

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 18th January, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mrs. Elliott, Lady Bawden (part-time), Mr. Borthwick,
Mrs. Cuneen, Mr. Curl (part-time), Mr. A. Evans,
Mr. R. Evans, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Savage (part-time), Mr. Scowen, Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward.

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

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING held on 16 November were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Proposed buildings at Rothamsted. Rothamsted had agreed to a meeting to discuss plans.
- (b) Lighting at Bull Road roundabout. Mr. McKenna had agreed to let Mr. Evans have details when the plans were completed.

3. REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS

(a) Common Group

Mr. Ward reported on behalf of Lady Bawden that the Conservation Corps had done some clearing on the East Common area on 18 and 19 December. She proposed the organisation of a group living nearby to continue the work. The suggestion was approved subject to the group working under the direction of Mr. Nixon to the plans approved by the Parish Council.

(b) Plans

Regret was expressed at the resignation of Mr. Usher. It was agreed that Bentley's old premises (now Taylor, Walker) had been very well converted.

No action would be taken on the proposed closure of the footpath near St. George's School.

(c) Trees

Mr. Scowen reported that Lady Bawden had written to the local press saying that the recently published photograph and letter about the elm trees opposite Bennetts was not a fair comment, and no mention was made of the young beeches planted in this area. Mr. Curl said it was known that the elms would have to be completely felled in a few years' time but it was thought they might provide a little foliage until then.

Mr. Curl reported that the poplar trees on Gilpin Green would be felled if thought dangerous by the Inspector of the Department of the Environment.

Mrs. Jones drew attention to the fact that flower beds were being laid out by residents on the South side of Hatching Green.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. C. Hall, director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, would speak on "The Landscape Landslide" on Wednesday, 2 February.

There would be a visit to Lehsford Nature Reserve on Sunday, 13 February.

Mr. Savage reported on arrangements for the Annual Dinner on 6 April.

planted at Bowers Way car park.

Mrs. Elliott agreed to write to the schools who had volunteered to look after the trees,

Mr. Dixon reported that some beech trees in Stewart Road had died and suggestions were made for their replacement.

2. (d) SPECIAL PROJECTS

Mr. Usher had agreed to design and order a plaque for the Society's Award Scheme.

3. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was decided to invite members of the local group of the National Trust to the meeting on 12 December, when Mr. Squires would talk about "Enterprise Neptune". Mince Pies and punch would be served.

There was general agreement to a proposal that a Cheese and Wine Party, costing about £1 per head, should be held instead of an Annual Dinner in 1978.

4. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Society for the Protection of Rural England - it was agreed to renew the annual subscription of £5.

Mr. P. Wilson - concerning an extension at the rear of Taylor, Walker's premises. It was not felt that the Society could object. Mr. Wilson also reported that the Local History Society were negotiating with the District Council for space at the Public Hall.

The Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition - It was agreed to take part in the exhibition to be held on 16, 17 and 18 March, 1978.

The Herts. Federation of Amenity Societies - invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting and showing of a film "Hertfordshire at risk" on 21 November. Mrs. Elliott agreed to try to attend.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Russell had been asked by the Headmaster of Woodend School if a member of the Society could speak to the children as the school had been chosen to take part in an EEC project on environment. Mrs. Elliott agreed to do this.

Miss Spurr asked for approval to order membership cards from the National Childrens' Home at £19.50 for 1,000. This was given.

Miss Spurr commented on the dangers of children using skateboards on public roads. Mrs. Elliott agreed to draw the attention of the Parish Council to this increasing problem.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on ~~Tuesday~~, Monday 17 January, 1978 at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

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Anne Russell

16th January 1978

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 15th February, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

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

Apologies for absence were received from Lady Bawden

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING held on 18th January were approved and signed.

REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS

(a) Plans

Mrs. Russell reported that she had been informed by the National Farmers' Union of a proposal in the 1977 Bedfordshire County Structure Plan for the future development of farm land at Thrales End to provide housing for 20,000 people. Objections were to be made by 24 February. Very great concern was felt and it was decided to take immediate action. Messrs. A. and R. Evans had looked into the details of the proposal, which the Beds County Council had refused to include in the 1976 County Structure Plan. Mr. A. Evans agreed to formulate the Society's objections and send them to Mr. Geoffrey Cowley, the County Planning Officer. He would send similar letters to Hertfordshire County Council, St. Albans District Council, Harpenden Parish Council, South Bedfordshire District Council, Conservation Society of Great Britain, Council for the Protection of Rural England, Hertfordshire Society, Local Ratepayers' Association, Herts. and Middx. Trust for Nature Conservation and the local Press asking them to support the Society's objections. Public opinion would be solicited later and the Society's stand at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition could publicise the proposal.

It was reported that plans for extensions at Rothamsted were now available and Miss Spurr agreed to inspect them.

(b) Trees

Mrs. Jones reported on the response to the appeal for trees. She had received £8. and several suggestions. Rothamsted would be responsible for replacing the elms outside the old chapel on West Common and the National Council of Women wished to plant a tree in memory of a member who had recently died. It was agreed that the Tree Group should draw up a list of suggestions for planting to be forwarded to the Parish Council.

(c) Common Group

In Lady Bawden's absence Mrs. Russell read a note from her saying she thought it was important to make clear that any clearing of the Common must be done through the Parish Council. If no action was taken to clear the ponds, she would write to the Ratepayers' Association.

(d) Footpaths

The Ramblers' Association had confirmed that they would provide a speaker for the meeting on 7 March.

(e) Lea Valley Group

Mrs. Catterfeld reported that a members' working party had started work on the project to improve the horse and pedestrian access path that connects Marquis Lane with the bridlepath to Leasey Bridge. Despite appeals in the Press, no volunteers had come forward. The Group's Annual Public Meeting was provisionally fixed for 15 April.

3. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting would be held on Monday, 7 March, followed by a talk by a representative of the Ramblers' Association.

