

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
23 October, 1979 at 7.45 pm. at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Evans in the chair (Mr. Usher arrived later)
Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford, Mr. Barnes,
Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard, Mr. MacInnes,
Mr. Pattison, Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mrs. Suitters,
Mr. Weston

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Smith,
and Mr. Wilson

MINUTES of the last meeting held on 20 September were approved
and signed.

REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) PLANS

Copies of a letter from Mrs. Wang to the District Council about
the plans for the new Railway Station had been circulated. Mr. Rees
exhibited copies of the plans and after discussion it was agreed
that the Secretary should write to the District Council (with a
copy to British Rail) supporting Mrs. Wang's recommendations that:-

- (a) Before permanent traffic lights are installed in Station
Road, there should be a trial period of 3 months when
traffic should be allowed to flow freely as at present.
- (b) If this proves unsatisfactory, an experiment with a painted
roundabout should be made for 6 months.
- (c) If neither system is successful, temporary traffic lights
should be tried with phased control during rush hours.

The letter should also stress the importance of retaining as many
trees as possible on the Milton Road side, and should point out that
storage for cycles and motor cycles seemed inadequate.

Mr. Rees commented on an application for a fascia board for Stimpson,
Lock and Vince, which would occupy an unacceptable proportion of the
shop front. It was agreed that the Society should object.

It was also agreed that objection should be made to an application
to build two chalet bungalows in the grounds of 42, West Common,
and to recommend that the original consent for one bungalow should
be renewed.

Mr. Rees reported that in modifying the Hertfordshire County Structure
Plan, the Secretary of State for the Environment had extended the
Green Belt up to the Bedfordshire boundary.

Mr. Powlesland reported that work had started at Somerled and trees
were being felled. Although the site had a blanket Tree Preservation
Order, it was agreed that the Trees Group should keep a watch on it.

b) TREES

Mr. Barnes reported that the contractors had agreed to replace the
ginko tree damaged during the construction of the Bull Road round-
about. Mr. Weston agreed to advise the Town Council.

Mr. Evans said he had been in touch with the Rovers Football Club
about the tree planting round the new pavilion. After discussion
it was agreed that the Society would supply trees to the value of
£50. Rothamsted would supply ash, and birch and oak saplings would

- 2.(b) be obtained from the Common. The Rovers Club would do the planting on 10 November, and it was agreed that Mr. Scowen should be asked to be there to advise if necessary.

Mr. Usher reported that he had received eight replies to the Press notice asking for suggestions for sites for trees and offers to help with their maintenance. These had been acknowledged and passed to the Trees Group.

After much discussion it was agreed that the Society should go ahead with the proposal to plant a mature tree on the concourse outside Woolworths to commemorate its Jubilee. An estimate of £200 had been obtained to remove the dead elm, and about £750 would be needed if contractors supplied and planted a new tree. If the Society supplied the tree, perhaps from Rothamsted, planting would cost about ~~£250.~~ £500.

Miss Haberer suggested that the District or County Council could perhaps supply a suitable tree, and the Tree Group was asked to ask them.

The Secretary said he had obtained permission to hold a street collection in ~~April~~ ^{Feb.} 1980 to raise money for the project.

The Secretary agreed to approach the agents for Batford Mill suggesting that an adequate screen of trees be maintained on the river side of the mill.

2.(c) LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mr. Haggard reported that work continued on replacing the bridge over the cress bed and the steps at the bottom of Sewer Lane.

(d) SCHOOLS LIAISON

Mrs. Godfrey reported on the Group's last meeting when an Urban Studies box was discussed to provide background information for a "Planning Game". A sub-committee would be set up to consider the details. Mr. Powlesland said this project could perhaps be considered for a Heritage Award, and the Secretary referred members to the current "Civic Trust News" for details.

(e) TRANSPORT

Mr. Pattison reported that the platform at Harpenden Station was at last being raised.

The Town Bus Service was conducting a survey into bus stops.

Mr. Usher drew attention to an excellent leaflet on street furniture issued by the County Council. In view of the ugliness of street furniture on some of the roads for which the County Council was responsible, he agreed to write and suggest that they put the ideas in the pamphlet into practice.

(f) RE-CYCLING

Mr. Usher reported that he had been invited to attend a meeting of the District Council Health and Safety Committee, at which bottle banks had been discussed. As a result, Mr. Harold Beck of Birklands College had agreed that his students should make a study of the economics of glass re-cycling in St. Albans.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters said that the Society now had a membership of 686. Members of the Committee volunteered to call on members whose subscriptions had not been paid for the current year.

4. PRESS AND NEWSLETTER

A Bulletin on the future of the "Nicky Line" had been sent to the Press.

