mr. Dixon pointed out that the new building conformed with the outline planning permission so far as siting and external appearance were concerned. The only difference was that the building was to be used for service flatlets rather than strictly for hotel purposes.

It was agreed that, whatever the terms of the original permission, we should reiterate our objection to the proposal. It was strongly felt that the public should be made aware of what was intended. It was decided to contact the

press and ask them to publicise the proposal, together with a photograph of the convent, to show what would be lost if this proposal were allowed to be carried out in the form intended.

Development at Roundwood Lane/Park Rise - Application had been made to build three cottages in the grounds of six derelict cottages fronting Roundwood Lane. It was also proposed to renovate the six cottages. Mr. Evans had written to the Council on the Society's behalf pointing out that, while we had no objection to the three new cottages, the proposal, together with the renovation of the six cottages, would constitute over-development of the site. It was suggested that the comprehensive redevelopment of the area should be considered as a whole, and not piecemeal.

Moat House sign - It was reported that this sign was no longer lit. Possibly it had been extinguished pending consideration of the developer's application for planning permission to put it there.

(b) Tree Group

Mrs. Goss reported that Tree Preservation Orders had been made at 26 Douglas Road and 28 Barlings Road (near Little Manor).

A letter had been received from Mr. Simon Cotton of 28 Sauncey Avenue, offering to contribute £10 through the Society towards the replacement of diseased elms in Stewart Road, possibly by a 'noble clump'. He added that other residents in the area were also interested. It was decided to thank Mr. Cotton for his offer, and to ask him to contact other interested residents. The Society would get in touch with Mr. Arnold on the matter.

Mrs. Johnstone was concerned about the fate of the copper beech sapling, damaged when the old elms on the Common blew down in the recent storm. Mr. Scowen thought that the tree should be given the chance to recover, and the opportunity taken now to fell the remainder of the old elms, which were rotten, so that the other saplings would have a chance to thrive. It was decided to put these suggestions to Mr. Arnold.

Mrs. Goss reported that local residents on the Brosnan Estate would like to have the spinney adjoining the railway line felled. It overshadowed their houses and caused their children to get into mischief. The spinney was subject to a T.P.O. She mentioned the matter in order that we might be aware of the possible threat to the trees.

(c) Common Group

Mrs. Johnstone raised the continual problem of litter on the Common, and hoped the clear-up-the-Common campaign would continue after she left the committee in March. It was agreed that an anti-litter drive should be held in the summer, possibly on a Saturday when more people could take part. We would explore the possibility of getting children from schools near the Common to take part, and the Upper Lea Valley Group would be asked if they would like to join in.

(d) Upper Lea Valley Group

Mrs. Catterfeld reported that the group were also concerned about the problem of litter. They had had a very successful New Year's drive, when an astonishing variety of litter had been found.

The Upper Lea Valley Group and the Batford Tenants Association had decided to enter Batford in the Best Kept Village competition. It was felt that the village must have a chance as so much improvement had taken place over the past year - a point which the judges were required to take into account. Mrs. Catterfeld agreed to be the Society's representative on the committee being set up to deal with the campaign.

(e) Special Projects Group

Mr. Nixon reported on the meeting which had taken place between Mr. McKenna and Mr. Pettingale, and Mrs. Russell, Mr. Evans and Mr. Nixon representing the Society. Most of the points made in the Southdown Report were discussed. The impression gained was that Mr. McKenna was in general favourably disposed towards the proposals and happy to be co-operative, but that there was no money available for any major items, unless it was already included in one of the Council's budgets.

Cravells Road car park - The Council would look at the possibility of moving the toilets to the other car park. The problem was primarily one of drainage. They also agreed to consider providing trees, resurfacing the car park and re-erecting the height barriers to prevent large vehicles using the site. In return the group agreed to draw up detailed proposals and drawings for the improvement of the car park - Mr. Evans was now doing this - and to look into the possibility of providing labour.

Piggottshill plot - While giving no firm commitments, Mr. McKenna and Mr. Pettingale tended to agree with the group's suggestions, and would see what could be done about planting trees and resiting the grit bin.

Small public car park - Mr. McKenna and Mr. Pettingale appeared to be favourably disposed towards the group's suggestions.

The Green - Mr. McKenna would prefer to defer looking into this scheme until the results of the traffic management study now taking place were known. Some anxiety was expressed at the possibility of the Green being converted into a roundabout. Mr. Nixon said he thought Mr. McKenna was very much in favour of keeping the common and had been sympathetic towards the idea of pedestrianising the road in front of the antique shop.

Grove Road - Enquiries had been made among local shopkeepers and it was reported that they were in favour of trees being planted on the corner of Grove Road.

Mr. Nixon had made further enquiries about the new job creation programme. It appeared that funds for this purpose in the South-East were very limited, and any schemes would have to be of outstanding merit to gain acceptance.

4. ELECTIONS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. Russell reported that a letter had been received from Mr. P. Usher concerning the Parish Council election on May 6th. He pointed out that the responsibilities of the Parish Council for the Common and allotments, and their advisory function in respect of planning applications, were matters in which the Society were directly interested. He himself was standing as an Independent and suggested that the Society might sponsor other members who wished to stand with the aim of furthering the Society's objects. He would be prepared to chair a sub-committee on the subject, if the Society agreed.

There was considerable debate on Mr. Usher's suggestions. It was generally felt that the Society would not wish to sponsor candidates directly but could



agree to support with general advice, publicity etc. any member who wished to stand with the Society's aims in mind. Some members expressed their interest in standing as candidates, if only they had more time. They doubted whether they could combine such work with direct involvement in the Society.

Mrs. Russell would get in touch with Mr. Usher and inform him of our general agreement with his views. Any interested members should get in touch with Mr. Usher direct. It was agreed to draw members' attention to this matter in the next edition of the Newsletter.

5. SPOTLIGHT ON LEISURE EXHIBITION

The exhibition would be held on 11th, 12th and 13th March. It was agreed to approach the sub-groups for material and photographs suitable for display. It was hoped to use the same stands as last year. Mrs. Elliott agreed to be responsible for co-ordination of material.

6. ANNUAL DINNER

Mr. Savage, Mr. Derrett and Miss Pratt were appointed to a sub-committee to co-ordinate arrangements for the dinner on Wednesday 7th April. Lord Hill had agreed to be our guest speaker; there would be no entertainment.

7. NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be issued shortly, and will give publicity for the open meeting on 4th February.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Nixon reported that a new member had suggested to him that a letter be sent to the County Council, the Secretary of State for the Environment and the local M.P., regretting that local decisions by the Council are overridden by central government. Mr. Nixon agreed that the member be approached to draft a suitable letter.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, 19th February (NOT Tuesday, 17th) at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

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Anne Russell



## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 19th February 1976  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs. Russell  
Mr. Borthwick, Mr. Evans, Mrs. Goss,  
Mrs. Johnstone and Mrs. Jones

Apologies for absence were received from Lady Bawden, Mr. Booth, Mrs. Catterfeld,  
Mrs. Cunneen, Mr. Dixon, Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Savage

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January were approved, subject to the following amendment: that Mr. Derrett's name be deleted from the sub-committee making arrangements for the Annual Dinner (item 6).

### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (a) Report on the work of the Conservation Corps on the Common - Mr. H. Nixon had asked that this be deferred until April, by which time he hoped that a programme of future work projects on the Common would have been worked out. It was hoped that both Mrs. Johnstone and Mrs. Goss, who are retiring from the committee, would be able to come to the April committee meeting to hear Mr. Nixon's report.
- (b) Parking on the Common - Signs about parking on the Common near the entrance to Rothamsted Park had been put up in the last few days, but Mr. Evans had noticed little effect so far. Mrs. Russell would speak to Mr. Pettingale about it.

### 3. REPORT ON OPEN MEETING HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY

Mrs. Johnstone reported that several members had expressed the view that this was one of the most interesting talks the Society had ever had. Mrs. Russell agreed and said Mr. Gladwin's talk about the nature reserve at Lemsford had been both informative and amusing and his slides, particularly those of bird life on the reserve, quite exceptional. It was hoped that the Society could follow up Mr. Gladwin's talk with an outing to Lemsford Springs later this year. Mr. Borthwick added that in spite of the very cold weather that evening attendance had been good with some 70 members present.

### 4. NOMINATIONS FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

The following members of the Society had been nominated for the 1976/77 committee: Miss Haberer, Mr. Parsons, Miss Spurr, Mr. Usher and Mr. Ward.

### 5. SPOTLIGHT ON LEISURE EXHIBITION

Mrs. Russell had approached Mr. Eric Meadows to take photographs for the Society's stand at the exhibition and these would be available soon. Mr. Evans said he and Mr. Nixon had already had a meeting with Mr. Meadows to select photographs for the Special Projects group. Mrs. Goss added that Mr. Derrett had some photographs which had been used at the exhibition last year to illustrate the work of the Tree Group and she would get hold of these as they might be useful. Mrs. Brown had handed over to Mrs. Russell much of the material that the Society had used at last year's exhibition and Mr. Brown would again be able to provide stands for the Society's exhibit.

Mrs. Russell would ask convenors of the sub-groups to a meeting at her house on March 2nd to select photographs and material for the exhibition.

6. ANNUAL DINNER

Mrs. Russell had spoken to Mr. Savage recently on the telephone and he hoped to keep the price of the dinner to £3 a head. He was choosing the menu and approaching the F.E.C. Resources Unit to see if they could print tickets. Miss Pratt was trying to find entertainers to follow Lord Hill's speech but the committee felt this was not really necessary. It was hoped that dinner tickets would be on sale at the A.G.M.

7. A.G.M.

Mr. Borthwick reported that the Society had a balance of £83.42 in the bank and that at present the Society's finances were quite healthy. However, it was felt that it would be wise to increase the Society's subscription. Mrs. Russell proposed that the family subscription should be increased to £1, with a subscription of 50p for pensioners and junior members. Mrs. Jones seconded this. Mrs. Goss pointed out that according to the constitution it was not strictly necessary to raise this matter at the Annual General Meeting. Nevertheless it was felt that it would be wise to ask members at the A.G.M. to approve this rise in the subscription.

8. REPORTS FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

(a) Plans Group

Mr. Evans said there had been no planning applications of great interest to the Society in the last month. The Moat House application had been dropped for the time being, and work had started on the renovation scheme for the shops between Rolts and Rowes in the High Street.

Mrs. Russell had written to the Secretary of State for the Environment about Rose Cottage and about recent Ministry reversals of local planning decisions at Cross Lane and Piggottshill/Crabtree Lane. This had been reported in the local press.

Mrs. Johnstone raised the matter of the huge and hideous posters in the windows of MacFisheries and it was agreed that the manager of the shop should be approached about this and if matters did not improve, the Parish Council and the press should be informed that the Society considered these posters unsightly and unsuitable in a conservation area. Mrs. Russell undertook to take up the matter initially with the manager of MacFisheries.

(b) Tree Group

Mrs. Goss reported that the copper beech sapling on the Common about which there had been some concern was surviving, and the elms on the Common were being topped on the instructions of the Parish Council, although the Tree Group felt that in view of the condition of these trees it would be better to remove them now. The cherry trees outside the Embassy Cinema had been cut down but there was nothing the Society could do about this, as the forecourt of the cinema was not in the conservation area.

Mr. Arnold had offered to meet the Tree Group and members of the Society (including Mr. Cotton) who were interested in replacing the dead elms in



Stewart Road and this meeting on site was being arranged. Mr. Arnold could provide 'vandal proof' trees at £10 each or saplings at £2 each, but the Society would probably have to undertake to plant these.

(c) Common Group

Mrs. Johnstone reminded the committee about a further clean-up-the-Common campaign in the spring or summer. She would like this mentioned at the A.G.M.

(d) Footpaths Group

Mrs. Jones said she no longer felt able to remain convenor of the group, as she had become asthmatic and was not able to walk very far. However, she had some notes about a suggested Society walk in the Mackerye End area and would bring these to the next committee meeting. She suggested that Mrs. Elliott might be able to organise the walk, as she knew the area well.

9. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Elliott had received a letter from the County Council saying that the Silver Cup public house were hoping to use part of the site in Leyton Road for the proposed new fire station as a car park, and that the County Council was having discussions with St. Albans District Council about the rest of the site being used as a public car park. The committee welcomed this.

The Society had received a letter from the Herts Federation of Amenity Societies asking for a subscription of £2. The committee agreed to renew this subscription.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th March in the Small Public Hall, and the first meeting of the new committee will be held on Thursday, 29th April at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

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Anne Russell



## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Tuesday,  
16th March 1976 in The Small Public Hall, Harpenden,  
at 8.0 p.m.

The President, His Honour Judge Dow, took the Chair  
with some 80 members present.

The President referred to the recent death of Captain Bond, a Vice-President. He recalled Captain Bond's long association with the Harpenden Society and stressed the loss the Society felt at his death. The Meeting stood for a moment's silence in tribute to the memory of Captain Bond.

### 1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 11th March 1975 were read, confirmed and signed by the President.

