

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 21st January 1975
at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mr. Brown (until 8.55), Mr. Borthwick
Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Goss, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Jones,
Mrs. Russell
Mr. Brandreth, Mr. Derrett, Mr. ^{B.}Nixon, Dr. Potter,
Mr. Usher, Mr. Wilson

The Chairman offered his apologies because he would have to leave early, and it was agreed item 3 should be taken first.

3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 11th March

The procedure to be followed at the AGM was considered. It was agreed that at the beginning of the meeting the committee should recommend adoption of the new constitution, and (assuming it is accepted) new officers and committee members would be appointed in accordance with its rules. Members were reminded that although the new committee would have 15 members instead of 20 at present, there would be 7 vacancies because of the number of retiring members. There was some discussion of how best to fill these: Mr. Nixon suggested that we should try to elect people professionally qualified in the fields that most concern us - architects, planners and the like. The committee agreed to think of suitable people to nominate.

It was reported that Mr. Arnold, the City Arborist, who would be talking on 'Trees in the Urban Environment' after the business part of the meeting, would welcome questions on his work.

The Chairman left the meeting at 8.55 p.m.: the chair was then taken by Mr. Borthwick.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th December were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Bowers Parade development

The Secretary reported that the Department of the Environment had replied to her letter, but said that there were no grounds for re-opening discussion on the planning permission granted. (Apparently only parties to the agreement can apply to have it re-opened.) Mrs. Russell said the urgency had now gone, as Beeson End Development Co. had not been able to find a client for the proposed supermarket and the project has been postponed for a few years: the present shops are being re-let for between 3-5 years. Mrs. Russell also reported that there were two conflicting planning applications in for the same site in the January list: one for the installation of light engineering machinery (an application opposed by the Parish Council) and the other for demolition of the premises. Mr. Usher said that under recent laws there must be a formal application to demolish buildings within a conservation area. The Council does not want the building demolished until just before

rebuilding. Mrs. Johnstone proposed, and it was agreed, that despite the immediate reprieve the committee should keep a watching brief on developments on this site.

It was proposed that Bowers House Working Group should be enlarged into a Conservation Area Group, but agreed consideration of this suggestion be left to the new committee.

(b) Contact with St. Albans District Council

It was reported that there had been no progress on this matter.

4. SPOTLIGHT ON LEISURE EXHIBITION - 13th-15th March

After some discussion it was agreed that the Society's stand should be manned and Mr. Wilson undertook to organise a rota, Mr. Usher offering to do Thursday evening. Mr. Usher agreed to plan the stand and asked for suggestions for items to be included in our exhibit. It was agreed to give some publicity to the Harpenden & District Local History Society.

5. TREE GROUP REPORT

Mrs. Goss reported that some trees in Old Rectory Close, which had been topped recently and now looked unsightly, had required urgent treatment and would look much better soon.

Tree preservation orders have been placed on trees in Cross Lane and Crabtree Lane. Mr. Derrett said he was attempting to obtain better copies of tree preservation orders than those he already held.

The committee were asked to consider questions suitable for Mr. Arnold at the AGM, and to submit them in advance. A note to this effect would be included in the notice of the meeting.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

Mrs. Russell reported that application has been made to redevelop Nos. 53A, 53B and 55 High Street (The Studio, DER and Rose Cottage) to provide three shops with offices and flats above. The committee viewed this application with concern, it being an important site within the conservation area. The plans showed a mansard roof with dormer windows. It was agreed to write to the District Council, objecting to the change of use of Rose Cottage from residential to shop and office.

7. MAY MEETING

At the meeting on May 5th Mr. Overton will give an illustrated lecture on Phase Three of the County Structure Plan.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Mr. Wilson said that the Town & Country Planning Association were holding a two-day seminar on making local plans. The committee felt that it would be valuable to send a representative to this meeting on 25th & 26th February and agreed to pay part expenses for Mr. Wilson to attend.

- (b) Mr. Wilson reported that Wheathampstead Parish Council had called a public meeting, addressed by Mr. Michael Hislop, the Countryside Officer of the Hertfordshire Council for Voluntary Service, and as a result a Wheathampstead Lea Valley Working Group had been formed.
- (c) The Third Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday, 2nd April in the Large Public Hall. Mr. Derrett said that the caterers were not yet able to give him a firm quotation, but there was likely to be about an 12% increase over last year. The committee agreed to subsidise the dinner if necessary. Dr. Fowden has accepted the Society's invitation to speak after the dinner, and arrangements for tickets and a notice to members are in hand.
- (d) Mr. Usher asked if the Society had written to the Parish Council about a public notice board, as the Council appeared to have had no response from local societies. The Secretary replied that four letters had been sent to Pettingale suggesting sites. Mr. Usher agreed to look into the matter.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, 18th February at 8.00 p.m. in the Public Library. The AGM will be on March 11th, and the first meeting of the new committee on March 18th.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 18th February 1975
at 8.0 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs. Elliott
Mrs. Cunneen, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Jones,
Miss Pratt, Mrs. Russell
Drs. Bowden & Potter, Messrs. Brandreth, Dixon,
Derrett, B. Nixon, Usher & Wilson
(part-time) Mr. Pattison