The next issue of Harpenden Society News would be published in December and would contain a programme of future meetings.

5. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mr. MacInnes gave particulars of future meetings as follows:-

Tuesday, 13 November. Slide talk by Mr. R. Brewer on "The work of the Building Research Establishment on Energy Conservation".

Monday, 10 December. Slide talk by Mr. Curl preceded by mincepies and punch.

Monday, 25 February, 1980. Mr. G. A. Griffiths, Herts. C.C. would speak on "Rural aspects of Herts. County Structure Plan".

Tuesday, 11 March, 1980. Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday, 22 April. Mr. Saunderson, Public Relations Officer, British Rail would speak on "London Midland Electrification Scheme".

Wednesday, 7 May. Wine and Cheese Party.

It was agreed that a list should be drawn up of speakers who could be called on in an emergency, and an alternative source of a projector should also be sought.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Weston reported that the footpath from Crabtree Lane to Piggotts Hill Lane had now been paved with tarmacadam and provided with lights.

Mr. Rogers suggested that more litter bins were needed near the new fish and chip shop in Station Road. The Secretary agreed to write to the District Council and also to ask the proprietors to display a notice inside the shop asking customers not to drop litter. In view of parking difficulties, concern was felt that permission had been given for the premises to be used in this way.

Mrs. Godfrey passed on an offer from St. Albans Civic Society to display Harpenden Society's programmes on a reciprocal basis.

Mr. Rogers expressed concern about the future of Harpenden Lodge, and the Secretary suggested that he discussed this with Mr. Curl.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 20 November at 7.45 pm. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Vane. 20/11/79.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
20 November, 1979 at 7.45 pm. at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. Evans, Mr. Ward, Miss Ashford, Mrs. Godfrey,
Miss Haberer, Mrs. Nuttall, Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers,
Mr. Smith, Mrs. Suitters, Mrs. Wang, Mr. Weston, Mr. Wilson
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Barnes,
Mr. MacInnes and Mr. Powlesland.

MINUTES

Minutes of the last meeting held on 23 October were approved and signed subject to the amendment to £500 of the cost of tree planting on the concourse and the alteration of the date of the proposed street collection to February, 1980.

MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Rees suggested that the District Council, as well as the agents, be approached about the planting of a screen of trees at Batford Mill. This was agreed.

GROUP CONVENORS' REPORTS

(a) PLANS

Mr. Rees reported on several applications for planning permission, and the Committee agreed that objection should be made to the following proposals:

1. A detached one-bedroom chalet at 52, Grove Road, which would occupy the whole of the rear garden and would contravene the conditions laid down for residential development.
2. A development of 2-storey flats in Thompsons Close because of the unsuitability of the site which might be on the line of a proposed rear access road.
3. An outside storage enclosure at 48, Coldharbour Lane which would severely restrict access for normal traffic and fire fighting vehicles.
4. Thirty-nine 2 bedroom starter homes and garages on land between Greenacres riding stables and Northfield Road. This would be on Green Belt land and would spoil the rural aspect of the area. Mr. Wilson pointed out that outline planning permission had been granted to develop a piece of land on the opposite side of Lower Luton Road.

Discussion took place on a proposal to use part of Limbrick Hall for offices. Mr. Ward reminded the Committee that he had already written to the District Council on 21 June last, pointing out the need for special vigilance in the future use of the Hall. The Committee agreed that safeguards were needed to prevent the extension of its use for commercial purposes, and it was agreed to recommend to the District Council that if permission were granted, it should not extend to the felling of trees and the situation should be reviewed in five years time.

Mrs. Wang was then welcomed to the Committee as a co-opted member.

- 3.(a) Miss Ashford reported that several pedestrian users of Bull Road had commented on the lack of a footpath and the dangers of the increased flow of traffic. Mrs. Wang also drew attention to the difficulties of crossing Bull Road from the triangle to the baa lamb trees, and suggested that a ramp was now needed on the line of the former footpath. The Secretary was asked to write to the Town Council on both matters.

Comment was made on the report in the local press on the approval of the plans for Harpenden Station. Mrs. Wang suggested that the three-dimensional model which had been exhibited at the meeting of the District Council should be made available to the public. The Secretary would write to British Rail and would also enquire about the future of the present buildings in Station Approach.

(b) TREES

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Barnes reporting on the activities of the Group. A good start had been made on the tree planting at the Rovers pavilion. Mr. Scowen had been most helpful and he would also give first-aid treatment to the damaged ginko tree near Bull Road roundabout. Mr. Barnes had inspected the site at Somerled and was in communication with the Clerk of the Works to safeguard the trees. A replacement had been found for the damaged Irish yew on Church Green and the County Council had offered 200 trees for planting in Redbourn Lane.