### 2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman congratulated the Society on a most successful year. Mrs. Russell reminded members of the three open meetings which had been held during the year and said how well these meetings had been supported by members. The September meeting "Flowers and Birds on Harpenden Common" had attracted a very large audience, showing how important the Society felt this subject to be. Both the December meeting, a talk by Mr. Aubrey Boutwood on "The Rothschilds and their Chiltern Heritage" and the latest one in February by Mr. Tom Gladwin of the Herts & Middlesex Trust for Nature Conservation, were also well attended and created interest in members, although slightly different from the usual pattern of the Society's meetings. Mrs. Russell then went on to review the work of the general committee and the sub-groups of the Society who she said worked hard to contribute in a positive way to the maintenance and improvement of our local amenities.

The Plans Group had made representation to the District Council on a number of matters with a varying degree of success.

The Commons Group have constantly pressed for action to prevent cars from parking on the Common and at last action has been taken by the Council on this matter. The Commons Group was much involved with a campaign to clear litter from the Common and it will continue to work with the Conservation Corps and the Council on the management of the Common.

The Tree Group had initiated a scheme to replace some of the trees affected by Dutch elm disease and work was about to begin to replace trees in Stewart Road. This group had also been very active in securing tree preservation orders on trees which were threatened by development plans.

Minutes of A.G.M. - 16th March 1976 (Contd.)

2. Chairman's Report (Contd.)

The Footpaths Group had arranged and members had enjoyed a very pleasant walk to Redbourn via Rothamstead Park.

The Executive Committee had been working to increase the Society's membership and this had been achieved by two special membership drives. A special projects group had made a study of the central area of Southdown and had made some imaginative suggestions for the improvement of that area of Harpenden. The Committee had had a very informative meeting with members of the District Council's Planning Committee and this had considerably improved our contact with the local authorities.

The Chairman then called for volunteers to aid in the distribution of the Society's newsletters in order to cut costs of postage, and to take a greater interest in sub-group activities.

Finally Mrs. Russell referred to the Society's stand at the Spotlight on Leisure exhibition, which had attracted attention and, as a result, some new members were enrolled.

The President thanked Mrs. Russell for her excellent report.

3. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Borthwick presented the Accounts and referred to the Analysis of Income and Expenditure which had been circulated to members. The balance in hand was £128.72. The Treasurer made reference to the greatly increased cost of hiring the hall for meetings and to the increase in costs of production of newsletters to members.

The figure of £128.72 included £45.30 which belongs to the Upper Lea Valley Group. In future this group will have a separate account, although it will still be part of the Harpenden Society.

The report was seconded and received by the meeting.

4. Election of Officers

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected.

Mr. C.P. Smith was reappointed Hon. Auditor.

5. Election to the General Committee

There were four vacancies to be filled and the following members had been nominated and seconded:

Mr. Ward  
Miss Spurr

Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Usher

There being no other nominations, the above were elected and welcomed to the Committee.

Minutes of A.G.M. - 16th March 1976 (Contd.)

6. The Annual Dinner

The President called on Miss Pratt to give the final details of the 4th Annual Dinner to be held on April 7th.

7. Under "Any Other Business" a member referred to the death during the year of Mr. George, a Vice-President. The President, Chairman and Secretary all regretted that they had not heard this sad news until this moment. The President at once paid tribute to Mr. George.

Another member then suggested that the Executive Committee should, at its next meeting, discuss the appointment of two Vice-Presidents.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded.

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Following the business meeting, the President introduced Mr. John McKenna, Chief Technical Officer of the St. Albans District Council, who spoke to the meeting on the future plans for Harpenden Town Centre. An animated discussion followed Mr. McKenna's talk, with particular emphasis on the management of traffic.

The President thanked Mr. McKenna for his talk.

*R. Graham Dow  
7 March 1977*



## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 29th April 1976  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs. Russell  
Lady Bawden, Mr. Borthwick, Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Evans,  
Mr. Parsons, Miss Spurr, Mr. Usher and Mr. Ward  
Later - Mrs. Catterfeld and Mr. Curl

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Booth, Mr. Dixon  
and Mrs. Jones

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February were approved.

2. The Chairman, Mrs. Russell, gave a warm welcome to the <sup>four</sup> ~~three~~ new members of the committee: Miss Spurr, ~~Mr. Evans~~ and Mr. Parsons, ~~Mr. Usher~~, Mr. Ward and

### 3. REPORT ON ANNUAL DINNER

Mrs. Russell said that the dinner had been a great success; everyone had enjoyed Lord Hill's speech and the entertainment by the Company of Ten from St. Albans very much indeed. Mr. Borthwick, the Treasurer, reported that a small profit had resulted from the dinner. It was agreed, on the suggestion of Lady Bawden, to minute the thanks of the committee to the Dinner Sub-Committee, Mr. Sava ge, Miss Pratt and Mr. Derrett, and to make preliminary arrangements for a dinner in 1977.

### 4. REPORT ON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Secretary reported on the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 26th April in the Small Public Hall. Mrs. Elliott reported on the activities of the Parish Council in the spheres of planning, management of the Common and finance. Three motions had been put from the floor: (i) on the proposed re-routing of the St. George's footpath; (ii) on the anomalies arising from the ward boundaries in Harpenden and the effect this had on voting at local elections; and (iii) on the recommendation that the Parish Council should have responsibility for the local bus shelters. She further reported that there had been some discussion on the intrusion of politics into local parish affairs.

### 5. FORMATION OF SUB-GROUPS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

#### (a) The Common

Lady Bawden agreed to be convenor of the group. Mr. Ward and Mr. Curl said they would be glad to join the group, and it was resolved to ask Miss ~~Pratt~~ and Miss Ashworth and Mr. H. Nixon to be associated with their work.

Football Pavilion and Carpark - Following the formation of the group Mr. Evans reported that the Harpenden Rovers Football Club had approached him with the request that he might possibly advise the club on the plan for the proposed changing rooms and carpark. Some discussion followed and finally a vote was taken on the proposition that the Society should now use its best efforts to

ensure that the changing rooms impinged as little as possible on the amenity of that area of the Common. This was carried by eight votes to one. Mr. Usher was not in favour and indicated that he would prefer that the proposal to erect changing rooms and a carpark should still be opposed. It was agreed that Mr. Usher would give all the information, particularly regarding the area of permanent car parking which would be lost to the Common, to the new Parish Council.

Carparking on the Common - Lady Bawden raised the matter of the erosion of the grass at the entrance to Rothamsted Park. Mr. Usher said that the Parish Council was taking further steps to protect the grass, and that there would inevitably be alterations to the area when the new roundabout was finally built.

(b) Footpaths

Mr. Roger Evans had expressed an interest, and it was resolved to ask him to be convenor. Mr. Peel and Professor Morton had also indicated that they were interested in this group.