Five members of the Committee were due to retire and proposals for nominations were made.

On 10 May a film on Windsor would be shown by a representative of the Civic Trust.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Hertfordshire Society - Newsletter

Civic Trust - giving details of an appeal against the use of 40 tonne lorries. It was decided to send a letter of objection. The Trust also appealed for a subscription of £2.50 towards the "Civic Trust News".

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition

It was now decided to make trees a feature of the exhibit.

Mr. E. Meadows was also providing photographs to illustrate the three themes - "Cause for Comment", "Cause for Commendation" and "Cause for Condemnation". If the proposed development at Thrales End was not ruled out at the meeting on 24th February, this would also be included in the exhibit.

Revised membership leaflets would be available.

Membership Campaign

In reply to a question from Mrs. Catterfeld, Mrs. Russell said the campaign on the Aldwickbury Estate had been disappointing and had produced only about five new members.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15 March at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Anne Russell
15th March 1977

Minutes of A.G.M. - 7th March, 1977 (contd.)

2. Chairman's Report (contd.)

The Commons Group had continued to cooperate with the Parish Council and the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Trust for Nature Conservation on the management of Harpenden Common. In December volunteers from the Conservation Corps had thinned out scrub and trees on the land in front of St. John's Church, and a group of East Common residents would continue to tidy up the area. Litter, car parking and the drainage ponds near Southdown Road were continuing problems and efforts were being made to solve them.

The Tree Group proposed to celebrate Jubilee Year by planting trees around Harpenden to replace some of those lost through drought and Dutch Elm disease. Donations to their "Plant a Tree for Jubilee" scheme had already been received and the Parish Council was cooperating, both by granting permission to plant and by providing trees. Mrs. Russell appealed for volunteers to help with planting and the after-care of the trees.

The Plans Group continued to monitor the weekly list of planning applications issued by the District Council. Development work in progress on sites formerly occupied by Rowe's bakery, Rolt's cycle shop and the Consumer Tea Company in the High Street, and on Gorseland's site on the Common, were being watched with interest by the Committee.

By far the most serious concern in connection with planning had been the recent inclusion of West Hyde in the Bedfordshire County Council's Structure Plan as a site for Luton overspill, housing possibly 20,000 people. This proposal had been rejected by Bedfordshire County Council as recently as last September. Messrs. Roger and Anthony Evans, both members of the Society's Committee, had worked hard to marshal the facts behind the present proposal and over 100 letters to local authorities, societies and interested people had been written to urge them to object before the meeting of the County Council at the end of February. The Issue had stirred up Harpenden as forcefully as had the suggestion to close the Red House, and scores of objections were made and hundreds of people signed petitions. At their meeting the County Council agreed to delete West Hyde from the structure plan, but the threat to the parish of Hyde as a whole still remained. The Parish Council had recorded its thanks to the Society for alerting the community to the danger of the structure plan, and Mrs. Russell took the opportunity of thanking the Evans brothers for their part in the action.

The Chairman then referred to the Spring activities of the Society - The Annual Dinner and the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition on 24th, 25th and 26th March, at which the Society would again exhibit. She appealed for volunteers to man the stand, which would give an excellent opportunity to recruit new members.

The President thanked Mrs. Russell for her excellent report.

Minutes of A.G.M. - 7th March, 1977 (contd.)

3. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Borthwick presented the Accounts and referred to the Analysis of Income and Expenditure which had been circulated to members. This showed a balance of £274.92½ in hand, a satisfactory state of affairs.

The report was seconded and received by the meeting.

4. Election of two Honorary Vice-Presidents

Mr. Colin Curl and Mr. E. P. Wilson were unanimously elected. Judge Dow paid tribute to their long association with the Society and their work for Harpenden. Mr. Curl replied saying he very much appreciated the honour the Society did him, and he hoped to continue to be actively interested in its work.

5. Election of Officers

The Chairman and Secretary were re-elected. Judge Dow said that it was with great regret that Mr. Borthwick's resignation had been received, and no-one had yet been found to replace him as Treasurer.

6. Election to the Executive Committee

Lady Bawden, Mrs. Cuneen, Mr. Curl and Mrs. M. Jones had retired under Rule 7, and Mr. Paul Usher had had to resign due to pressure of work. The following members had been nominated and seconded:-

Mr. M. Harrison
Mrs. M. Johnstone

Mr. I. Noble
Mr. D. Weston

There being no other nominations, the above were elected.

7. The Annual Dinner

The President called on Mr. John Savage to give the final details of the 5th Annual Dinner to be held on 6th April.

8. Any other business

Mr. M. Harrison, who had that evening attended a meeting of St. Albans District Council, reported that the Council was totally opposed to the proposal of Bedfordshire County Council to include West Hyde in its structure plan and would oppose it vigourously.

The meeting was then concluded.

Minutes of A.G.M. - 7th March, 1977 (contd.)

Following the business meeting, the President introduced Mr. David Sharp of the Ramblers' Association, who gave an interesting and well illustrated talk entitled "Footpath Story".

The President thanked Mr. Sharp for his talk.

R. Graham Dow
13/3/78

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 15 March, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Catterfield (part-time), Mr. Dixon,
Mr. R. Evans (part-time), Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Johnstone,
Mr. Noble, Mr. Scowen, Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. A. Evans
New members were welcomed. Mrs. Russell reported that
Mr. Borthwick had kindly agreed to act as Treasurer
until a successor could be found.

A proposal by Mr. Weston, seconded by Mr. Dixon, that
Vice-Presidents should be invited to attend committee
meetings as ex-officio members was agreed.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING held on 15 February were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mrs. Russell reported that the Annual General Meeting had been
well attended. Mr. David Sharp of the Ramblers' Association had
given an interesting and well-illustrated talk on footpaths.