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Brown,
Mr. Borthwick, Lady Bawden and Mrs. Goss.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Spotlight on Leisure exhibition

Mr. Usher reported that it was planned to have display boards showing various aspects of the Society's work. One would be devoted to the Tree Group and another would show recent planning applications in which the Society had been involved. Other possibilities were one on the management of the Common, on footpaths and on the development of the land between Crabtree and Piggottshill Lanes. He would be consulting Mr. Brown on the choice of photographs. Mr. Meadows had kindly agreed to produce prints at cost price.

The Local History Society and the Upper Lea Valley Group would be providing slides for display.

(b) Membership leaflet

Mr. Usher had prepared a leaflet publicising the aims and interests of the Society for general distribution in Harpenden to stimulate interest in our activities and to encourage membership. The content of the leaflet was agreed, with minor amendments.

After some discussion on the cost of printing and distribution to every house in Harpenden (a figure of £40-50 for 8,000 copies was quoted) it was decided to run a pilot scheme, spending £20 on printing and distributing to selected areas only. The matter would be discussed further at the next meeting.

(c) Annual dinner

It was agreed to invite the Mayor and Mayoress of St. Albans (Mr. & Mrs. I. Fulton) to be the Society's guests at the dinner. Notices for display and tickets for sale were distributed to members of the committee.

Miss Pratt pointed out that she and Mr. Derrett would be retiring from the committee and would not be able to be responsible for future dinner arrangements. It was agreed it would be the responsibility of the new committee to find members to carry on this work.

(d) Public notice boards

Mr. Usher said he had received the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting, in which it was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to look into this matter, and that of bus shelters. The new committee might like to contact him for further information and developments.

3. REDEVELOPMENT OF GORSELANDS SITE

Mr. Usher and Mr. Wilson reported that they had seen the latest plans. The Parish Council had approved them without comment. They were a vast improvement on the previous proposals and took account of many of the criticisms the Society had made; the only reservations concerned the design of the elevations which was mundane and uninteresting. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Usher should write to the District Council, congratulating the developers on the improvements made but pointing out that the elevations were unimaginative and disappointing for such an important site. Mrs. Russell undertook to inform the press of the action we had taken.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

- (a) The Secretary would enquire whether a letter had been sent to the District Council giving our objections to the proposed demolition and redevelopment of Rose Cottage and adjoining properties.
- (b) Mrs. Russell said an application had been made for 3/4 storey office development for Jarvis in Vaughan Road. The site was zoned for commercial purposes in the Town Map and it was agreed not to comment on this proposal.
- (c) An outline planning application had been made for twelve detached houses in Beeson End Orchard. Mrs. Jones agreed to check on the exact site and report.

5. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) A letter had been received requesting the Society to try to preserve the 'miniature nature reserve' at 24 Roundwood Lane, which appeared to be ripe for redevelopment. Mrs. Russell reported that a planning application had been made for the demolition of the house and the erection of two detached houses for Kingsbury Homes. Mr. Derrett said the Tree Group were aware of the problem. It was agreed to look at the site and the dwelling and report back.
- (b) Complaints had been received about horseriders spoiling the surface of the Common and the football pitches. The Secretary would write to the Parish Council supporting these complaints and asking what action was being taken to ensure that horseriders complied with the byelaws and kept to the specified bridle paths.
- (c) It was agreed to renew for the following year the subscription of £2.00 to the Herts Federation of Amenity Societies.
- (d) The Secretary reported that an invitation had been received to attend a reception before the opening of the Spotlight on Leisure exhibition on 13th March.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Mr. Wilson reported that the seminar organised by the Town & Country Planning Association was fully booked, and he would not be able to attend.
- (b) Mr. B. Nixon suggested that an advertisement for membership should be included in the Herts Advertiser whenever any major article relating to the Society's interests was being published. Mrs. Russell would investigate the possibility and cost.
- (c) Mr. Pattison reported that the public transport plan had received general approval. The Parish Council was going to look into the provision of bus shelters.
- (d) ^{Miss Pratt} ~~Mrs. Johnstone~~ raised the question of providing a footpath from the Queen's Road to the bus stop at the bottom of Crabtree Lane. Mr. Pattison would look into the possibility.
- (e) Mrs. Johnstone asked whether trees could be planted around the water tower. Dr. Bowden agreed to raise the point with Mr. Arnold.
- (f) Mr. Wilson reported that Mr. Fletcher was the new St. Albans Planning Officer. As well as acting as one of the seminar leaders at the T&C Planning Association conference, Mr. Fletcher had been involved in informal discussions with the Harpenden Urban Design Group when the Town Study Plan was being prepared.
- (g) The Secretary stated that a meeting on the subject of the Common would be held in September. Suggestions for other meetings would be welcome.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Following the AGM on March 11th the committee would meet on Tuesday, 18th March and 15th April.