(c) Trees

Mrs. Jones had said she would like to join this group, and Mr. Scowan, Mrs. Goss and Mr. Derrett were to be approached with a view to continuing in the group.

Mrs. Russell reported on the activities of the group in planting trees in Stewart Road, and asked for suggestions for other tree planting sites.

Mr. Borthwick mentioned Sherwood Rise, and Mr. Curl the corner of Piggottshill and the Wheathampstead Road.

(d) Plans

The formation of this group provoked some discussion. Mr. Evans and Mr. Usher felt that it would not need to meet separately as long as the lists of plans were well scrutinised. Those committee members who were interested would meet to formulate new arrangements for the most effective method of commenting on proposed plans. Mr. Evans agreed to convene this first meeting. Miss Spurr agreed to receive the list of planning applications now that Mrs. Goss had retired from the committee. Mr. Usher pointed out that members of the Harpenden Society committee who are also on the Parish Council would be able to bring comments before the Parish Council Plans Committee.

Mr. Borthwick urged everyone to see and comment on the plans proposed for the development of the area between Piggottshill and Crabtree Lane. The District Council was arranging for these to be on display in the Public Library from 10th-15th May.

(e) New Projects

Mr. Evans said that the scheme for the redevelopment of South Harpenden would require money, and considerable effort on the part of the Society. He had had a meeting with an official of the council. Mr. Curl said that the District Council was most sympathetic to the proposals. Mr. Ward reminded the committee that the Cross Lane development would make this area very important. Both Mr. Usher and Mr. Parsons said they were interested in working on new projects, but the formation of a group was postponed until a future meeting.

6. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Elliott reported briefly on letters from societies and trusts to which this Society is affiliated.

The Small Public Hall had been booked for the 1976/77 meetings on the following dates:

Wednesday, 22nd September 1976  
Wednesday, 1st December  
Wednesday, 2nd February 1977  
Monday, 7th March (AGM)  
Tuesday, 10th May

She agreed to discuss with Mr. Gladwin the possibility of arranging a visit by the Society to the nature reserve at Lemsford Springs.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Mr. Smith, a teacher at St. George's, had <sup>telephoned</sup> ~~written to~~ the Society to suggest that all schools in the area should be approached with a view to providing a rota for clearing litter from the Common. Mr. Curl thought the Society should give badges to pupils who joined the campaign, and Mr. Ward suggested that a certificate be offered to successful schools.
- (b) Mr. Parsons raised the matter of publicity for the Society and its activities and the desirability of increased membership, especially among young active people. He agreed to formulate some proposals towards these ends.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, 18th May at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

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Anne Russell



## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 18th May 1976  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs. Russell

Mr. Booth, Mrs. Catterfeld, Mrs. Elliott, Mr. R. Evans,  
Mr. Savage, Mr. Scowan, Miss Spurr, Mr. Usher *Mr Ward.*  
In addition, Mrs. Goss and Mrs. Johnstone were present  
to hear Mr. H. Nixon (item 3.a)

Apologies for absence were received from Lady Bawden, Mr. Borthwick,  
Mrs. Cunneen, Mr. Dixon, Mr. A. Evans, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Parsons

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th April were approved, and there were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 2. REPORT ON JOINT MEETING HELD ON 11TH MAY

Mrs. Elliott reported on the joint meeting with the St. Albans Civic Society. This had been well attended, and the films made and shown by Mr. & Mrs. Catterfeld on the work done by the Upper Lea Valley Group at Batford were very good indeed and were much appreciated by an enthusiastic audience. Then Mr. Geraint John of the St. Albans Civic Society described the development of the French Row scheme, emphasising the close liaison between the Civic Society and the District Council. In thanking the speakers, Judge Dow said that we were glad to welcome members of the St. Albans Civic Society and we hoped that there would be similar reciprocal meetings.

### 3. REPORTS FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

#### (a) Common Group

Mr. Harold Nixon addressed the committee on the future management of the Common. He spoke as a member of the Herts & Middx. Trust for Nature Conservation, emphasising that although there were many areas of agreement on policy for the Common between the Trust and the Harpenden Society, on this occasion he was representing solely the views of the Trust. He described the work done by the Conservation Corps and indicated that they might be involved in future work parties. The area near St. John's church, including the prickle dells, needed particular attention. The lower part of this area might be developed as an oak wood, while scrub cover was encouraged in the area between the A.6 and Walkers Road. The Trust recommended that thinning should be very carefully controlled, any proposals it made would be put to the Parish Council. He hoped that the Harpenden Society would continue to be involved in safe-guarding the Common.

In the discussion which followed Mrs. Johnstone and Mrs. Goss expressed concern at the changes taking place in the nature of the prickle dells as a result of clearance, and they hoped that the Common would remain an area to be enjoyed by everyone. Mr. Scowan and Mrs. Johnstone spoke about the disappearance of some birds and butterflies due to loss of their normal habitat. Mrs. Russell thanked Mr. Nixon for coming to speak to the committee.

Mr. Ward had written to Mrs. Russell, Lady Bawden and the Secretary with suggestions for a campaign to involve school children in keeping the Common tidy. He suggested a project for schools involving history, natural history and ecology, together with a system of awards. Mrs. Russell said she had been in touch with Mr. Smith from St. George's school, who had organised previous

'cleaning up' operations on the Common, and he had agreed to consider the form of a letter to be sent to local head teachers.

(b) Plans Group

Mr. Usher agreed to receive a set of plans from the District Council and to bring before the committee any plans which he considered controversial. Miss Spurr and Mr. A. Evans would also monitor planning applications.

(c) Tree Group

No report was received.

(d) Footpaths Group

Mr. Roger Evans agreed to report to the committee particularly on footpaths which were becoming lost to the public. Mrs. Russell reminded the committee of the walks being organised in the locality by the Upper Lea Valley Group and the Harpenden & St. Albans Footpaths Society.

(e) Special Projects Group

It was decided that Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward and, it was hoped, Mr. A. Evans would re-open the project to improve the Southdown shopping area as an immediate objective, with other projects for the future to be considered later.

(f) Upper Lea Valley Group

Mrs. Catterfeld reported that much of the activity of this group was concentrated at the moment on Batford's effort in the Best Kept Village Competition. She described the efforts of the many local organisations involved in response to a circular, and also the help received from I hof-Bedco who had agreed to design, print and distribute a leaflet about the competition.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

September 22nd - Mrs. Russell agreed to contact Mr. J. Curl who will speak on 'Erosion of our landscape and townscape'.  
December 1st - A 'Brains Trust' was proposed, and it was agreed to serve mulled wine and mincepies as last year.  
February 2nd - Possibly a talk on the project concerning the Southdown area.  
March 7th - A.G.M. Mr. R. Evans agreed to explore the possibility of a speaker from the Footpaths Society  
May 10th - A film from the Civic Trust

Mrs. Russell also agreed to try and arrange an outing to Lemsford Springs to see the nature reserve there.

5. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

A letter had been received from LADACAN, and it was agreed to send a letter of support, together with a request that the Society be informed of future activities, as the threat of airport development in the South-East is ever present

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Usher raised the matter of the proposed Pelican crossings in the High Street. He suggested, and it was generally agreed, that the pedestrian barriers (an integral part of the scheme to introduce such crossings) should be resisted. Objections should be made to all the members of the Parish Council so that they were fully aware of the detrimental effect these would have on the view of the High Street.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday, 15th June at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.



## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 15th June 1976  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell - in the chair  
Mr. Booth, Mr. Borthwick, Mrs. Catterfeld, Mrs. Cunneen,  
Mr. Curl, Mrs. Elliott, Mr. A. Evans, Mrs. Jones,  
Mr. Parsons, Mr. Scowan, Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward

An apology for absence was received from Miss Spurr.

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May were approved, subject to the inclusion of the name of Mr. Ward among those present.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING

Clean Up the Common Campaign - Nothing further had yet been heard from Mr. J. Smyth of St. George's School. Mr. Ward would get in touch with him to see how matters were progressing. There was little time left to institute a campaign before the end of the summer term.

### 3. REPORTS FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

#### (a) Tree Group

No report was received. Concern was expressed that one of the group of trees at the Silver Cup was suffering from Dutch Elm disease. Mrs. Jones would be co-opted as a member of the Group.

#### (b) Common Group

The committee expressed concern about the chestnut paling on the Common. It prevented car parking, but was most unsightly. Mr. Curl explained that the fencing had been put up as a temporary measure by the Parish Council. They would be considering more permanent measures at their next meeting. The merits and demerits of other and less unsightly forms of barrier, such as 'dragon's teeth' or ditching, were discussed. Concern was also expressed at the scarcity of litterbins on the Common. Mr. Curl confirmed that litterbins were the responsibility of the Parish Council.

It was agreed to write to the Parish Council on both these matters.

#### (c) Plans Group

Pelican crossings in High Street - Mr. Usher reported that he had received most helpful information from the Highways Department of the County Council. The crossings would not be installed until after the Bull Road roundabout had been completed, i.e. not before next summer at the earliest. Their exact layout had not yet been finalised. The erection of pedestrian barriers was not mandatory, but they were 'recommended' by the Department of the Environment. It was a statutory requirement that the crossings should be at least 20 metres from any road junction; hence the reason for the proposed closure of the road between Lloyds Bank and Barclays Bank, which was advertised recently in the local press.

Mr. Curl reported that both the District Council and the Parish Council supported the Pelican crossings.



Strong views were expressed both against the Pelican crossings, although with some dissensions, and against the erection of pedestrian barriers. Votes were taken, and the committee opposed unanimously the erection of pedestrian barriers and by a large majority the replacement of the existing pedestrian crossings by Pelican crossings.

It was decided that, as a first step, Mr. Parsons and Mr. Usher should ask the County Council to substantiate their case for the traffic need for these crossings. Copies of the correspondence would be sent to the District Council and to the Parish Council.

New Shop Front, 34A High Street - The new shop front proposed by Messrs. Franklins was identical to that recently installed two doors away at John Curt. The sign over the arched doorway was too large and obtrusive. It was agreed that the construction of two identical shop fronts within such a short distance was detrimental to the character of the conservation area. Mr. Usher agreed to write to the District Council, on the Society's behalf, opposing the application.

Improvements to Regency Service Station, Linden Motors - Mr. Usher reported that he had been able to inspect this application only briefly. The proposal would involve a new canopy projecting to pavement level, and a new kiosk, well forward of the existing one.

It was agreed that these proposals appeared to be most objectionable. Mr. U. would examine the application in detail, and if necessary, write to the District Council, objecting on the Society's behalf.

Showroom at 100 Luton Road - It was decided not to oppose the application for a new showroom for G.F. Tuffin.

(d) Footpaths Group

Another newsletter would soon be issued, incorporating news about the Upper Lea Valley Group, and their programme of walks. Mr. Roger Evans had contacted the Ramblers' Association, who had agreed to provide a speaker and slides for the A.G.M. next March.

(e) Special Projects Group

Mr. Anthony Evans agreed to take charge of the Group. Mr. Taylor of 18 Greenway was suggested as a possible member of the Group. Mr. Curl stated that officers had made a report to the Highways Committee of the District Council on the future development of the Southdown shopping centre, having regard to the additional 800 homes now being built. Suggestions were made for more shops, reorganisation of parking facilities, realignment of Cravells Road, etc. The proposals would take 2-3 years to implement, and there would, of course, be opportunity for public discussion. He would see if the Society could be given a copy of the report. Concern was expressed at the effect on the Southdown amenities of the vast new signal gantry put up on bridge over Walkers Road by British Rail.

(f) Upper Lea Valley Group

Mrs. Catterfeld reported that the ULVG Committee had met the previous evening. They had invited Councillor Harold Beck to be present, and had had a most useful and interesting discussion on the various problems of the area, including litterbins, dumping, parking on the Lower Luton Road, etc.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

23rd June - A visit to Lemsford Springs at 7.30 p.m. Numbers were limited, and Mrs. Russell would try to arrange a further visit in the autumn for other interested members.

22nd September - Mr. J. Curl will speak on 'Erosion of our landscape and townscape'. He was the architect responsible for Architectural Heritage Year in Scotland, and has written several books on the subject of conservation. A special projector will be needed for his talk.

1st December - Proposed Brains Trust. The names of Mr. Usher, Mr. Curl, Mrs. Coburn, Mr. Pettingale and Miss Thurston were suggested as members, and Judge Dow would be invited to take the chair.

2nd February 1977 - Possible talk on the Southdown area.

7th March - A.G.M. The Ramblers' Association had agreed to provide a speaker and slides.

10th May - A film from the Civic Trust. The suggestion was for a 20-minute film on Windsor and a talk by Mr. George Perkin, editor of 'Concrete Quarterly', on 'Pedestrianisation - Towns on Foot'.

5. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Gibb of 10 Grange Court Road had written to the Society enclosing copies of his correspondence with the District Council about his objection to the advertisements in MacFisheries supermarket. It appeared from the Council's reply that there was little they could, or would, do. Committee members agreed that the posters were most objectionable. It was decided to write to MacFisheries Head Office, with a copy to the local manager, pointing out the need for special treatment in a conservation area. If need be, copies of the correspondence would be sent to the local press.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Objection was raised to the large sign which had recently appeared outside Rothamsted Experimental Station, and to the multiplicity of other signs being erected. Mr. Curl thought the sign had been approved by the Parish Council.
- (b) Mrs. Russell reported that she had accepted with pleasure on the Society's behalf an invitation to lunch and the ceremony of presentation of the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement to Rothamsted Experimental Station.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 15th July at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

*J. M. B. Barthwick*

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## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 15th July 1976  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mr. Borthwick - in the chair  
Lady Bawden, Mr. Booth, Mrs. Cunneen, Mrs. Elliott (part-time),  
Mrs. Jones, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Scowan, Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Catterfeld,  
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. R. Evans and Mr. P. Usher.

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th June were approved and signed.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING

#### (a) Clean-up the Common campaign

Mr. Ward had heard from Mr. J. Smyth, who informed him that some 200 children from St. George's School, under the direction of the Chaplain, would carry out a clean up of the Common on 22nd July. They would need two skips to be provided, one at the Three Horsehoes and the other at the Prickle Dells, and a quantity of plastic bags. Mr. Parsons, as a representative of the Parish Council, agreed to arrange for these to be provided and to inform Mr. Smyth. Lady Bawden would inform Mrs. Johnstone of the arrangements. Unfortunately it was too late to involve members of the Society generally in the campaign.

#### (b) Car parking on the Common

Lady Bawden said she had expressed her dislike of the chestnut paling on the Common to Councillors Curl and Fulton. She mentioned a very good scheme at Harrow Weald, where a gravelled fringe area was reserved for parking, but 18" high posts prevented parking further in. Mr. Scowan, and others agreed, that we did not want even fringe parking on the Common.

Mr. Parsons said that he was a member of the sub-committee which the Parish Council had set up to consider all aspects of parking on the Common. His preliminary view was that a small area of land, near the Silver Cup, might be reserved for parking.

Mrs. Elliott reported she had written to the Parish Council expressing our views. It was decided to await their reply.

#### (c) Pelican Crossings in the High Street

Mr. Parsons reported that he and Mr. Usher had been mistaken in their belief that the replacement of pedestrian crossings by Pelican crossings had to be justified on traffic grounds. Traffic criteria were the same for both; it was purely a matter of subjective assessment which one was chosen.

They had, therefore, decided that there was no point in writing to the County Council on this aspect. Instead Mr. Usher ~~had written~~ to the press, with the purpose of initiating public discussion on the proposed change. The letter had yet to appear.

*would write*

### 3. REPORTS FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

#### (a) Tree Group

No report was received. Mrs. Jones stated that the tree at the Silver Cup had been felled. Concern was expressed at the number of trees in many



prominent places being lost through Dutch Elm disease. It was suggested that the Tree Group should keep a list of the trees which needed to be replaced, and Mr. Scowan undertook to put this in hand.

(b) Common Group

Lady Bawden thought that, before the Society could express its views or give advice on matters affecting the Common, it needed to have a clearer idea of who was legally responsible for what <sup>was</sup> on the Common. She suggested four areas in which the Group should particularly interest itself: (i) cleaning up the Common; (ii) the exact legal responsibility for the Common; (iii) the nature of the leases on the Common; and (iv) cleaning up of the ponds. She was at present looking into the latest guide to the law of commons.

Mr. Ward drew attention to a report in the Herts Advertiser, commending the efforts of two young men, who had voluntarily cleaned out the drainage ponds in the recent hot weather. Mrs. Jones proposed, and Miss Spurr seconded her suggestion, that we should write to them expressing the Society's gratitude for their public spirited action.

(c) Plans Group

No report had been received. Miss Spurr did not think any plans of interest to the Society had been submitted recently.

(d) Footpaths Group

No report received.

(e) Special Projects Group

No report received.

(f) Upper Lea Valley Group

No report received. Lady Bawden would enquire from Mrs. Catterfeld the possibility of showing part of the ULVG film at the A.G.M. of the Playing Fields Association on 15th October. This would be most appropriate, as the Playing Fields Association had made grants towards playing facilities in the area.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

September 22nd - Mr. J. Curl will speak on 'Erosion of our landscape and townscape'.

December 1st - Proposed Brains Trust. Replies are awaited.

1977

February 2nd - Possible talk on the Southdown area.

March 7th - A.G.M., followed by speaker from Ramblers' Association.

May 10th - Mr. George Perkin will speak on 'Pedestrianisation - Towns on Foot'. The Civic Trust had agreed to supply their film on Windsor.

5. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

MacFisheries had replied to our letter objecting to the posters in the supermarket, suggesting that we might design suitable material for the window. The letter had been passed to Mr. Usher for action.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Mr. A. Evans had asked Mr. Usher to look into the fencing being erected round 'The Engineer', St. John's Road. The pub was being extensively rebuilt and modernised. The alterations were not too objectionable, but the fencing was extremely ugly.
- (b) Mr. Borthwick stated that the Newsletter was prepared and printed. In view of absence on holiday, more volunteers might be needed for distribution.
- (c) Mr. Parsons pointed out that next year would be the International Year of the Cyclist. It was agreed generally that more provision for cyclists should be supported and encouraged. Mention was made of many successful schemes in other towns and countries. The matter would be looked into further at a later meeting.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 16th September at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

\* \* \* \* \*

Anne Russell

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 16 September, 1976  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair  
Lady Bawden (part-time), Mr. Booth, Mr. Borthwick,  
Mrs. Catterfield, Mrs. Cunean, Mrs. Elliott,  
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. R. Evans, Mrs. M. Jones, Mr. Parsons,  
Mr. Scowen, Miss Spurr, Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward.

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

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July were approved and signed.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING

#### (a) Pelican Crossings in the High Street

Mr. Usher had not yet written to the Press but would do so as soon as possible.

#### (b) Posters in MacFisheries Supermarket

Mr. Usher agreed to look into possibilities of improving the design of the posters in the windows.

### 3. VISIT TO LEMS福德 SPRINGS NATURE RESERVE

Mrs. Russell reported that about 15 members had a pleasant and instructive visit on 23 June. Mr. Tom Gladwin, the Warden, had agreed to receive another party one weekend during the autumn. It was hoped to announce the date at the September meeting.

### 4. REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS

#### (a) Common Group

Mr. Ward reported that staff and children from St. George's School had cleared rubbish from the Common on 22 July. Mr. Ward and Mr. Parsons agreed to arrange with Mr. J. Smyth for a similar operation next year. They felt that an extra effort should be made in Jubilee Year and that adults should be asked to join in.