3. SUB-GROUPS

The Sub-Groups were re-constituted as follows:

(a) COMMON

Mrs. Johnstone (Convenor), Mr. Ward, Miss Ashford, Mr. Scowen.
Miss Thurston to be invited to serve.
Mrs. Johnstone reported on the bad state of the Common outside
Red Gables and the Spinney. She agreed to write to the Parish
Council suggesting that white posts should be erected to prevent
encroachment of cars on to the verges. She would also enquire about
the erection of the notices to mark the horse rides.

(b) PLANS

Mr. R. Evans (Convenor), A. Evans, R. Dixon, I Noble, Miss Spurr,
Mr. Weston and Mr. Harrison.
Plans for extensions at Rothamsted had been exhibited at Harpenden
Hall. Mr. Noble agreed to meet the architect to discuss the plans
and the screen of trees.

(c) TREES

Mr. Scowen (Convenor), Mrs. Goss, Mrs. Jones, Miss Spurr.
Mrs. Johnstone's suggestion that occasional joint meetings of the
Tree and Common Groups would be useful, was agreed.
Mr. Scowen reported that the Group had met Mr. Arnold and looked
at sites for tree planting. The Girl Guides would plant two birches
on Leyton Green and the Council would plant hornbeams in Amenbury
Lane. The Society would be responsible for an avenue of limes and
hornbeams along the footpath leading to the swimming pool.
Mr. Arnold recommended that planting should be left until November.
It was also agreed that a low-growing tree, such as a yew, should
be planted on Church Green between the War Memorial and the Church.
On Saturday, 19 March, Mr. Fryd would plant a beech tree on the
Common outside the Inn on the Green to replace one damaged by
vandals. Members were asked to attend if possible.

Trees would form a feature of the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition and forms inviting people to subscribe and to "adopt a tree for Jubilee" would be available.

(d) FOOTPATHS

The Lea Valley Group was actively concerned with footpaths and there was close liaison with the Society.

(e) SPECIAL PROJECTS

Mr. Usher, who had resigned as Convenor, had suggested three projects: (a) Improvement of the car park and shopping area at Southdown. The District Council now had plans in hand for this. (b) Clearing up the area of Station Road at the junction with Carlton Road. (c) Award Scheme for new building or renovation. It was agreed that citations should be made at the Annual General Meeting and awards at the Annual Dinner.

(f) LEA VALLEY

Mrs. Catterfield would continue to report.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

On 10 May a film on Windsor would be shown by a representative of the Civic Trust.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Russell read a letter stating that the seat in Station Road given by the Society had fallen into disrepair. It was agreed to ask the District Council to repair it.

Mrs. Russell also read a letter from Mr. Pat Wilson expressing his thanks and appreciation on his appointment as a Vice-President. Mrs. Elliott reported that the Society had been invited to send a representative to the opening ceremony of the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition. It was agreed that Mr. Ward should attend.

The Department of Transport had replied saying the Society's objections to 40 tonne lorries would be taken into account when their use was considered.

Herts and Middlesex Trust for Nature Conservation asked for help in recruiting new members.

Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Herts Federation of Amenity Societies - renewal of subscriptions.

City of St. Albans, Public Relations Officer, outlining objections to the extension of Luton and Stansted Airports.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition

Mr. Ward reported that the Society's stand would be in the large Public Hall and would feature Trees, the proposed West Hyde development and illustrations on the three themes - "Cause for Comment, Commendation and Condemnation".

(b) West Hyde Development

Mr. Harrison reported that a committee had been set up by St. Albans District Council to organise opposition to any development at West Hyde by Bedfordshire County Council. He was co-ordinating the campaign, and a public meeting would be held in Harpenden in the near future. Mr. Ward proposed and Miss Spurr seconded a proposal that Mr. R. Evans should represent the Society on the Committee. This was agreed.

Mrs. Russell read a letter from Bedfordshire County Council reporting the result of their meeting on 24 February. Although the original proposal to include West Hyde as a future area

for development had been amended, the threat still existed and immediate action was necessary.

Mr. R. Evans said he had written an article for the "Herts Advertiser" on the subject and it would appear in the next issue.

(c) Estate agents' "For Sale" boards.

Mr. Harmer had asked Mrs. Russell about the Society's reaction to the many sale boards being put up in Harpenden by estate agents from elsewhere. Mr. Dixon explained that hitherto a gentleman's agreement had existed between Harpenden estate agents to put up boards only on business premises and new building estates. The Committee supported this agreement but felt that without a bye-law against them, the erection of sale boards could not be prohibited.

(d) Future of the Red House

Mr. Dixon reported that the Hospital Sub-Group would shortly publish a report and recommendations.

7. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19 April at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Aune Russell 19th April 1977

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 19 April, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mrs. Catterfeld, Mr. Curl, Mr. R. Evans, Mrs. Johnstone,
Mr. Noble, Mr. Parsons, Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Elliott,
Mr. Booth, Mr. Dixon, Mr. A. Evans and Mr. Harrison

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING held on 15 March were approved and signed.

2. SUB-GROUPS

(a) COMMON

Mrs. Johnstone reported that she had written to the Parish Council about car parking and horse rides. Mr. Weston, who had recently been appointed part-time warden of the Common, said he would take action on these points. He was also responsible for the greens in the village and stressed the importance of maintaining the chain fences around them to protect the grass. Efforts were being made to get the proprietors of San Toy to remove ice-cream advertisements on Church Green.

It was agreed that schoolchildren should again be asked to help in tidying up the Common in the summer, and Mrs. Johnstone would write to St. George's and St. Dominic's Schools.

Miss J. M. Thurston had agreed to be a member of the Common Group.

(b) TREES

A suggestion had been received from Mr. Eric Meadows that Bowers Way car park would be improved by the planting of trees along the front. This was agreed.

Mrs. Catterfeld reported that Cole Plastics would soon be leaving Batford, and thought it was important that the poplar trees on the site should be retained if any re-development took place. Miss Spurr agreed to approach Mr. Arnold about putting a preservation order on them.

