

DRAFT

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 19th March 1973
in the Small Public Hall, Harpenden at 8.15 p.m.

The President, His Honour Judge Dow, took the chair with more than eighty members present.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th March, 1972 were read, confirmed and signed by the President.

2. Report of the General Committee

The General Committee had not circulated a report this year, as members were already aware of its activities from the Newsletters and the second part of the evening was to be devoted to a consideration of the town centre traffic proposals. However, the Secretary wished to thank Mrs. Brown who not only prepared minutes of the monthly committee meetings but had also become membership secretary. The committee were also grateful to Mr. Brandreth who had arranged for the use of the library for these meetings. This year the Society would be holding its first annual dinner and it was hoped that as many members and their guests as possible would support this new venture, especially as the County Planning Officer, Mr. Overton, had been invited as speaker.

3. Treasurer's Report

The statement of accounts had been circulated; it showed an income of £228.57 and expenditure of £148.54, giving a balance at the end of the year of £80.03, which compared favourably with the balance of nearly £50 at the end of the preceding year. In moving the adoption of the accounts, Mr. Booth said that the welcome increase in income was largely due to the increase in subscriptions received - partly as the result of a successful drive to persuade some members to pay their subscriptions before the end of the year and partly from the increased amounts paid by some members as well as the 34 new members we welcomed during the year. The Society now had more than 400 members and it was most important that this encouraging trend should continue so that funds were available to support our increasing activities. Expenses had continued to rise, but the largest of these - the cost of meetings - was wholly due to the very successful lecture series which had been arranged. The motion was seconded by Mr. Green and agreed by the meeting.

4. Election of Officers

The Chairman, Mr. Savage, formally proposed the re-election of the

President, His Honour Judge Dow, and the three Vice-Presidents, Capt. Bond, Miss Finnie and Mr. George. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones and agreed unanimously.

The President then thanked the Honorary Treasurer and Secretary for all the efforts they had made on behalf of the Society during the past year, and Mr. Booth was re-elected. However, Mr. Bowran was unwilling to continue as Secretary and there being no nominations from the floor, the meeting concurred with the President's suggestion that the committee be asked to find a successor.

The Hon. Auditor, Mr. C.P. Smith, was thanked for his services during the year and re-elected.

5. The following motion: "that the resolution passed on 4th April, 1967 restricting the Society's powers to re-elect committee members be rescinded" was put before the meeting. Several members spoke both for and against the motion before a vote was taken. The motion was rejected by a large majority, but the committee were asked to consider what constitutional amendments, if any, might be required to increase continuity.

6. Election of General Committee

Six members of the committee had retired and no nominations had been received seven days previously. However, nominations came from the floor and the following committee members were elected:

Dr. J. Bowden
Mrs. M. Johnstone
Mrs. A. Russell

7. Any other business

Mrs. Goss suggested that more information about the activities of the General Committee might be made available to ordinary members. Although the Newsletters were informative, additional information, especially for new members, would be welcome.

Councillor Williamson said that with the impending changes in local government Harpenden needed a strong ratepayers' association and suggested that the Harpenden Society, as a well-established group within the town, might be able to provide this. It was noted that there could be a conflict between the aims of an amenity society and those of the ratepayers, but it was left to the committee to investigate this suggestion further.

8. There being no further business the meeting was concluded.

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