Lady Bawden had ascertained from Mr. Pettingale that the ponds on the Common were part of the surface drainage system and were managed by the Highways Department of the District Council, to whom any complaints should be addressed. They needed to be cleaned out periodically and the pond nearest to Crabtree Lane, which had a gravel bottom, needed to be ploughed at intervals. No work had been done on them since the amalgamation of the Councils.

Lady Bawden had received from Mr. Nixon particulars of proposals for management of the Common which had been sent to the Parish Council. She also reported that the Nature Conservation Corps would carry out more clearance work in the Walkers Road area in the autumn.

#### (b) Plans Group

Mr. Usher reported on several plans which he thought should be noted but to which he proposed no objection.

In reply to a question from Mrs. Russell about proposed flats at 1, Milton Road, Mr. Usher said the Society had not objected to the first application but had asked to have a tree



preservation order on the site.

Mr. A. Evans suggested that more co-operation was needed between members of the Plans Group before Mr. Usher presented his report to the Committee. It was agreed that any major developments should, if possible, be discussed with the Planning Officer.

COUNTY

Mrs. Russell reported that the Parish Council had discussed a scheme proposed by the District Council for making one-way roads at the top of the Common and re-siting the football pavilion. No decision had been reached. She agreed to ask for further information from the Chief Planning Officer and for an opportunity to comment later.

A proposal from Mr. Usher that the Society should make an annual award to a developer and architect for good design was discussed but a decision was deferred until the next committee meeting.

(c) Tree Group

No report was received. It was agreed that Mr. Scowen should be convenor of the Group and that Mrs. Goss should be asked to serve.

(d) Footpaths Group

Mr. R. Evans reported that a senior member of the Ramblers' Association had agreed to give a talk at the Annual General Meeting on 7 March, 1977. If necessary the talk could be given before the general meeting to enable the speaker to leave in good time to return to London.

(e) Lea Valley Group

Mrs. Catterfield said the Group were organising two more walks this season. She reported that the District Council had suggested that the cement-lined pool in Marquis Lane Playing Field be filled in with alternately-coloured paving stones.

Mr. Usher reported that Batford had come fourth in the Best-kept Village Competition. It was decided to enter again next year, and that the Committee should produce a newsletter telling of the results achieved.

The next Group Newsletter would be published towards the end of November.

(f) Special Projects Group

Mr. A. Evans reported on proposals by the Planning Officer of the District Council for the development of the car park site at Southdown. He thought little could be done at this stage except keep a watchful eye on the situation and ask Mr. McKenna to keep him informed of developments.

Mr. Usher suggested that the portion of Station Road including the railway bridge and the corners of Milton and Carlton Roads had many eyesores, and would make a suitable area for a special project. Mrs. Russell thought it would be a suitable subject for the Society's stand at the next Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition.

5. FUTURE MEETINGS

On Wednesday, 22 September, Mr. James Curl, Herts County Council Consultant on Historic Buildings, would speak on "The Erosion of our Townscape" and show slides.

6. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Elliott said one more member was needed for the panel for the Brains Trust on 1 December, and it was decided to ask Mr. Colin Curl. The other members of the panel would be Mrs. Amy Coburn, Miss Joan Thurston and Mr. Usher.

Mr. Pettingale had replied about the removal of the chestnut paling fence near the Park entrance saying the Council thought it should remain until the end of the holiday season. He also pointed out that litter-picking was still done by Council staff.

The Council for the Preservation of Rural England had appealed for a donation. It was agreed to have a collecting box at the meeting on 22 September.

Herts. Federation of Amenity Societies and Herts Federation of Rights of Ways Societies had sent Newsletters.

Herts and Middlesex Trust for Nature Conservation asking for subscription.

Mayor of St. Albans inviting the Society to take part in the Jubilee Celebrations and asking for a donation to the Prince of Wales Appeal. 50% of the sum raised by a district is returned to be spent on projects for young people. Mr. Parsons agreed to discuss this request with Mr. Ward and Mr. Smyth.

Civic Trust confirming booking of film on Windsor for 10 May.  
Churchill Scholarships giving particulars.

Mrs. Elliott would invite Mr. Christopher Hall, Director of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, to speak at the extra meeting in February. If he could not come, suggestions for a speaker would be sought at the October committee meeting.

A copy of "Local Amenity Movements", produced by the Civic Trust, had been bought.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Russell thought another membership drive was needed and should be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Ward expressed concern at the District Council's proposal to close the Municipal Works Depot at Dark Lane. It was agreed that it was very important that the skips for domestic waste should remain there, and it was suggested that Mr. Ward should get in touch with Mr. Archie Hunt on the matter.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19 October at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Anne Russell

19th October

1976

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 19th October, 1976  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair  
Lady Bawden, Mr. Borthwick, Mrs. Cuneen, Mr. Curl  
(part-time), Mr. Scowen, Miss Spurr, Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. R. Evans, Mr. A. Evans,  
Mr. R. Dixon, Mr. J. Savage. *Miss Jones*

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September were approved and signed.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Lady Bawden and Mr. Ward agreed to walk over the Common prior to the clearance work to be done by the Nature Conservation Corps to assess what it is required to do.
- (b) During some discussion on the proposed development at 1, Milton Road, the Tree Group was asked to find out if preservation orders were in force for some of the more important trees. It was also agreed that every effort should be made to retain the surrounding flint wall.
- (c) Mr. Usher agreed to design a draft for the proposed award to be given by the Harpenden Society for the most sensitive development by an architect and/or builder to be completed in a year.

### 3. OPEN MEETING ON 22 SEPTEMBER

Mrs. Russell reported on the meeting, which was only fairly well attended. Mr. Curl was a forceful and entertaining speaker with excellent slides showing The Erosion of the Environment, but he made few positive suggestions for improving matters. Lady Bawden pointed out that the date of this meeting clashed with an activity at Rothamsted and agreed to enquire about future dates of Rothamsted Music Society meetings to avoid such a clash.

### 4. REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS

#### (a) Common Group

The Group consists of Lady Bawden (Convenor), Mrs. M. Johnstone, Miss M. Pratt, Miss M. Ashford, Mr. Nixon (Adviser), Mr. Ward and Mr. Curl.

Lady Bawden expressed concern about the ponds on the Common. She said that while they were excellently managed under the former Parish Council, now that they were the responsibility of the District Council nothing had been done to remove silt and so allow free flow of rain water. The Secretary was asked to write to Mr. McKenna on the suggestion of Mr. Curl, to request action by the District Council.

#### (b) Plans

The Group consists of Mr. P. Usher (Convenor), Mr. A. Evans, Miss Spurr, Mrs. Cuneen and Mr. R. Dixon.