Mr. Brandreth would try to arrange for the library to continue to be opened at 8 p.m. If this were not possible, meetings might have to start at 7.30 p.m.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 1975
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Lady Bawden, Mrs. Cunneen, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Russell, Mr. Booth, Dr. Bowden, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Noble, Mr. Scowen

Apologies for absence were received from the President, the Treasurer, Mrs. Goss and Dr. Watson

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Anne Russell was unanimously elected Chairman.

The Chairman expressed the Society's thanks to the previous chairman, Mr. David Brown, and to retiring members of the committee for all the work they had done, and welcomed the new members.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Mrs. Johnstone pointed that Miss Pratt had raised item 6(d). The path in question would be from the existing footpath near the Queen's Head to the Crabtree Lane bus stop. Subject to these amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 18th February were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(a) Spotlight on Leisure exhibition

The committee agreed that the Society's stand had been a great success. Some forty new members had been recruited. Great interest had been shown in the slides of Harpenden. Mrs. Cunneen proposed that we should look into the possibility of making a selection of slides for sale. Mr. Nixon suggested that next year we should try to get a back projector to show slides.

(b) Membership leaflet

It was agreed to distribute the leaflet initially in an area to the east and south of Piggottshill Lane, which comprised both pre- and post-war housing estates. Mr. Borthwick had offered to be responsible for distribution, and Mr. Nixon would assist him. The possibility of including a copy of the current newsletter was considered, but found to be too expensive. It was agreed that, if possible, brief details of the May meeting would be included.

(c) Arrangements for Annual Dinner

Arrangements were going well. There would be a raffle, as well as musical entertainment.

(d) Publicity in the Herts Advertiser

Mrs. Russell reported that the Herts Advertiser was willing to publish advertisements on behalf of the Society, but these would not necessarily be on the same page as any article mentioning the Society's interests. Rates would not be prohibitive.

(e) Development at Beeson End Orchard

Mrs. Jones reported that the site comprised the former paddock at Beeson End Orchard.

(f) Footpath to Crabtree Lane Bus Stop

Mrs. Jones reported Mr. Pattison's suggestion that stone slabs would solve this problem adequately.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Crabtree Lane/Piggottshill Lane proposed development

Mr. Dixon would represent the Society at the public enquiry to be held on May 7th. Our policy was to support the District Council in their refusal. If development were to be permitted, we would press for the retention of the tree line, the provision of open space and a low housing density.

(b) Proposed housing development on the Aldwickbury Estate

It was agreed to look into the Aldwickbury planning application with particular reference to the provision of play space.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-GROUPS

The sub-groups were reconstituted as follows:

Tree Group - Mrs. Goss (convenor), Mr. Derrett, Mr. Booth, Mr. Scowen,
Dr. Potter

Mr. Dixon agreed to approach Mr. J. Haggard with a view to his joining the Tree Group.

Common Group - Mrs. Johnstone (convenor), Lady Bawden, Mr. H. Nixon,
Miss Ashford, Miss Pratt

Plans Group - Mr. Dixon (convenor), Mr. Noble, Mrs. Cunneen
Mrs. Goss (to be approached)

Footpaths Group - Mrs. Jones (convenor)
Mr. Brinn and Dr. Watson (to be approached)

It was agreed that members of the Society should become more involved in the Society's work, and that any members known to be especially interested in any particular subject would be invited to join the appropriate group.

Meetings - Lady Bawden's offer to be Meetings Secretary was accepted.

Committee Minutes - Mrs. Cunneen offered to act as Minute Secretary.

Press Publicity - Mrs. Russell agreed to continue with this.

Publicity for Meetings - Mr. Dixon suggested this should be tied up with the newsletter, and Mr. Borthwick asked for his views.

Newsletter - Mr. Borthwick would be asked if he were willing to take over responsibility for editing the newsletter from Mr. Brandreth. It was agreed that the aim should be to produce the newsletter more frequently if possible. The problem was one of cost. Mr. Noble offered to provide reproduction facilities.

Special Projects Group

It was agreed to set up a study group to consider possible subjects or areas of special interest suitable as specific improvement projects. The projects would have to be valuable and realisable. Bowers House had proved too unrealistic. Mr. Noble agreed to act as convenor.

6. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Damage to the Common by horse riding

A letter from Mr. Pettingale stated that he was writing to local riding schools and stables drawing their attention to the byelaws and asking them to comply with them. The problem was one of enforcement. It was agreed that our reply should ask Mr. Pettingale to have the notices drawing riders' attention to the specified routes replaced on the Common.

(b) Enquiry re waste treatment plant at Gorhambury

The Society had written strongly supporting the objections of the St. Albans District Council. The Plans Group would keep any eye on the proposal.

