

Doc 14
(1987)

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Committee held on the 11th May, 1987

Present: Mr K. Jennings, Chairman
Mrs. M.J.M. Clitherow, Mrs. A. Godfrey, Miss I.M. Leek,
Mr. L.J.G. Matthews, Mr. A. Mellody, Miss J. Thurston,
Mr. E. Truslove, Mr. M.F. Vincent, Mrs. M. Waldren, Mr. E. Ward.

Apologies were received from Mr. I. McNicoll and Mr. C. Ward.

204. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 25th March, 1987 were approved as a true record, subject to the following amendments:

Present: The name of Mr. E. Truslove was added.
Minute 201(a): para 1, "Mr Shuter" to read "Mr Shooter".
Minute 201(c): Ref 5/87/0403. Delete second sentence.
Minute 201(d): para 3, "Two dead sycamores" to read
"Dead sycamores".

205. REPORTS FROM GROUPS

a. Transport

Mr. Jennings reported on his attendance at the special meeting held by the D.C. Planning & Works Committee on 27th April, 1987 to receive the Report of the Director of Works and Technical Services on:

1. proposed traffic management and environmental enhancement measures, Harpenden.
2. Harpenden Town Centre Inset Map.

Copy Report attached to these Minutes.

B. Environmental

Mr Jennings reported that he had attended the Nicky Line walk on the 12th April, 1987, which had concentrated on the section nearest to Harpenden. An inaugural meeting of the Management Committee had been arranged.

The Committee considered Mrs. Wang's written summary of the situation relating to definitive rights of way. Mrs. Wang sought the Society's support when making representations to

County Councillors and our M.P. regarding this unsatisfactory situation. It was agreed to support Mrs. Wang in these activities and to ask her to represent the Society.

Mrs. Wang had expressed her disappointment at the Society's lack of support for Environment Week. It was agreed that when it had been ascertained how much display space was available at the Library, a committee composed of Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Leek and Messrs. Matthews, Mellody and Truslove would consider what use the Society could make of the facility.

Mr Major had written to request the Society to extend its sponsorship of litter bins to Batford. Mr. Jennings had explained the link with the T.C. and asked Mr. Major to suggest possible sites. It was agreed to ask Mrs. Catterfeld to take up this matter on behalf of the Society.

c. Southdown

Mr. Truslove reported:

Gateway - work had started on the surface of the car park.

Edge of Green - Cllr. Curl had confirmed that he had written to the D.C.

Litter bins - no plaques to date.

Brick wall - collapsed at rear of shops. It was agreed that Mr. Trulove should contact adjacent shop keepers re. ownership of the wall and the reason for the damage.

d. Commons and Greens

Miss Thurston reported:

Memorial seat - Plaque for Dr. Moore's seat now available for fixing.

Plant List - Sales were 99 with 20 on sale or return to St. Alban's Museum. £29.82, gross profit, had been made on the first 100 print. Complimentary copies had been supplied to Rothamsted Library and the T.C. Commons and Greens Committee. The List would be advertised in the next issue of Forum. A supplement would be prepared in the Autumn.

Other Lists - Bird and butterfly lists were in hand. It was agreed to provide £5 for the purchase of traps for the furtherance of the production of the list of mammals, these funds to be taken from the Plant List profits.

Hornbeams - Following badly managed transplanting, two hornbeams alongside the Amenbury Lane carpark had died. Miss Thurston to enquire if D.C. had given permission and to consider involving the press.

Town Council - The Commons & Greens Committee had:

1. given no support for exclusion of cars opposite the Silver Cup when wet.
2. discussed repair of Station Road vandalised seat as this had been provided by the Society
3. discussed grass edge cutting at Church Green; the use of the common for parking outside the Old Public Hall; and the invasion of the common by the car parking of the Pimlico residents.

Group Meeting - Friday, 29th May, 1987.

Society Common Walk - Wednesday, 10th June, 1987.

T.C. Commons and Greens Meeting - Monday, 6th July, 1987.

Mr. Ward reported that he had discussed the preservation of the trees in the garden of No.1 West Common with Cllr. Curl who had undertaken to speak directly to the arborist to try to secure T.P.Os.