(c) FOOTPATHS

Mrs. Russell had received a list of Lea Valley Walks which would be published in the next Newsletter.

Mrs. Catterfeld circulated copies of an excellent Lea Valley Guide, now on sale in Harpenden.

(d) PLANS

Mr. R. Evans regretted that owing to pressure of work he could not be Convenor of the Plans Group. Mr. Noble agreed to do so.

It was reported that about 300 people had attended the public meeting to protest against the inclusion of West Hyde in the Bedfordshire County Council's Structure Plan, and strong feeling against the proposal was unanimous. Mr. R. Evans circulated copies of the letter of objection addressed on the behalf of the Society to Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, asking him to reject the plan and direct Bedfordshire County Council to

carry out more public consultation before re-submission. He thought it was very important that the inclusion of West Hyde in the County Structure Plan and the development of Luton Airport should not be linked. He said that a stronger claim could be made against the inclusion of farmland in the plan if it were graded higher on the Green Belt scale. At present the land at West Hyde was grade 3 but Mr. Pigott of Thrales End Farm with the support of the National Farmers' Union, was trying to get it upgraded.

Mr. Weston reported on several planning applications -

Alterations to the forecourt of the garage at Kinsbourne Green might entail access across common land. Mr. Curl agreed to examine the plans.

Ten houses and garages to be built on land in Lower Luton Road. Mr. Noble agreed to inspect the plans.

A proposal to use land in Leyton next to the Old House to store motor vehicles. This was deplored and a letter of protest would be sent to the District Council.

An extension to Bethesda Home in Luton Road. Mr. Noble would examine the plans.

Mr. R. Evans reported that the A6 between St. Albans and Luton would cease to be designated a trunk road. It would then be the responsibility of the County Council and could have effects on the plans for improving the traffic routes through Harpenden. The Society would watch developments.

Mr. Noble said he had examined the plans for extensions at Rothamsted and was arranging to meet their architect.

3. MEETINGS

Mrs. Russell reported that as she had found the Civic Trust film "A new face for Britain" to be shown on 10 May, to be of very short duration, a new Civic Trust slide lecture on "Local Amenity Societies" would also be included in the programme. Mr. Pat Wilson had agreed to read the script.

Mr. Ward reported on a very successful exhibit at the recent Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition, resulting in the enrolment of over 100 new members. The exhibit was later shown in the Public Library and was still available. He would be showing it shortly at a meeting of the local group of PROBUS.

Mrs. Johnstone said the Annual Dinner and the following talk by Mr. Donald Fisher, Chief Education Officer, were excellent. About 100 people had attended. It was suggested that plans for the next Annual Dinner should be discussed in the autumn and that it should perhaps have a different form and be held at a less busy time of year.

4. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

In Mrs. Elliott's absence, Mrs. Russell reported the receipt of:
Newsletter from Herts. Federation of Amenity Societies.

Newsletter from Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Agenda from Harpenden Parish Council for Public Meeting.

Notice of St. Albans Jubilee Ball on 6 May.

Letter from LADACAN about the Hyde development. Mrs. Russell would reply saying that the Society had already agreed to send a representative to the Working Party appointed to organise the protes

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Parsons reported that the Parish Council was supporting the participation of children in the "Keep Britain Tidy Campaign". During the week 29 May to 4 June childrens' efforts to tidy up the town and the common would be sponsored, but they would need supervision by adults. Mrs. Russell agreed to publicise the week in the Newsletter and to appeal for help.

6. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17 May at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Anne Russell

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 17 May, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Booth, Mrs. Catterfeld, Mr. A. Evans,
Mr. Curl, Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Noble,
Mr. Scowen, Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Dixon,
Mr. R. Evans and Mr. Parsons.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 19 April were approved and signed.

2. SUB-GROUPS

(a) COMMON

Mrs. Johnstone reported that the Parish Council had approved the suggestion to erect wooden posts to prevent car parking outside Red Gables, and she would get estimates for the wood. She had also asked the Council to put up the signs marking horse-rides and the boards displaying the bye-laws relating to the Common.

Mr. Weston reported that the roadsides had been cleared up at the top of the Common. The Jubilee bonfire would be held on the corner of Walkers Road and a fence was being put up to enclose it. The chestnut fence opposite Rothamsted Park entrance was being replaced with grass banks and missing chains on the greens were being replaced.

(b) PLANS

Mr. Noble reported that he had arranged a meeting with the Rothamsted architect. He agreed to inspect the plans for two houses in the garden of the Bourne, for which planning application had been made. Mr. Weston reported on applications for developments at Kinsbourne Green, Birch Way, Rowan Way and Aldwickbury Crescent.

Mr. Curl had received a letter from Mr. B. Rees, a new member of the Society who had recently retired after many years in local government service, offering to help in checking planning and development proposals. It was agreed that he should be co-opted on to the Plans Group.

A member had expressed concern at the use by heavy vehicles of the entrance to Thompson's Close from the High Street. This was thought to be prohibited but it would be confirmed with St. Albans District Council before a complaint was lodged with Sainsbury and Putterills. Mrs. Russell reported that a meeting and exhibition on the St. Albans City and District Plan and Road Options would be held in St. Albans on 19 May.

(c) TREES

Mr. Scowen reported that Mrs. Goss was getting in touch with Mr. Arnol about putting a preservation order on the trees at Batford Mill. If any developments took place at the Bourne, it was suggested that there were probably trees on the site that should be preserved.

2. (c) Mrs. Curl, Chairman of the Common Sub-Committee of the Parish Council, had asked for the Society's opinion on the future of the hollow elm tree near the Cross Keys. Mr. Arnold had said that an iron girdle was needed to make it safe, but this would be very expensive and might not prolong its life for many years. The Committee voted, with regret, that it would be advisable to remove the tree.

It was agreed that the Tree Group should now order trees for autumn planting, using the funds collected for the purpose.