(c) May meeting

The Parish Council had approached the Society about our scheduled public meeting on May 5th at which a member of the County Planning Department will be talking about the County Structure Plan. The Parish Council would be holding an annual public meeting and as they now wished to hold one on the same subject, they suggested that the Society's should be a joint meeting, sponsored by both the Parish Council and the Society. Parish business would take up only about thirty minutes of the meeting. The Parish Council would help with publicity.

It was agreed that, as we wished to foster good relations with the Parish Council, and provided that Parish business did not occupy too much time, this suggestion should be accepted.

(d) Hertfordshire Society

The payment of £2.00 annual subscription to the Hertfordshire Society was agreed.

7. FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday, 5th May	County Structure Plan
Tuesday, 16th September	Commons
Monday, 1st December	
Tuesday, 16th March 1976	Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, 11th May 1976	

A provisional booking for the Annual Dinner has been made for Wednesday, 7th April.

Members expressed their interest in a possible autumn visit to the Westonbirt Arboretum (which had featured in some of the slides shown by Mr. Arnold at the A.G.M.). The possibility of arranging such a visit would be investigated.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, 22nd April at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library. N.B. NOT APRIL 15TH AS PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

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President

His Honour Judge R.G. Dow	2, Kirkwick Avenue	2006
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Honorary Vice-Presidents

Capt. K.H. Bond, Mr. L.S. George, Miss H. Finnie

Chairman

Mrs. A. Russell	32, Roundwood Park	60496
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Hon. Secretary

Mrs. J. Elliott	Cherry Hayes, Mackerye End	4196
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Hon. Treasurer

Mr. J.M.B. Borthwick	6, Wheathampstead Road	63712
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Committee Members (date of election)

Lady M.E. Bawden (1974)	1, Crabtree Lane	2264
Mr. D.L. Booth (1975)	36, Townsend Lane	2957
Dr. J. Bowden (1973)	23, Carisbrooke Road	5647
Mr. M.K. Brinn (1975)	8, Gibraltar Lodge, Batford Rd.	62791
Mrs. M.A. Cunneen (1974)	99, Crabtree Lane	2846
Mr. C.W. Curl (1974)	34, Haddon Court, Milton Road	3449
Mr. R.G. Dixon (1975)	19, Stewart Road	3918
Mrs. L. Goss (1974)	1, Broadfields	5983
Mrs. M. Johnstone (1973)	66, West Common	3504
Mrs. M. Jones (1974)	3, Wheatfield Avenue	5036
Mr. B.C. Nixon (1974)	12, Dalkeith Road	3485
Mr. I.A. Noble (1975)	8, Douglas Road	63678
Mr. J. Savage (1975)	4, St. Michael's Close	63584
Mr. L. Scowen (1975)	11, Yardley Court	-
Dr. D.J. Watson (1975)	Bardolphs, Redbourn Lane	3220

Urban Design Group representative

Mr. A.O. Squires	52, Crabtree Lane	3685
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Membership Secretary

Mrs. E.P. Brown	4, Wheathampstead Road	5575
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Resigned 1975

Mr. Brandreth, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Derrett, Mr. H. Nixon,
Dr. Potter, Miss Pratt, Mr. Pattison, Mr. Usher and Mr. Wilson.

Until March 1976

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd April 1975
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell (in the chair)
Lady Bawden, Mrs. Cunneen, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Goss,
Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Jones
Dr. Bowden, Dr. Watson, Mr. Borthwick, Mr. Savage
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Booth, Mr. Brinn,
Mr. Dixon and Mr. Scowen

1. RESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Committee accepted with regret the resignation of Mr. Noble, due to pressure of business commitments.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Report on Annual Dinner

The Treasurer reported a small loss, which was accounted for by the number of non-paying guests. The Committee agreed the Dinner had been very successful, and the madrigals had been very well received. They expressed their appreciation of the work done by Mr. Derrett, Miss Pratt and Mr. Savage, who had put a great deal of time and effort into ensuring the success of the function.

4. REPORTS FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

(a) Plans Group

Mrs. Goss accepted an invitation to join the sub-group.

Rose Cottage - The Committee heard with relief that the application to rebuild the three properties on this site had been refused planning permission.

76 Station Road & site at Manland Avenue - The planning applications to build blocks of flats on these vacant sites did not appear to raise any major problems.

Disquiet was expressed at the unsightly appearance outside the Electrical Discount Shop in Bowers Parade, where refrigerators were being stored on the pavement. It was agreed that unless matters improved shortly the problem would be raised with the local authority.

(b) Common Group

Mrs. Johnstone reported on the meeting of the Common Group held on 22nd March. Members of the Group and the Herts & Middx. Trust had met the Parish Council, who had agreed that a management plan for the Common should be drawn up.

A working party would be arranged on Thursday 24th July to clear up the Common. St. George's School would be taking part. Other volunteers would be welcome, and publicity would be given in the next newsletter.

Members expressed concern at the damage being caused to the edges of the Common by cars and current building works. If no improvements took place, the matter would be raised with the Parish Council.