Mr. Evans reported that after looking further into the proposal to replace the old elm tree outside Woolworths with a mature tree, the high costs and the risk of the tree not surviving made him doubt the practicability of the project. After much discussion, the Committee appointed a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Evans, Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward and Mrs. Wang to reconsider the matter.

(c) COMMON

Mr. Ward reported that he had discussed with Miss Thurston a proposal to re-plant wild flowers on the Common, and another member had suggested that gorse be planted alongside the "A.6" as a screen.

(d) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Wilson showed the Committee the new Guide to the Upper Lea Valley Through Walk from Harpenden to Ware, copies of which were now available.

Mrs. Wang reported on the last meeting of the Group. The landscaping of the factories at Lower Luton Road was now going ahead, the County and District Councils supplying trees, and the Group planting them *eventually*.

(e) SCHOOLS LIAISON

Mr. Usher had written a Bulletin for the Press on the activities of the Group.

(f) TRANSPORT

Mr. Rogers said that parking places for cycles and mopeds were still needed and it was agreed that the Secretary should ask for a meeting with Mr. McKenna to discuss this and other matters.

3.(g) RE-CYCLING

Mr. Usher reported that the study by Birklands College on the economics of glass re-cycling in St. Albans had been rather disappointing but the matter would be examined further. The Group were obtaining prices and samples of re-cycled paper with a view to using it for the Society's stationery.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters reported that the number of members whose subscriptions had not been paid for the current year had been reduced to 60.

5. PRESS AND NEWSLETTER

It was agreed that the next Harpenden Society News should be published early in January instead of December, and would be accompanied by standing order forms for payment of subscriptions. It would also include an announcement about the Society's Award for 1980, for which nominations should be made by 25 February.

6. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Secretary had been asked to provide speakers on the work of the Society by the Hilltop Club and Rotoract. Mr. Curl had been asked to speak to the latter.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Godfrey announced that the next meeting of St. Albans Civic Society would be on 6 December, when the subject would be "The Restoration of the Abbey".

Mrs. Suitters had been asked by Mr. Powlesland to mention his concern about the untidy state of the shop vacated by Budgens and the new fish and chip shop in Station Road, which, he felt, might give a bad first impression to visitors arriving by train.

Mrs. Wang raised the question of parking for patients visiting Davenport House, which was causing congestion in Bowers Way. A ramp was also needed near the entrance for disabled people. Mr. Rees agreed to take the matter up with the District Council.

Mr. Usher reported that he had received a letter from Mrs. Lewis, who was concerned about the effect on Harpenden of the development of Stansted Airport. Owing to lack of time, the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Committee would be held on Tuesday, 18 December at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Vane.
18/12/79

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
18 December, 1979 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer,
Mr. Haggard, Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith,
Mrs. Suitters, Mrs. Wang, Mr. Weston
Apologies for absence were received from Miss Ashford,
Mr. Evans, Mrs. Nuttall, Mr. Barnes, Mr. MacInnes
and Mr. Wilson

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 November were approved and signed, subject to the addition of the word "eventually" to the Upper Lea Valley report on tree planting in Lower Luton Road.

2. MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary was asked to pursue the matter of making British Rail's model of the new Station available to the public, preferably in the Public Library.

The question of a Press Release on the subject of the School Liaison Group's "Box" was raised, and assurance was given that it would be accompanied by a photograph.

In reply to a question about parking charges at Davenport House, Mr. Rees replied that no mention of payment was made in the Planning Permission. The Secretary would make further enquiries. The Chairman raised the issue of the Government recommendation that Stansted be developed as the third London Airport. The Secretary felt strongly that, although this might limit the expansion of Luton Airport, it would be an environmental disaster for Hertfordshire and he undertook to obtain information and guidance from LADACAN.

The Secretary reported that he had received no replies to correspondence on the use of Limbrick Hall for business purposes and the offensive fascia board for the premises of Lock and Vince. A letter from the District Council on the subject of moped parking was passed to Mr. Rogers for study before replying. The Committee welcomed Mr. Rogers' willingness to take over as Convenor of the Transport Group as Mr. Pattison was leaving Harpenden. Mrs. Wang and Mr. Ward agreed to become members of the Group.

REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) PLANS

Mr. Rees reported on recent planning applications and after discussion his recommendations were accepted by the Committee for communicating to the District and Town Councils. These included objections to applications for a garage and carport at 5, Kirkwick Avenue, a new house in Redbourn Lane and a display of leisure equipment adjacent to the Fox Public House, Luton Road. Further information was needed on an application for a prefabricated building off Waldgrave Park.