Mrs. Johnstone reported that some East Common residents had offered to plant trees at Limbrick Road and Eastmoor Park.

24 (d) FOOTPATHS

Mention would be made in the June Newsletter of walks planned by the Lea Valley Group.

3. FUTURE MEETINGS

A provisional booking of the Public Hall had been made for the next Annual Dinner, but in view of the loss incurred this year, the question of holding the dinner would be reviewed later.

Suggestions were made for talks on Architecture, Operation Neptune, the Flora of the Common, the Organisation of a Local Newspaper, and Aspects of the Work of a Local Authority Officer. It was also agreed that an illustrated talk on Harpenden buildings would be popular.

A summer outing to Anglesey Abbey had been proposed at the last meeting and had met with good support. A coach had been booked provisionally for Sunday, 10 July at a cost of about £1.25 per head. Particulars would be included in the June Newsletter.

4. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Councillor Harrison outlining the present position of the inclusion of the Hyde in the Bedfordshire Structure Plan. An invitation from Councillor Fryd to support the Jubilee Ball on 10 June.

Details of a service in St. Albans Abbey on 7 June, inviting the Society to send four members.

A questionnaire from the Civic Trust asking (a) What the Society considered its biggest achievement; (b) What environmental problem worried the Society most; (c) What environmental reform the Society would most like to see. It was decided to reply as follows:

(a) The developments at Gorselands and the sites of Rowe's and Rolt's shops in the High Street; (b) the inclusion of Hyde in the Bedfordshire Structure Plan; (c) the erosion of the Green Belt.

Continued.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Harrison reported on a recent meeting of the Hyde Development Steering Committee. Individuals and public bodies would be given a further opportunity to send their objections to the Department of the Environment by 7 June. It was decided to ask Mr. Roger Evans to put forward the Society's objections. The composition of the Bedfordshire County Council had changed after the recent elections and Mr. Harrison had asked for a meeting with Mr. White, the new chairman of the Environmental Committee.

Mr. Ward reported that the "Spotlight on Leisure" exhibit had been well received at the PROBUS lunch, and ten new members had been enrolled for the Society.

Mr. Curl said that the future of Harpenden Hall would be discussed at the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the St. Albans District Council on 23 June. It was agreed that the Society should ask that a part of the building should be kept for Council offices for the convenience of Harpenden residents.

6. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14 June at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Ann Russell

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 21 June, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Booth, Mrs. Catterfeld, Mr. Dixon,
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Savage,
Mr. Scowen, Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Curl,
Mr. Noble and Mr. Parsons.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 17 May were approved and signed, subject to amendment of item 4 under Secretary's Correspondence.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Ward reported that he had attended a meeting called by the St. Albans Road Traffic Association in conjunction with St. Albans Civic Society to discuss the City and District of St. Albans Road Options. Option 'B', put forward by the St. Albans local associations, involved Harpenden and Redbourn, and Mr. Ward was concerned that representatives of neither place had been consulted. He asked that they should be in future. Another meeting had been called for 22 June, which Mr. Ward and Mr. R. Evans or Mrs. Johnstone would attend.

3. REPORTS OF SUB-GROUPS

- (a) COMMON

Mrs. Johnstone said she had accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of the Commons Sub-Committee of the Harpenden Parish Council. She had reported that Rothamsted would supply the wood for the posts outside Red Gables and would lend tools to make the holes for them. Mr. Weston suggested that an earth bank should be erected behind the posts.

Mr. Weston summarised his report to the Parish Council. The fire-work display on 6 June had been a great success. Plans were in hand to improve car parking in Leyton Road, opposite Bennetts. Application had been made for wayleave for a gas main to be laid from Cross Lane to Walkers Road, which would cause considerable disturbance to the Common. Posts to mark the horse rides would be made, the old elm tree outside the Cross Keys had been felled, seats in the High Street would be repaired, renovations were to be carried out to the Harpenden sign and missing chains would be replaced round the greens.

- (b) PLANS

In Mr. Noble's absence Mrs. Russell reported that he had been in touch with Mr. Reynolds, the Rothamsted architect, who said he would be pleased to discuss future developments with members of the Committee. It was decided to arrange an evening meeting at Rothamsted.

A copy of the letter written by Mr. R. Evans to the Department of the Environment expressing the Society's objections to the inclusion of Hyde in the Bedfordshire County Structure Plan was

circulated. Mr. Harrison said there was still need for great concern as the County Council had not stated officially that they would withdraw Hyde from the plan, and many members of the Council opposed the inclusion of Houghton Regis. At the public enquiry the Secretary of State would decide which items in the plan were to be discussed.

Mr. Weston expressed concern at plans for a high density development at Churchfield and would obtain further details. Residents were organising opposition and Mr. Harrison suggested that they invite a District Councillor to attend a meeting.

Concern was expressed at the sale of 1,200 acres of the Childwickbury estate, Mr. Dixon agreed to get more details and Mr. Ward would inform St. Albans Civic Society of the Society's concern.

(c) TREES

The Group had ordered a tulip tree and 2 sorbus trees for Bowers Way car park, an Irish yew for Church Green and a weeping beech for a site in the Park near the Sports Centre. Permission for planting would be sought from St. Albans District Council. The Group also proposed to replace two beech trees in Leyton Road.

(d) LEA VALLEY

Mrs. Catterfeld reported that St. George's School pupils were helping the Group in various ways.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

Mrs. Russell had provisionally booked a coach for the outing to Anglesey Abbey on 10 July, for which there was good support. Meetings had been arranged as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Monday, 26 September, 1977. | Talk by an architect. |
| " 12 December, 1977. | Talk on "Operation Neptune" by Mr. Squires. |
| " 13 March, 1978. | Annual General Meeting and talk on "Looking at Harpenden". |
| Wednesday, 5 April, 1978. | Annual Dinner. |
| Monday, 8 May, 1978. | to be arranged by Commons Group. |

SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Mr. Pat Wilson in support of objection to Hyde Plan.
Newsletter from Herts. and Middlesex Trust for Nature Conservation.
particulars of SAVE awards to save Britain's heritage.