(c) Footpaths Group

Dr. Watson was welcomed as a member. Mrs. Jones reported that a footpath walk was being planned to take place in early July.

(d) Special Projects Group

Mr. Noble's resignation left vacant the post of convenor of the group. It was agreed that Mr. B. Nixon be invited to become convenor. Mr. Anthony Evans would be approached with a view to his becoming a member of the group.

(e) Upper Lea Valley Group

Mr. Brinn would be asked to be the Committee's representative on the group.

5. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Mr. Borthwick and Mr. B. Nixon (with the help of their families) had delivered 303 leaflets in the Piggottshill/Aldwickbury area. Some 8 replies had been received and 17 new members recruited. It was agreed to conduct a similar operation in the Roundwood/Wood End area; several committee members offered assistance in delivering leaflets.

6. NEWSLETTER

It was difficult to find volunteers to take over this work. The Chairman would write a brief newsletter giving details of the open meeting to be held on May 5th. It was agreed the aim should be to issue newsletters more frequently, even if the contents were shorter. The sub-groups would report items of interest for future issues. Mr. Savage offered to make arrangements for reproduction of the newsletter.

7. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) A letter had been received from Mr. Fulton regretting that he was unable to accept the Society's invitation to the Annual Dinner owing to a previous engagement. He had suggested that he and members of the Planning Committee should meet 'you and your colleagues' on an informal basis. It was agreed a reply should be sent inviting them to a special committee meeting to discuss planning matters, especially within a conservation area.
- (b) Mr. Towler, the Deputy Mayor, had written expressing on behalf of his wife and himself, their pleasure at attending the Annual Dinner, and welcoming the opportunity it gave them of learning more about the Society's work.
- (c) The Redbourn Society were seeking assistance towards the cost of employing counsel at the public enquiry into the proposed building of a toxic waste disposal plant, which was now in its fourth week. It was agreed to make a contribution of £5.00 to the Society.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Savage raised the question of the Annual Dinner next year. In view of some difficulty in selling tickets this year, and the continuing rise in costs, a less formal social event might be preferable. Members differed in their views. It was agreed to put the question to all members in the next newsletter and see if there were any strong preference for either type of event.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

May 5th	Joint meeting with the Parish Council. 7.30-8.30 p.m. Annual Parish Meeting 8.30 p.m. Open Meeting of the Harpenden Society Mr. D. Clark, an Assistant County Planning Officer, will speak and show slides on the County Structure Plan.
early July	Footpaths walk
September 16th	Meeting organised by Commons Group. Mr. H. Nixon will speak and show slides on aspects of management of the Common.
October 1st	Visit to Westonbirt Arboretum - to be arranged by Mrs. Goss
December 1st	Proposed Wine & Cheese Evening. It was agreed to invite Mr. Aubrey Boutwood to speak and show slides on 'The Rothschilds and their Chiltern Heritage'.
February 1976	Suggested meeting. Topic to be arranged.
March 16th 1976	Annual General Meeting. It was suggested that Mr. McKenna, Chief Planning Officer at the District Council might be invited to speak on the town centre.
April 7th 1976	Provisional date for Annual Dinner.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, 20th May at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 20th May, 1975

at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs. Russell
Mrs. Cunneen, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Jones
Mr. Brinn, Mr. Scowen
Mr. Curl (for latter part of the meeting)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Booth, Mr. Borthwick, Dr. Bowden,
Mr. B. Nixon and Mrs. Goss

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

There was a misprint in the date of the Westonbirt visit. This would take place in late October not on October 1st. The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April were approved, subject to this correction.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Visit to Westonbirt Arboretum

Mrs. Goss had made preliminary enquiries. A coach could be booked in advance, and tea arranged. The cost would be about £1.50-1.75 per head. Mr. Arnold would be willing to come, with a friend, and act as guide to the group. It was agreed that 18th October would be the most suitable date for the visit. Further publicity would be given in the next Newsletter and names taken at the September meeting, after which arrangements could be finalised.

(b) Report on Joint Meeting with Parish Council

Mrs. Russell reported on the May 5th meeting. Two items had been of particular interest to the Society. Mr. Curl's report on action being taken to improve the Common had shown that the Society's initiative in asking for positive management plans had borne fruit. The talk on the County Structure Plan by Mr. Clarke indicated that, whichever of the four choices was selected, there were no plans for any major growth in Harpenden.

3. REPORT FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

(a) Plans Group

Mrs. Cunneen drew the committee's attention to the following planning applications:

Station Road/Milton Road, 3 & 4 storey flats for J.W. Davis & Co. - The committee decided not to comment on these proposals.

Cross Farm - The committee would get in touch with Mr. Pettingale about this proposal. The major necessity was to ensure that Cross Lane was preserved without widening.

Car showroom at Amenbury Lane for Messrs. Putterill - The committee would look further into this application.

Rowe's bakery - Mrs. Russell reported that Mr. Gayfer had been in touch with the developers. They had assured him that the renovations and alterations would be starting very soon.