Mr. Rees said he had checked on Luton's plans for large-scale housing development, and that these were on the far side of the airport away from Harpenden.

3. (a) Mr. Rees was asked about traffic arrangements at Southdown. The Secretary referred to the latest copy of "Harpenden Forum", where arrangements were summarised.

3. (b) TREES

In the absence of members of the Trees Group, the Secretary drew attention to the completion of planting at the Rovers' hut. The Chairman said we must publicise the Society's contribution here and also the planting at Dark Lane. Both should be mentioned in our next Newsletter, but we had missed an opportunity of wider publicity.

Discussion took place on the Concourse Tree Project. Mr. Evans' correspondence with the Town Council asking for official permission to proceed was approved. Satisfaction was expressed with his using the co-operation of Messrs. Jarvis, who celebrate their 75th anniversary in 1980.

Mr. Powlesland said that although he would provide collecting tins for the street collection on 16 February, he needed the active collaboration of as many members of the Society as possible. It would be necessary to give some 'token' in return for contributions, and the Chairman undertook to design these and have them produced. He said fund raising should be announced in the next Newsletter, and could go on until autumn, 1980, when the planting of the Concourse tree would take place.

The Chairman and Secretary agreed to prepare a display stand for use on the Concourse on the day of the street collection. The Secretary would write to the Town Council to seek permission for this. It was suggested that it might be possible to borrow a caravan from the District Council or a booth from 'Superloot' promoters for use on the Concourse.

It was agreed that a Helpers' Meeting should be held in late January or early February with an appeal for attendance in the Newsletter.

3. (c) UPPER LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mr. Haggard reported progress on the footbridge. He expressed concern that some allotment land behind Salisbury Road might be taken for building. This was referred to the Plans Group for investigation.

A working contact had now been established with the ~~Westfield~~ ^{Leatfield} Residents' Group.

Mrs. Wang commented on the difficulties of establishing planting on both sides of Lower Luton Road due to split responsibilities of various County and District Council departments, but she would contact "Services" to help with the actual planting.

3. (d) SCHOOLS LIAISON GROUP

Mrs. Godfrey reported on progress with "Box 2", which would comprise a 'Planning Game' (identifying authorities involved) and a history of Harpenden's development. The possibility of obtaining a Heritage Award was being borne in mind.

3. (e) RE-CYCLING

The Chairman reported that work on the Directory was still proceeding, but little progress had been made with the District Council on the setting up of Bottle Banks.

4.

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

and 1979

The Membership Secretary reported that members who had not paid their subscriptions in 1978 had been written off.

The Treasurer reported that the Pies and Punch evening had made a profit of £9.25.

5.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The difficulties of obtaining a projector for meetings in the Small Public Hall were discussed. The Secretary said the cost of an adequate machine would be £100. Mrs. Wang suggested that the availability of a second hand projector be explored.

The "Town Guide" was referred to, with particular reference to the excellent 'write-up' of the Society.

Various topics were discussed, including the need for seats, for example opposite Pigeonwick, but no firm decisions were taken.

Mrs. Wang made a plea for the preservation of old buildings in the present Station Approach, and also for a replacement for the specimen tree planted by the Society, ~~and destroyed by the contractors outside Davenport House.~~

6.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 22 January at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Viner.

22/1/80.

The Composition of the Committee of the Harpenden Society

Here is the promised note from your Secretary setting forth the composition of the present Committee.

Our constitution says "The Committee shall consist of not less than eight and not more than fifteen members." Also "after three years' continuous service (members) shall not be eligible for re-election until after a lapse of one year".

So, with the ^{retirement} resignation of Doug Weston and the election of Lorna Wang, we shall have four vacancies. As far as I know, we have no volunteers coming forward at present. We need some new blood, preferable younger people. Please give this matter some hard thought: we need lively people interested in any aspect of civics and conservation and prepared to be active.

Committee membership at 31st December, 1979

Elected March, 1977 and retiring March, 1980

Doug Weston

Elected March, 1978 and retiring March, 1981

Mildred Ashford, Bill Barnes, Isobel Haberer, Jack Haggard, Bernard Rees, Peter Rogers, Maurice Smith, Brenda Suitters

Elected March, 1979 and retiring March, 1982

Ann Godfrey, Malcolm MacInnes, Rosalind Nuttall

Our President and Vice-Presidents are entitled to attend Committee Meetings and receive Minutes but have no votes.

Our Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are ex officio members and have votes. They are elected annually but are not subject to the three-year retirement rule.

The creation of the office of Vice-Chairman has proved a most valuable innovation - particularly in our choice of first incumbent. We now need to amend the Constitution by special resolution at the Annual General Meeting to make this office official.

Ted Ward