An unsatisfactory reply had been received from Mr. Braddon, St. Albans City Council, to the Secretary's letter about the future of Harpenden Hall. Mrs. Elliott agreed to write again listing possible uses by local residents and stressing the importance of having it as an adjunct to the District Council offices in St. Albans.

5. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

Council for the Protection of Rural England - Report

IADACAN - Notice of meeting.

HERITAGE EDUCATION -Newsletter.

Mr. and Mrs. Marr - letter of thanks for the Society's hospitality at the Annual Dinner.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Miss Spurr reported that £75 had been donated for trees and a further £10 had been promised.

Mr. Ward had agreed to give a talk about the Society to the Leaside Womens' Club.

7. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19 July at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Anne Russell 19th July 1977

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 19 July, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Curl, Mr. A. Evans, Mrs. Johnstone,
Mr. Rees, Mr. Scowen, Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Booth,
Mrs. Catterfeld, and Mr. Harrison

Mr. B. Rees was welcomed as a new member of the Committee.

The Chairman announced with regret the resignation of
Mr. R. Evans, and it was agreed that the Secretary should
write thanking him for his services to the Society. Mr. Evans
would continue to represent the Society on the Hyde issue,
and to help with any particular project.

MINUTES of the last meeting held on 21 June were approved and
signed.

MATTERS ARISING

Mrs. Russell reported that the outing to Anglesey Abbey on
10 July had been very successful.

Mr. Ward had attended a meeting called by St. Albans Road
Consultative Group and reported that the general opinion was
in favour of Option B, which provided more flexibility for
traffic diversion. An enquiry would be held in the autumn.

REPORTS OF SUB-GROUPS

COMMON

Mrs. Johnstone reported that posts had been erected outside
Rothamsted to prevent car parking on West Common. Much help
had been received from Mr. W. Barnes, Miss M. Pratt and
Miss J. Thurston, and the Secretary was asked to send them
letters of thanks.

Mrs. Johnstone expressed concern at the state of the Common on
the South side of the junction of West Common and Redbourn Lane.
Garden rubbish was regularly dumped under the trees, many of
which were dying. It was agreed that she should write to
Mr. Jarvis asking that the dead trees should be felled. The
Committee felt concern at the dumping of garden rubbish in many
parts of Harpenden and Mrs. Russell agreed to ask Mr. Parsons to
raise the matter with the Parish Council.

PLANS

Revised plans for extensions at Rothamsted had been received and
were exhibited. In general it was agreed that the architect had
tried to meet the objections to the earlier plans but the Committee
felt strongly that the enlarged car park should be screened by
trees. Mr. A. Evans was asked to convey the Committee's views
to the architect.

Mr. Weston had obtained details of the proposed development at
Churchfield. The Committee felt that the units were of too high
a density and the site unsuitable.

A proposal to build six flats on a site at the junction of Crabtree Lane and Milton Road was deplored by the Committee as it would add further hazards to an already dangerous crossroads.

Mrs. Russell was asked to convey the Committee's objections to the above two proposals to St. Albans District Council.

Mr. Weston reported that there was a proposal to use land owned by the County Council at Somerled, Townsend Lane for residential development. It had been proposed previously that this land should be used as an open space and the Committee agreed that they should press for this use of the land.

Mrs. Elliott read Mr. Braddon's reply to the Society's proposals for the future use of Harpenden Hall, all of which he had refuted. However, Mr. Curl reported that a proposal to retain the front part of the building for Harpenden's use and to let the back part as offices was being considered by the District Council.

Mr. P. Wilson had written suggesting that a recent legacy to Harpenden Parish Council should be used to start a fund to keep Harpenden Hall for local use, but the Committee did not think the money should be used in this way.

Mrs. Russell reported that permission had been refused to use land in Leyton Road for the storage of motor vehicles.

(c) TREES

The Committee noted with regret that more trees in Harpenden were dying including the elm outside Woolworths in the High Street, and Mr. A. Evans' suggestion that part of the legacy mentioned above should be spent on replacing them was approved. Mr. Evans agreed to write to the Parish Council putting forward the proposal and suggesting that semi-mature trees should be planted.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Ward felt that the September meeting should be devoted to a subject of concern to the Society, and it was agreed to hold an Open Forum inviting questions from members on the following:

The Hyde proposal

The use of the £5,000 bequest to the Parish Council

The future of Harpenden Hall

The Society's Award Scheme

Members of the Committee were asked to suggest a title for the Forum which would be publicised in the Newsletter. This would also have a tear-off slip so that members could propose recipients for awards under the Society's Award Scheme.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. J. Pybus, Principal Planning Officer, St. Albans District Council, saying the plans for the football clubhouse and car park at Cravells Road were now available.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Much concern was felt at the use of Cravells Road by heavy goods vehicles, and it was agreed that the Secretary should write to St. Albans District Council asking for an examination of a traffic management scheme for the road.

Mr. Ward reported that he had given a talk about the Society to a very interested audience at Leaside Womens' Club. The Club had kindly given a donation to the Society and a new member was enrolled. Mr. Ward felt that there was great interest in the Society and talks on its work would gain new members. Mr. Meadows could be asked to provide photographs of current interest.

Miss Spurr reported that the 1,000th member of the Society had just been enrolled.

7. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 13 September, 1977 at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

13th September 1977

Anne Russell

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 13 September, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Rees,
Mr. Scöwen, Miss Spurr, Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston,
Mr. Wilson.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Elliott
and Mr. Parsons.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 19 July were approved and
signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mrs. Russell reported that she had had no reply to her letter to
St. Albans District Council objecting to proposals for building
developments at Churchfield and at the junction of Crabtree Lane
and Milton Road.