(b) Common Group

Mrs. Johnstone reported that Mr. H. Nixon felt it would be premature for him to speak on the long-term management of the Common at the present stage.

It was agreed, as an alternative for the September meeting, to look into the possibility of arranging a symposium of speakers with specialised knowledge relating to the Common.

Miss Thurston would be invited to join the Common Group, and asked to take slides of 'disasters' on the Common. These might form a basis for discussion at the proposed symposium, and for possible action.

(c) Footpaths Group

Mr. Curl reported that the present application for closure of the St. George's school footpath had been withdrawn, and a new solution was being sought. The committee decided to take no action on this matter.

(d) Membership Drive

Application forms would be distributed, together with a copy of the latest Newsletter, which was due to be issued at the end of June. Volunteers to assist with distribution would be asked for at the next committee meeting.

(e) Upper Lea Valley Group A.G.M.

Mr. Brinn reported on the Group's A.G.M. held on May 6th. The Chairman, Mr. Usher, had outlined the work of the group since 1970/71, an amateur film showing the group at work had been shown and Mr. Wilson had reported on progress on the Upper Lea Valley Through Walk. There were problems of access in two areas: through land belonging to the National Children's Home and through private farmland on the far side of Leasey Bridge. The group had also indicated possible plans for the future to improve the common landscape at Batford and to create a paddling pool.

Mr. Brinn reported that the group was very active and enthusiastic; many new members had been recruited and there was a busy programme of weekend and weekday working parties. He was very impressed with the amateur film that had been shown, and hoped an opportunity could be found to show it at a general meeting of the Society.

4. NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter would be issued at the end of June. Any items for inclusion should be given to the Chairman as soon as possible. It was suggested that mention should be made of the recent W.E.A. pamphlet on Churches in Harpenden. Publicity would also be given to the campaign to clean up the Common.

5. FUTURE MEETINGS

12th July	Footpaths walk - Mrs. Jones would look into the possibility of providing refreshments en route.
16th September	Common Group open meeting (see item 3.b)
18th October	Visit to Westonbirt Arboretum
1st December	Mr. Aubrey Boutwood has confirmed that he will speak on 'The Rothschilds and their Chiltern Heritage'. A wine and cheese evening had been proposed. Mrs. Johnstone suggested that hot mincepies and punch would go down very well - this idea was received with enthusiasm.
February 1976	Possible talk and visit to Lemsford Springs Nature Reserve.

16th March 1976 Annual General Meeting. Mr. McKenna, Chief Planning Officer at St. Albans to be guest speaker.

7th April 1976 Annual Dinner. It was agreed to continue with this function. There had been no response from members to the request to express their views. It was agreed that Lord Hill be invited to be the guest speaker.

May 1976 Possible joint meeting with St. Albans Civic Society and film by the Upper Lea Valley Group.

6. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Mr. Usher was drawing up plans, and looking into the cost of putting a new notice board on the Woolworths site. The possibility of renovating the existing board outside the George Hotel was also being considered.
- (b) A Tree Preservation Order for the Cross Farm site had been received.
- (c) A letter had been received from Mr. Skeat of 5, Cross Lane complaining about the dumping of rubbish, and a disused car (which had since been burned out) on the Common. He was also concerned about the damage being caused to the Common by horse riding. Mrs. Johnstone agreed to speak to Mr. Skeat on these matters.
- (d) It was agreed to renew the subscription to the C.P.R.E.
- (e) Correspondence had been received from the Herts Federation of Amenity Societies which showed that they had been taking up with the Department of the Environment many general subjects in which this Society was interested.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that the Treasurer should investigate the possibility of making a small contribution towards the cost of furniture and furnishings for the Old People's Day Centre.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, 17th June at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 17th June 1975
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs. Russell
Lady Bawden, Mrs. Cunneen, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Goss, Mrs. Johnstone
Mr. Booth, Mr. Borthwick, Dr. Bowden, Mr. B. Nixon, Mr. Savage, Mr. Scowen
Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Jones and Mr. Brinn.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 20th May were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (a) The Treasurer reported that the annual subscription to the C.P.R.E. had been paid, and a donation of £10.00 made towards the cost of furniture and fittings for the Old People's Day Centre.
- (b) Special Projects Group - Mr. B. Nixon said he would be happy to convene a small group of interested members. The task of the group would be to make constructive suggestions for possible small areas or schemes for improvement in Harpenden. Mr. Borthwick expressed interest in joining, and several names were suggested to Mr. Nixon. Mr. Anthony Evans had agreed to join such a group, and Mr. Nixon would get in touch with him. Mention of the formation of the group would be made in the next Newsletter and members asked to put forward any ideas or suggestions to Mr. Nixon.
- (c) Annual Dinner - Arrangements for the next dinner were discussed briefly. It was agreed that the same caterer would be used; Mr. Savage would get in touch with them.