Mr. Usher reported that there were no controversial plans, but interest was shown by the committee in proposed development at the rear of 65, High Street, and also at the Glen Eagle Hotel. The general feeling was that in the latter case apart from a blank wall facing Kirkdale Road, there was nothing exceptional; it was agreed



that all new brickwork should match the existing structure. It was agreed by Mr. Scowen that the Tree Group would look at and list any desirable trees on the Glen Eagle's site.

(c) TREE GROUP

The Tree Group consists of Mr. Scowen (Convenor), Mrs. Goss, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Derrit and Dr. Potter. No report.

(d) Footpaths Group

Mr. R. Evans. No report.

(e) Lea Valley Group

Mr. Usher reported in Mrs. Catterfield's absence on the publicity given to the Lea Valley project by a visit from John Hillaby, the long distance walker, and a competition promoted by Kodak for the best photograph of the Lea Valley project. Lady Bawden said that Mrs. Catterfield had shown the film of the project at the Herts Playing Fields Association Annual General Meeting and that the film had been very well received.

(f) Special Projects Group

Mr. Evans had written to Mr. McKenna but had had no reply. Mr. Usher had made little progress so far on the project for the area of Station Road at its junctions with Carlton Road and Milton Road, nor on the attempt to improve the advertising display area at Mac Fisheries store. Mr. Curl felt there had been some improvement.

5. DECEMBER MEETING

The Panel for the Brains Trust was now complete. Slips would be provided on the next Newsletter for members to send in questions. The Panel would be Mr. Curl (Local Government), Mr. Usher (Lea Valley), Mrs. Coburn (Local History), Miss Thurston (Botany). Mrs. Elliott agreed to provide mincepies for the meeting and Mrs. Russell agreed to make punch.

Mrs. Elliott was very pleased to report that Mr. Christopher Hall, Director of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, had agreed to speak on 2 February. It was agreed to publicise the meeting and to invite the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The National Trust, St. Albans Civic Society, the Footpaths Association and the Herts. & Middlesex Trust for Nature Conservation.

The meetings arranged for 7 March and 10 May were briefly discussed and it was agreed to ask Mr. J. Savage to make arrangements for the Annual Dinner.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Council for the Preservation of Rural England confirming that Mr. C. Hall (Director) would be pleased to come to talk on 2 February, and acknowledging with thanks a cheque from Harpenden Society for £15., £5. of which was collected at the last meeting.

St. Albans Civic Society listing points made to the Department of the Environment concerning the Toxic Waste Plant at Redbournbury.

Principal Engineer, City and District of St. Albans concerning possible traffic arrangement at Cravells Road. Nothing had been decided yet.

Two invitations from Mr. J. Fryd, Chairman of the Parish Council,

to take part in a special service at St. Nicholas on United Nations' Sunday and to attend a meeting to discuss celebrations for the Silver Jubilee of the Queen's Accession.

Invitation from the Mayor of St. Albans to attend a Charity Ball in aid of the Society for Mentally Handicapped Children on 30 November.

Newsletters from Council for the Preservation of Rural England and Herts. Federation of Amenity Societies.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Usher outlined his proposals for the Award Scheme for sensitive development in building in Harpenden for the benefit of committee members who had arrived late.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16 November at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Anne Russell

16th November 1976

N.B. Next committee meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 16th November, 1976  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair  
Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Borthwick, Mr. Booth, Mrs. Catterfeld,  
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. R. Evans, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Scowen,  
Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Cuneen, Mr. Curl,  
Mr. Parsons, Mr. Savage and Mr. Usher.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING held on 19 October were approved and signed.

2. REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS

(a) Common Group

In Lady Bawden's absence Mr. Ward reported on a visit by members of the Group to East Common on 11 November. They were concerned at the damage to the grass on the West side of the Brickeldells caused by car parking in wet conditions. They felt that efforts should be made to prevent motorists penetrating far from Walkers Road.

The Group looked at the area to be managed by the Conservation Corps on 18 and 19 December, but in the absence of Mr. Nixon, it was not sure what work was proposed. The Committee felt a certain amount of disquiet about the treatment of the area, and it was agreed that Lady Bawden should be asked to discuss this with Mr. Nixon.

(b) Plans

Mrs. Jones said that the report in the local press on proposed new buildings at Rothamsted was inaccurate. The architect had offered to discuss the plans with the Society, and it was agreed that Mrs. Russell, Mr. A. Evans and Mr. Ward should meet him.

A plan of the proposed road scheme at Bull Road was exhibited. It was agreed that the Sub-Group should examine this and ask for details of lighting at the roundabout and Bull Road.

Mrs. Russell reported that three alternative plans for the Southdown development would be on show at Southdown Methodist Church from 24-27 November. Mr. A. Evans agreed to prepare a recommendation for the best plan.

Mrs. Russell reported that planning permission for an extension to the Glen Eagle Hotel had been refused.

(c) Trees

Mr. Scowen reported Mrs. Goss was consulting Mr. Arnold about trees at Aldwickbury, Milton Road, Glen Eagle Hotel and Leyton Road.

A new light standard at the junction of Milton and Station Roads had left a gap and the Group proposed to replant if permission could be obtained from the owner. Mr. Usher should be informed as this is part of the area proposed for special development.

On Mr. Ward's suggestion the Golf Club Committee had agreed to seek Mr. Arnold's guidance on any future tree planting.

(d) Footpaths

Mr. R. Evans had written to the Ramblers' Association about the speaker for 7 March, 1977 but had received no reply.

(e) Lea Valley

Mrs. Catterfeld reported that another swing had been bought for Marquis Lane Playing Field with a grant from the Playing Fields Association. The old paddling pool still presented a problem. It was suggested that the best use might be as a sandpit, provided the sand could be changed frequently.



4. FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Savage had plans for the Annual Dinner in hand. It was proposed to invite the Bishop of St. Albans to speak.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

St. Albans District Council to say that the ponds on the Common were the responsibility of the Parish Council and the letter about their management had been passed to Mr. Pettingale.

Harpenden Trust - notice of Annual General Meeting.

Herts. Federation of Rights of Ways Societies - Newsletter.

Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition - Application form to take part in Exhibition on 24-26 March, 1977. It was agreed that the Society should have a stand.

Herts. Federation of Amenities Societies - Notice of Annual Meeting.

Two letters from new residents enquiring about membership.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In an effort to increase membership, it was agreed to distribute copies of the Newsletter and membership application forms to houses on the new Crabtree Lane estate.

Mr. A. Evans was concerned that the electrification of the Bedford to St. Pancras railway line would involve the erection of unsightly gantries. Although he knew that there was no possibility of any objection being considered, Mr. Evans agreed to ask British Rail for information on the siting of the gantries.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

N.B. The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, <sup>18th</sup> ~~11~~ January, 1977.

Anne Russell 18th January, 1977