3. REPORTS OF SUB-GROUPS

(a) COMMON

Mrs. Johnstone reported that Mr. Arnold had agreed to inspect
the area at the corner of West Common and Redbourn Lane where
trees were dying and rubbish was being dumped. After consulting
Mr. Pettingale, he would let her know what action was proposed.

(b) TREES

Mrs. Russell read a letter she had received from the Manager of
Parks and Open Spaces, St. Albans District Council, in which he
said that the Society would qualify for inclusion in the Queen's
Tree Scheme. He said he was reserving his opinion on the trees
proposed for planting in Bowers Way, and would get in touch later
about replacing the elms in the High Street when the full effect
of the Dutch elm disease was apparent.

The Tree Group would be responsible for the autumn planting but
would need help. Mrs. Russell agreed to approach Harpenden Round
Table, the Adventure Scouts and Mr. Arnold. Several schools had
volunteered to look after the trees when planted, and these would
be approached later.

(c) SPECIAL PROJECTS

Mr. Usher, who would speak on the subject of the Society's
Award Scheme at the Forum on 26 September, asked for the Committee
decision on one or two points. It was agreed to keep the scheme
fairly fluid this year and to award a plaque suitable for fixing
to the building, for the best new or reconstructed building, and
a certificate for the most attractively maintained building.

Mr. Usher agreed to obtain particulars and the price of a
suitable plaque.

3. (d) LEA VALLEY GROUP

In Mrs. Catterfeld's absence Mr. Wilson reported that the Group would need help this autumn to move trees from its nursery, and it was agreed that ^{an} approach should be made to Rothamsted. It was felt that ~~help~~ ^{advice} and support from statutory bodies would be very helpful to the voluntary groups, and a representative from the group would attend a meeting of the Countryside Officers of Herts. and Beds., Mr. R. Watts, who was responsible for the co-ordination of the Lea Valley Groups, the Lea Valley Ranger and representatives of District Councils. Mrs. Russell also agreed to attend.

(e) PLANS

Mr. A. Evans reported that the plans for the Harpenden Rovers Pavilion had been approved as a club house. The Committee felt that in the lease its use should be restricted to changing rooms, as originally proposed, that access to the building and car park should only be allowed when matches or practice games were in progress and that no licence should be granted. Mrs. Russell agreed to write to the Parish Council stressing these points.

Mr. Harrison reported that he had attended a meeting at Luton Airport with members of Luton Borough Council to discuss the proposed Hyde development and the expansion of the airport. He had received the Council's assurance that owing to lack of growth of population, Hyde would now be deleted from the proposed County Structure Plan. This could be done before the public enquiry if the Department of the Environment accepted Bedfordshire County Council's request for its deletion. The request had been sent, but if written confirmation of the deletion of Hyde from the plan was not received before the enquiry, the Society would need to attend. Mrs. Russell said that brother, a Q.C., had very kindly agreed to represent the Society at the public enquiry if necessary.

Mr. Harrison said the present airport was considered adequate for the handling of up to 5 million passengers ^{a year}. If the British Airport Authority took it over, Luton Borough Council would cease to have control of its development.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

A Harpenden Forum would be held on 26 September, when a Panel would answer questions on such subjects as "The Hyde, Our Dying Elms, Harpenden Hall and the St. Albans Road Options".

On 12 December Mr. Squires would talk on the National Trust's "Operation Neptune".

5. Date of next Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 18 October, 1977 at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Anne Russell

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 13 September, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Rees,
Mr. Scöwen, Miss Spurr, Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston,
Mr. Wilson.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Elliott
and Mr. Parsons.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 19 July were approved and
signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mrs. Russell reported that she had had no reply to her letter to
St. Albans District Council objecting to proposals for building
developments at Churchfield and at the junction of Crabtree Lane
and Milton Road.

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The Tree Group would be responsible for the autumn planting but
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4. FUTURE MEETINGS

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On 12 December Mr. Squires would talk on the National Trust's "Operation Neptune".

5. Date of next Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 18 October, 1977 at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Anne Russell

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 18 October, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Catterfeld, Mr. A. Evans,
Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Rees, Mr. Scowen,
Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward, Mr. Wilson (part-time)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Harrison
and Mr. Weston.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 13 September were approved
and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mrs. Russell reported that the Parish Council had noted the
Society's comments on the football pavilion and would consider
them at their next meeting.

Mrs. Elliott said the Forum held on 26 September had been very
well attended. Mr. Paul Usher had spoken on "The Society's Award
Scheme", Mr. Roger Evans on "Development at the Hyde", Miss Joan
Thurston on "The Common", Mr. Michael Harrison on "The Future of
Harpenden Hall", and Mr. Colin Curl on "The St. Albans Road Scheme"
and "The elms in the High Street".

3. REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS

- (a) COMMON

Mrs. Johnstone reported that Mr. J. C. Ottaway was very concerned
about the unkempt state of the triangular area of the Common at
the junction of East Common and Limbrick Road. He had written to
the Parish Council but had received no reply and asked for the
Society's help. He had also collected money from nearby residents
to buy trees. Mrs. Elliott agreed to discuss the matter with
Mrs. Curl, Chairman of the Commons Committee of the Parish Council.

Mrs. Russell said she would remind Mr. Pettingale about the marker
for the horse rides which were not yet in place.

- (b) PLANS

Mr. A. Evans reported that the Society's comments on the plans for
extensions at Rothamsted had unfortunately been interpreted as a
stronger objection than was intended. It was felt that the Archi-
tects had done his best to take the Society's suggestions into account,
Mr. Evans agreed to write again.

Miss Spurr commented on the proposed re-development at the South
Trading Estate. It was agreed that the access road would prove
inadequate for increased traffic and Mr. Rees was asked to inform
the District Council.

Mrs. Russell said that her brother, who had kindly offered to
represent the Society if a public enquiry was held on the Hyde,
would shortly inspect the site.