3. REPORTS FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

(a) Plans Group

Mrs. Cunneen reported that a planning application had been made for a two-storey addition, garage and car parking at The Engineer, St. John's Road. The site was within the conservation area but not easily visible from the Common. The additions would be in keeping with the existing building.

(b) Tree Group

Attention was drawn to the letter by Mrs. Rita Powlesland in the June 5th edition of The Review, complaining about the destruction of trees on the Moreton Avenue/Alders End Lane site. Felling was taking place prior to the implementation of a long-standing planning permission to build two bungalows on the site. There was a Tree Preservation Order on some trees on the site and it appeared that at least one of those felled, a Corsican pine, might have been subject to the T.P.O. Mrs. Goss agreed to raise the matter with Mr. Arnold to see if any protected tree had been felled, and if so, what action could be taken. It was agreed this matter should be mentioned in the Newsletter.

A Tree Preservation Order had been received for 'Pentlands', 29 West Common Way.

Lady Bawden reported that a T.P.O. was in the process of being made on trees on vacant land at the back of Crabtree Lane/Southdown Road, adjoining the railway line.

Mrs. Goss agreed to ask Mr. Arnold about progress on the pruning of dead wood from the horse chestnut tree at the corner of Station Road, and the taking of cuttings from it.

(c) Common Group

Mrs. Johnstone reported on progress on the drive to clean up the Common to be held on 24th July. Arrangements were in hand for skips, tools, plastic bags, etc. to be provided. Further publicity, giving details of the project, would be included in the next Newsletter. Mrs. Johnstone was concerned that as many people as possible should know of the project and be encouraged to lend a hand on the day.

Progress was also being made on arrangements for the 16th September meeting. It was proposed that Miss Thurston should speak on botanical aspects of the Common, Mr. Prior on birds, and possibly a member of the National Conservation Corps or Mr. Curl on the management of the 'ups and downs'. Lady Bawden had agreed to give a short introduction.

Anxiety was expressed about the increasing use of the Common for carparking. It was suggested that land behind the Silver Cup, at one time designated for a fire station, could be used as an additional car park. Lady Bawden suggested we should write to the District Council, drawing their attention to the unsatisfactory increase in carparking in the area, and suggesting that this land be used, at least temporarily, for carparking purposes.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

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|----------------|--|
| 12th July | Footpath Walk from the George Hotel at 2.15 p.m. The Director Rothamsted had kindly agreed to let the Society use the facilities at 'Red Gables' for tea after the walk; Mr. Scowen offered to be in charge at 'Red Gables' on the day. Members of the St. Albans Footpath Society would be invited to join in the walk. |
| 24th July | Tidy Up The Common |
| 16th September | Open Meeting - Common Group |
| 18th October | Provisional date for visit to Westonbirt Arboretum. |
| 1st December | Mr. Aubrey Boutwood will speak on 'The Rothschilds and their Chiltern Heritage'. |
| February | Talk on Lemsford Springs Nature Reserve. A speaker had been recommended and the hall would be booked. The visit to the Reserve would take place later in the spring. |
| 16th March | A.G.M. Mr. McKenna had agreed to be guest speaker. He hoped to report progress on implementation of the Town Centre Study. |
| 11th May | Proposed meeting with the St. Albans Civic Society, and film by the Upper Lea Valley Group. As the topic concerned the Upper Lea Valley, Lady Bawden suggested the meeting might take place in All Saints Hall, Batford. |

5. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Members of the Plans Sub-Committee (North Group) of the District Council would be happy to attend a meeting with members of the committee to discuss planning matters in a conservation area. It was agreed to arrange a suitable date in the autumn, following a short committee meeting.
- (b) A further letter had been received from Mr. Skeat, expressing his gratitude to Mrs. Johnstone for letting him know about the action the Society was taking on the matters about which he had complained. It was agreed Mr. Pettingale should be contacted again on the action being taken to prevent horse-riders spoiling the Common. Mr. Skeat also asked for the Society's support in his objection to the proposed closure of Cross Lane. It was agreed the Society could not help him in this matter: we were firmly of the opinion that the lane should not be used for through traffic.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Mr. Borthwick reported that Mr. D. Brown had asked him to draw the Society's attention to the effect the new Wheathampstead bypass would have on traffic flow into Harpenden. The bypass would terminate opposite the Lower Luton Road, and Harpenden traffic would be channelled along that road. It appeared that the District Council had discussed three options:
- (i) the widening of Leasey Bridge Lane following through into Southdown Road,
 - (ii) using Sewer Lane and Piggottshill Lane,
 - (iii) using Station Road.
- It was agreed that the facts and the outcome of these discussions should be ascertained from the Council, and a close watch kept on any proposals.
- (b) Mr. Nixon asked if publicity could be given in the next Newsletter to a group which he and his friends were forming to press for the preservation of Liverpool Street station, which was under threat of demolition by British Rail. It was agreed that inclusion of this item be left to the Editor's discretion.
- (c) Mrs. Goss raised the question of the future use of the Newsletter. She suggested it should be used much more extensively to get news of planning matters before members at an early stage, and to inform them of the various ways in which they could make their views known to the authorities. She suggested that the Newsletter should be much longer and financed by local advertising. Mrs. Russell replied that, while such aims were desirable, she regretted that they would cost more time, effort and money than the Society could afford. We were trying to achieve the aim of giving more information to members; the Newsletter was being issued more frequently now - every two months - and open meetings were being held much more often than in the past.
- (d) Mr. Borthwick agreed to look into the cost of obtaining headed notepaper for the Society. The National Children's Home might be able to do the printing fairly cheaply.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, 15th July at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 15th July 1975
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs. Russell
Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Goss, Mrs. Johnstone
Mr. Borthwick, Mr. Dixon, Dr. Bowden

