

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
18 November, 1980 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford,
Lady Bawden, Mr. Bush, Mrs. Godfrey, Mr. Haggard,
Mr. Jennings, Mr. Raw, Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers,
Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilson

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Haberer,
Mrs. Suitters and Mrs. Wang

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary reported that the Harpenden and District Ratepayers' Association had asked the Society to take concerted action with them against the erection by Messrs. Connells of "For Sale" boards on private properties by the use of car stickers as propaganda. The Committee agreed that this would serve no useful purpose, and the legal position was dubious. However, the Committee felt that further objection should be made and the Secretary was asked to write to the Town Council asking them to make a further appeal to Connells, and to publicise the matter in the Harpenden Forum.

3. HIGH STREET TREE PLANTING

Mr. Evans reported that the dead elm on the concourse had now been cut down and a mature Norway maple tree would be planted in its place on Saturday, 29 November. Messrs. Jarvis had kindly offered to replace the seat and the paving round the tree and to provide a tree guard.

The Secretary said he had conferred with the Town Council about invitations to the ceremony, which would be performed by Mr. Colin Curl, Mayor of St. Albans and Vice-President of the Society.

4. CROUDACE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Evans reported that the public response had been very good and appeals against the Croudace development had been sent to the Minister for the Environment under the names of the Harpenden Society and the East Common Residents' Association.

Mrs. Godfrey said that St. Albans Civic Society had also appealed.

5. MEETING WITH BRITISH RAIL

Mr. Ward read a letter from the Area Manager of British Rail saying that Mr. Richard Sanders, Terminal Manager, would be pleased to discuss local problems with representatives of the Society. It was agreed that Mr. Rees, Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward and Mrs. Wang would try to arrange a meeting on 11 or 16 December, and that Mr. Fryd should be invited to attend.

6. DECEMBER AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Mr. Bush reported that on 4 December Miss Joyce Wells, Deputy Librarian, St. Albans, would show slides and talk about "Old St. Albans". Punch and mince pies would be served before the meeting.

6. On Tuesday, 10 February, 1981, the Commons Group would arrange a meeting on "The Story of Harpenden Common".

Mr. Bush said he had had an acceptance by Harpenden Round Table of the Society's application to take part in the 1981 Carnival.

7. SPOTLIGHT ON LEISURE EXHIBITION

The Committee agreed that a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward and Mr. Bush should consider arrangements for the 1981 Exhibition, and that Mr. Rogers should look into means of lighting the stand.

8. GROUP CONVENORS' REPORTS

(a) PLANS

Mr. Rees recommended that refusal of planning permission should be recommended to the following applications:-

Illuminated projecting box signs at 50 and 80 High Street - on the grounds that they would be out of character with the conservation area.

Two detached bungalows at the rear of 26, Lyndhurst Drive as the layout was unsatisfactory and they would be too near to adjoining properties. Also, the provision of new access in close proximity to the junction of Lyndhurst Drive and Granby Avenue would be detrimental to road safety.

A development of 7 3-bedroom and one 4-bedroom houses with garages on the corner of West Common and Redbourn Lane which would be out of character with nearby properties and would overcrowd the site.

He also recommended that the Society should repeat its objection to a renewed application for permission for an extension at 33, Hollybush Lane.

The Committee agreed that these objections should be made to the District Council.

Mr. Smith reported that a Harpenden Scout Group had erected a hut on Piggotts Hill Playing Fields, for which planning permission had not yet been granted. Mr. Wilson stressed that this area badly needed a comprehensive plan with insistence that buildings be painted in colours that would harmonise with the landscape, and it was agreed that the Secretary should write to the District Council on the matter.

(b) TRANSPORT

Mr. Raw reported that the Group had met and discussed the routing of lorries in the district.

Mr. Jennings said that the problem of the slip road opposite Fine Fare was still unsolved, and the Secretary was asked to write to the District Council to ascertain the present position.

(c) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Wilson reported that, despite bad weather, the tree planting on 15 and 16 November had gone ahead and holes had been dug for the planting on 22 and 23 November.

- 8.(c) He said that stocks of the Lea Valley Guide were running out, and it needed to be re-written to bring it into line with the other Lea Valley Guides. The Committee agreed to the Group's request for £62 to re-print 500 guides to cover the interim period.

9. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mr. Ward said he had been offered space in the next issue of "Harpenden Forum" for another advertisement at a cost of £20. The last advertisement had resulted in the recruitment of about ten new members, and it was agreed that it should be repeated.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The attention of Committee members was drawn to the exhibition of the Draft District Plan at the High Street Methodist Church on 26 to 29 November.

The Secretary reported that he was getting quotations for black and white postcards showing views of Harpenden, and he had approached local outlets. It was envisaged that this could be a joint venture with the Local History Society and possibly the Town Council.

It was announced that the Local History Society's latest publication - "Bygone Harpenden" - would be on sale in local shops from 22 November.

In reply to a question, Mr. Ward said he had had a reply from the County Council about the state of roads in Harpenden, particularly of Vaughan Road, saying the departments concerned were being informed.

1. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 16 December at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Viner
16/12/80.