Miss Thurston said that she would take up with the T.C. the misuse of the common by a six-wheeled vehicle as reported in The Herald.

e. Plans

Planning applications were commented on as follows:

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| 5/87/0403 | R/O 1 West Common, Lawes Agricultural Trust, erection of seven dwellings. No objection in principle subject to submission of details and restriction to seven. |
| 5/87/0419 | Wells Close, R. Draper Ltd, erection of detached house - oil storage compound. Refusal recommended due to loss of spinney with T.P.O. |
| 5/87/0482 | 212 Station Road, Jarvis Harpenden Holdings Ltd, erection of office accommodation. Despite changes from an earlier application, outlook would still be far from pleasing. |
| 5/87/0447 | 125 Southdown Road, Mr. Medri, change of use of part of first floor from shop to office. Could not support loss of shop space in Southdown. |
| 5/87/0477 | R/O Flowton Priory, Viearna Ltd, erection of 3 detached bungalows. Refusal recommended on grounds of overdevelopment. |

- 5/87/0328 Harpenden Common Gold Club, extension to provide 'pro-shop'. Question the continuing loss of common land to so many small, single storey units and therefore recommend consideration of a policy which clearly states an upper limit to expansion of this nature on publicly-owned open space.
- 5/87/0506 R/O 43,45,47 St. James Road, Gillespie Homes Ltd, erection of 4 one-bedroomed dwellings. While welcoming provision of one-bedroomed dwellings submitted suggestions for a more attractive layout and additional landscaping.
- 5/87/0565 Hickling Way, Aldwych Housing Association Ltd, two-storey block of 7 flats. Observations made regarding cottages in Station Road being overlooked and lack of proper proposals re. car parking.
- 5/87/0645 7 Manland Avenue, D.Scurr, retention of close boarded fence fronting Sauncey Avenue. Refusal recommended re. retrospective application which should be resubmitted in a comprehensive and detailed form showing any changes differing from that which was passed originally. A tree survey should be carried out also.
- 5/87/1639 9 Amenbury Lane, Trustees of C.G. Pearse, deceased, application for established use certificate of motor garage, showroom, repair workshops, offices etc. Designated for office and residential use in Inset Map. How does such designation affect the realisation of the plan in the light of the current application?
- 5/87/604 Queen's Head P.H., Southdown Road, Ind Coope Benskins Ltd, single storey extension to form restaurant. Attention drawn to current local problems relating to car parking.
- 5/87/0706 Plot 1, Hay Lane, R/O 4 - 8 Amenbury Lane, Gemchrist Ltd, attached double garage. Objection to construction already in progress.

Miss Thurston said that she had not yet received a reply to her letter to Professor Monteith, ex-Rothamsted staff and currently a member of the Lawes Agricultural Trust, regarding any background he might be able to supply on the development at the R/O 1 West Common.

The Committee discussed whether or not the Society should take action in addition to the submissions of the Plans Group regarding the botanical value of the location. It was agreed to write an addendum indicating that the Society was now in possession of additional information which dealt with the botanical value of the site.

Following talks between Mr. Matthews and the Town Clerk it had been agreed not to pursue further the matter of the exact size/shape of the frontage of the Harpenden Motors site new building and the related exchange of land.

f. U.L.V.G.

It was noted that an informal ceremony had been arranged for 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 30th May, 1987 at All Saints Church to 'dedicate' the cairn.

It was agreed to ask Cllr. Curl and Lady Bawden to speak on this occasion and to invite a representative of the U.L.V.G. to respond.

Mrs. Mellody had kindly offered to organise refreshments and Mr. Mellody said that he would book the Church Hall.

The Secretary was requested to send out invitations and to invite Mr. Eric Meadows to take photographs for the Society's records. The press to be notified also.

206. SOCIETY AWARD

It was agreed that no award would be made for 1986.

207. NEWSLETTER

The Chairman explained that he had divided Harpenden into three areas and produced local maps on which he had designated these areas, asking for Committee members assistance in the delivery of the newsletter.

Messrs. Jennings, Vincent and Ward then undertook to deliver the newsletters to the area distributors, as follows:

Mr. Jennings	Region 1	W.Common/Sibley/Topstreet
Mr. Vincent	Region 3	Moreton Ave/Park Ave
Mr. E. Ward	Region 2	Hollybush Lane/Batford

208. EVENTS

Mrs. Godfrey said that in the main she would like to make the theme for the year "European Year of the Environment" and would seek suitable speakers.

However, Mr. Alan Squire would speak on the up-to-the-minute topic "Devolution" on the 9th February, 1988.

The A.G.M. would be followed by an Open Forum.

209. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was arranged for 7.45 p.m. on Monday 22nd June, 1987 in the Local History Room, Harpenden Hall.