

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th February 1972
at 8pm in the Public Library, Harpenden.

Present: Mr J Savage in the chair
His Honour Judge Dow, Messrs Brown, Booth, Crumplin,
Dixon, Green and Hughes. Mrs Elliott, Miss Haberer,
Mrs Johnstone, Mrs Jones and Mrs Williams.

Apologies were received from the Secretary and Mr Brandreth.
Mr Booth acted as Secretary to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the last Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 1972 which
had been circulated were confirmed with minor
corrections to wording and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters arising not otherwise discussed.

(i) Meeting in May. Miss Haberer said that Mr C.C. BARRY
of the Chiltern Society had agreed to give a talk to
members and she undertook to ask him to give a
title to it. There would be a donation to the Society
of £2.10 instead of a fee and this was approved.
Mrs Elliott had booked the Small Public Hall for
Tuesday 9th May. Mr Hughes offered to provide a
screen and projector if required.

Mrs Johnstone suggested that posters would give good
publicity to meetings in future and various
possibilities were considered. Mr Hughes and Mr Dixon
undertook to enquire into these.

(ii) Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition Mr Crumplin reported
progress and outlined the plan which had been
prepared for staging the Society's exhibit.

(iii) Widening of Redbourne Lane. Mr Brown gave his
comments on the outcome of the public enquiry. He
expressed concern at the development piecemeal
of what was in effect going to become a major
cross-country road between Hemel Hempstead and
Welwyn Garden City. It was agreed that in

order to obtain more information about the County's intentions the Secretary should obtain a copy of the plan mentioned in the report. The views of the Urban Design Group would be sought.

3 Correspondence

- (i) Best kept village competition. As the entry would be for Hatching Green the Secretary had sent the entry form to Mr Lomax Green.
- (ii) Darley & Joan Club. A bring and buy stall to raise funds for the Club would be held on 17th March.
- (iii) Subscription Box. The President had approached the new owners of Mary Ellen's about leaving the box there. He had been told that when a manager was appointed it would be for him to decide whether the arrangement should continue but meanwhile no objection would be raised. It was agreed to leave the box there temporarily on this understanding.

4 Reports.

- (i) Plans Sub-committee There were no items of major interest to report. Mr Dixon referred to the proposal for a school in the Beeson End Lane area, and expressed the sub-committee's view that on balance it was preferable to have the school sited to the East of the A6. There was no information about the school in Sun Lane and the Secretary was asked to bring this forward at the next meeting in relation to the future of Harpenden Lodge.
Mr Dixon also said that he had been given to understand that the County proposal for extending Station Road in a straight line across the Lea Valley meadows to the Lower Luton Road had been withdrawn.
- (ii) Upper Lea Valley Group. The Group was discussing the future of the walk-way through N.C.H. land with the County Council. The Harpenden UDC had been asked to put a Tree Preservation Order on these trees at the north end of the site of the former Electric Hose and Rubber Co where scorching had already occurred from the burning of refuse. Mr Crumplin reported

that the Group had put forward proposals on the Central area of the valley to the Council, which, if approved, would be issued in the form of a report.

(iii) Finance. The Treasurer reminded the Committee that a proposal for an increase in the minimum subscription had been considered but no final decision had been taken. After discussion it was agreed that the subscription should be increased to 50p as a general rule but that proposals about its implementation should be submitted at the next meeting.

5. Future Organisation The Chairman said that he had discussed with the Secretary and Treasurer plans which Mr. Bowman had drawn up to make the organisation of the Committee work of the Society more effective. The Committee were asked to consider a modified committee structure which would provide for an enlarged executive committee drawn from a general committee of 21 members. The executive committee would include up to six newly designated officers (in addition to the President, Secretary and Treasurer) who between them would be responsible for the minutes of Committee meetings, membership, Newsletter, publicity and general meetings. They would be nominated by the General Committee annually for election at the Annual General Meeting and would not be subject to the three year rule. Of the 15 members of the general committee subject to the rule 5 members would retire each year.

The Chairman explained that it was intended that the executive committee should meet monthly and report to quarterly meetings of the general committee. Members of the general committee would serve on group sub-committees which would meet periodically as required. The Chairman would be elected by the committee and would be eligible in future to serve more than a two year term.

The Committee approved the scheme in principle but had some reservations in particular on the method of election of the new officers. It was pointed out that their election had been proposed in a way which would ensure continuity of service which might otherwise be broken.

The Committee felt that this could be achieved more satisfactorily if the three year rule were suspended for one year. It was finally agreed that the members should be asked at the Annual General Meeting to agree to the temporary suspension and where necessary to

allow any officer designated by the General Committee to continue as committee members for a further term. The Committee also decided that the general Committee should meet bi-monthly and not quarterly

6. Other Business

(i) Clearance of Scrub. Mrs Johnstone was concerned that the Council were clearing away more than just unwanted scrub on East Common but the Committee felt that natural regrowth would take care of the situation in a comparatively short time.

(ii) Resignation of Miss Finnie It was agreed that the help which Miss Finney had given to the Committee would be recognised in an appropriate way at the Annual General Meeting.

7. Next Meeting.

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 8th March at 8 pm at the Library.

[At the close of the meeting news was received of the death of Sir Frederick Barden]

8th March 1972

J. C. Savage.
Chairman