3. (c) TREES

Mr. Scowen reported that Mr. Arnold recommended that the Society should join the Queen's Tree Scheme, and Mrs. Elliott was asked to enquire about membership.

Mrs. Elliott read a letter from Mrs. Curl, Chairman of the Commons Committee of the Parish Council, asking for the Society's plans for tree planting. Mrs. Elliott agreed to see Mrs. Curl and give her full details.

Mrs. Russell had approached the Adventure Scouts, who had kindly offered to help with planting on the weekends of 26 November and 3 December. It was decided to organise the planting for these dates. In the meantime wire tree guards would be ordered.

Mr. Ward reported that a large number of dead elms had been felled along Cross Lane and by the side of Jockey Meadow. He felt the Council should be asked to replant and Mrs. Elliott agreed to report the matter to Mrs. Curl.

Miss Spurr suggested that an Indian Chestnut should be planted to replace the elm outside the Cross Keys.

(d) SPECIAL PROJECTS

Mrs. Russell reported that Mr. Usher had obtained details of plaques suitable for the Society's Award Scheme, and it was agreed that he should be asked to design and order a plaque up to the value of £25.

(e) LEA VALLEY

Mrs. Catterfield reported that the Group had asked the County Landscape Planning Officer for advice on improving the appearance of the factories in Coldharbour Lane, and awaited his reply.

The Group had entered a competition sponsored by Shell (U.K.) and the Inland Waterways Association in the section for the improvement and enhancement of waterway environment.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

On 12 December Mr. Squires would speak on the National Trust's "Operation Neptune". Mincepies and punch would be served.

After the Annual General Meeting on 13 March, 1978, it was decided to ask members of the Selection Panel to talk on the Society's Award Scheme, and suitable slides would be shown.

A decision on holding an Annual Dinner in 1978 had not yet been taken and members would be asked for their opinion at the December meeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Lorna Wang had written to say she could never attend the Society's meetings on Mondays, and asked if they could sometimes be held on another day. This would be borne in mind in fixing next year's meetings.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A letter was read from Mr. J. C. Ottaway to Mr. McKenna, St. Albans District Council, deploring the state of Southdown car park. Although written on 7 September, he had received no reply, and it was agreed that Mrs. Elliott should write supporting Mr. Ottaway's complaints and asking the present position of the plans for the re-development of the Southdown shopping area.

Following the discussion at the Forum on 26 September, Mr. Wilson said he felt there was a need to advocate much more strongly that the future use of Harpenden Hall should provide for the various needs of Harpenden people and should include space to store and display documents and objects of historic interest. He agreed to forward the Society's suggestions to the District and Parish Councils.

Mrs. Russell reported that she might be asked to speak on the subject of the Harpenden Society in a recording shortly to be made for the BBC "Down your way" programme.

7. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 15 November, 1977 at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Ann Russell 15th November

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 15 November, 1977
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Booth, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Rees, Mr. Scowen,
Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Catterfeld,
Mr. A. Evans, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Noble, Mr. Savage,
Mr. Weston and Mr. Wilson.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 18 October were approved and signed.

2. REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS

(a) COMMON

In Mrs. Johnstone's absence Mrs. Elliott reported that Mr. Ottaway had received approval from the Parish Council and silver birch trees would be planted on the area at the junction of East Common and Limbrick Road.

Mr. Weston had asked Mr. Ward to report that curbstones would soon be erected on the roadsides of the Common outside the Park, and the areas opposite Red Gables and Rothamsted would be protected by earth banks. Metal signs would soon be put in place to mark horse rides on the Common.

(b) PLANS

Mrs. Russell said there was a proposal to build two squash courts at the Sports Centre. If they were added to the front of the building some lime trees in the drive would have to be felled, and she thought the situation should be watched.

Mrs. Russell reported that Mr. Ian Glidewell, who had kindly agreed to represent the Society at the Hyde enquiry, had inspected the Hyde site and the alternatives proposed. Mr. R. Evans would also attend the enquiry on 29 and 30 November, and it was agreed that he and Mr. Glidewell should be given a suitable token of the Society's appreciation.

(c) TREES

Mrs. Russell reported that with Mr. Arnold and Mr. Roberts she had inspected the sites proposed for tree planting. As the path by the side of Amenbury Lane car park was used by large vehicles to gain access to the yard at the rear of the Inn on the Green, trees could not be planted at that end of the path, but there was room for five hornbeams at the other end. Mr. Arnold suggested that two plane trees, to be supplied by him, should be planted opposite the hornbeams, and the remaining seven hornbeams ordered should be planted along the Amenbury Lane frontage. He would also supply a Norway maple to be planted near the exit. It was agreed that five pyracanthas, to be supplied by the Society, should be planted against the blank wall near the swimming pool. Mr. Arnold agreed that a tulip tree and three or four whitebeams should be

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition booking a stand. Various subjects were suggested including "before and after" photographs and pictures of annual events. It was felt that an appeal should be made to young people and a committee consisting of Mrs. Russell, Mr. Parsons, Miss Spurr and Mr. Ward was appointed to plan the stand.

Copy of a letter from the Principal Engineer, St. Albans City Council to Mr. Pettingale about the ponds near Southdown Road. Mrs. Elliott agreed to write to the Engineer stressing the urgency of cleaning out the ponds.

City of St. Albans Legal and Administrative Department about the warding of Harpenden Parish. The Committee agreed no comment was necessary.

St. Albans City Council - Schedule of land availability in connection with an appeal by Senatorial Properties Ltd.

St. Albans Civic Society inviting the Society to take part in a meeting with Mr. McKenna and Mr. James Curl on 24 February about posters in shop windows. Mrs. Russell, and Mrs. Cuneen agreed to attend and Mr. Curl hoped to do so.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Miss Spurr proposed that trees should be planted on Leyton Green to commemorate Jubilee Year. It was thought there was room for only one or two trees on Leyton Green but some could be planted elsewhere.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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