

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee of the Harpenden Society
held on 30th July, 1968 at the Plumbers Loft at 8.0 p.m.

Present: Mr. F. Goacher (Chairman)., His Honour, Judge Dow (President).,
Mesdames - Crowther, North, Oakley, Hassell.
Messrs. - Curl, Challis, Hill, Taylor, McCrae (Hon. Treasurer.
acting as Minute Secretary)

APOLOGIES

Mesdames - Hills-Young, Milne.
Messrs. - Johnstone (Hon. Secretary)., Dixon, Gasser, Green, Hopper,
Hughes, King, Wilson.

MEETING

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Mr. Challis, Secretary of the Harpenden Urban Design Group who had been co-opted to this Committee.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June, 1968 were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

The Honorary Treasurer was unable to report much progress in connection with the collection of subscriptions in arrears as both Mr. Dixon and the Subscription Secretary were not available. He understood however that one or two members had been cornered in the street and paid up but a further reminder had not yet been sent to those in arrears.

FENCING ALONG A.6.

The Chairman tabled a letter from Mr. E.P. Wilson drawing attention to the proposal by H.U.D.C. to erect 4ft. fencing 25 yards on the Common side of the A.6 stretching from opposite Rothamsted to Walkers Road with the object of preventing snow drifting. This would be temporary fencing to be put up at the beginning of December and removed at the end of March. Did the Committee want to comment on this view of the interruption of the view from the A.6 coming down into Harpenden? After discussion it was felt that there was no point in objection but we should watch the situation to ensure that the fencing is not left in position beyond the end of March. If it is too hideous we could perhaps suggest improvements for the following year

DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN CROSS LANE AND MUD LANE

The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting earlier in the week of people concerned at the proposals to re-zone for residential purposes and to develop the area of land between Cross Lane and Mud Lane. Among others, the local member of Parliament was present at the meeting.

The situation was that both the H.U.D.C. and the H.C.C. had objected to the proposed re-zoning but the Ministry had asked for further reasons and objections. In the meantime Miskins had put in an application for outline planning permission which had been rejected by the H.U.D.C.

Mr. Challis read letter from the Harpenden Urban Design Group to the Ministry setting forth the Group's objection to the proposed re-zoning. IT WAS RESOLVED that the Society write to the Ministry endorsing the views expressed and sending a copy thereof to the Town Clerk.

Mr. Hill commented that the problem of this little bit of development or re-zoning was only a drop in the ocean. The Land Commission was seeking 5,000 acres of development land in Hertfordshire and he was quite certain that Harpenden would be looked at. Mr. Hill's remarks were greeted with gloomy silence.

AUTUMN MEETING

The Chairman reported that Mr. John Betjeman's Secretary had written regretting that Mr. Betjeman would not be able to address the Autumn Meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Mr. Bonnington, Chairman of the Urban Design Group and a senior partner in a well known firm of Architects be invited to address the Autumn Meeting, the date of which had been provisionally fixed for Wednesday 6th November.

It was felt that if this date was not suitable to Mr. Bonnington it would be preferable to alter the date of the meeting rather than change the speaker.

CIVIC TRUST

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Society offer the sum of £4 to any member wishing to attend a conference of Amenity Societies under the auspices of the Civic Trust to be held at the University of York at the weekend of 27th to 29th September, 1968 and that such person be requested to report to the Committee.

As nobody present appeared keen to go it was suggested that we should write to Mr. E.P. Wilson.

HARPENDEN URBAN DESIGN GROUP

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Challis reported on a very good meeting which had been held between the Joint Committee of the Harpenden Society and the Urban Design Group on the one hand and the Chairmen of the Plans and Town Planning Committees the Town Clerk and the Surveyor. They were pleased to find that both the Council

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and the Joint Committee were thinking along the same lines with regard to development in Harpenden and the meeting went very well. It was agreed in particular to have a General Meeting between all three bodies and thereafter to have periodical meetings to consider not only the short term aspects of current planning proposals but also to consider the long term view of the development of Harpenden and the problem of establishing priorities.

The Committee warmly welcomed this report and it was resolved to minute the Committee's pleasure at the promising start to this dialogue with the Council.

HONORARY SECRETARY

The Chairman regretted that there was still no further progress in finding a successor to the post of Secretary. The President undertook to approach a person whom he thought might be able to undertake the work.

SUMMER OUTING

The Chairman wished to record his and the Committee's thanks for those responsible for the success of the Summer Outing particularly Mr. Lorimer Green. Everyone he had spoken to had enjoyed the outing to Osterley House.

LUTON AIRPORT

Mr. Hill reported that the H.C.C. had written to all the local authorities in the area concerned with the expanding use of Luton Airport. If Luton Borough Council failed to respond to the reaction of those concerned, the matter would come to the President of the Board of Trade under legislation about to be introduced in which the President has the right to compel Airport authorities to listen to the views and representations of neighbouring local authorities.

This was all the business and the meeting terminated at the record time of 9.15. p.m.

--- Fred Goucher --- Chairman

--- Sep 30 68 --- Date