Apologies for absence were received from Lady Bawden, Mr. Booth, Mr. Brinn,
Mrs. Cunnison, Dr. Jones, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Savage, Mr. Secwen, Dr. Watson

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th June were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mrs. Russell reported that, following an enquiry regarding the flow of traffic which might result from the proposed by-pass in Wheathampstead, the planning authorities had confirmed that traffic would be routed from the Marford Road to the Codicote Road and then to the Lower Luton Road, and that at present there were no plans to widen either Leasey Bridge Lane or Sewer Lane.

3. REPORTS FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

(a) Plans Group

Mrs. Goss reported that an application had been made for a sign on Ellered House, Amenbury Lane which the committee felt was unacceptable in size. Mrs. Johnstone suggested a hanging sign and it was agreed to write to the Planning Department on this.

Plans for development at the rear of C&A were to be further investigated. Concern was expressed about possible development on the site of the empty shops between Station Road and Vaughan Road.

Mr. Dixon agreed to look into the plans for proposed developments on the site of The Bourne, and at Byron Cottage, Byron Road.

(b) Tree Group

Mrs. Goss gave details of the arrangements for the Society's outing to the Aboretum at Westonbirt. The coach would leave at 8.30 a.m. and the cost was estimated between £2-£3 per person. Mr. Arnold, the St. Albans City arborist, had kindly agreed to accompany the group and talk about the trees.

Mrs. Goss also reported on the ravages of Dutch elm disease and the effect this would have on Harpenden's sky-line. Mrs. Johnstone felt that loss of habitat for wild life was in danger, and agreed to raise this with the Common Group, and to suggest that oaks should be retained where possible to mitigate loss of habitat due to the death of elms. Mrs. Russell felt it was important to publicise the effect of Dutch elm disease and to see if the Society would consider helping with replanting as a special project.

Mrs. Goss reported that despite a Tree Preservation Order a tree on a site at Alders End Lane had been felled, and Mr. Arnold was investigating the possibility of taking action against the developers.

(c) Common Group

Mrs. Johnstone outlined the arrangements for the drive to clean up the Common on 24th July; she hoped for help from members and for publicity for the exercise through the Herts Advertiser.

Mrs. Johnstone then confirmed the arrangements for the meeting on 16th September. Lady Barden would introduce the speakers - Miss Thurston, a botanist, Mr. Prior, an ornithologist, and a speaker from the Conservation Corps.

(d) Footpath Group

Mrs. Elliott reported on the walk which had been organised by Dr. Jones. Twenty members enjoyed a walk through Rothamsted to Redbourn farm and back via Redbourn golf course and past Rothamsted Manor. Mr. Scowen very kindly prepared tea at Rothamsted. It was agreed that this most successful experiment should be repeated, and Dr. Jones agreed to arrange further walks.

4. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Mr. Pattison had completed an up-to-date transport guide. Copies were available at the library and would be distributed to other organisations.
- (b) A very well illustrated book produced by the Civic Trust to commemorate Architectural Heritage Year would be made available to committee members in turn.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Mr. Usher had reported that £1,500 would be required for a new Notice Board. It was proposed to put it on the concourse in front of Woolworth's; the board would have a map showing car parks, etc.
- (b) Mrs. Russell said that in conversation with Mr. Pettingale and Mr. Usher it was confirmed that two bridle paths ran on either side of the Common along its full length. To encourage horse riders to keep to these bridle paths posts with an emblem of a horse on them should be placed at intervals along the paths.
- (c) Mrs. Goss suggested, and it was unanimously agreed, that Mr. P. Wilson should be recommended for inclusion in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for the great contribution he has made to Harpenden.
- (d) Mr. Booth suggested and it was agreed to congratulate Capt. Bond, one of our Vice-Presidents, on his 80th birthday.
- (e) Mrs. Russell said that the next membership drive would take place in the Roundwood Park area in September.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, 23rd September at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Thursday, 9th October
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs Elliott
Lady Bowden, Mrs Cunneen, Mrs Elliott, Mrs Goss,
Mr Borthwick, Dr Bowden, Mr A Evans, Mr Scowen

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Dixon and Mr B Nixon.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Evans, who had agreed to join the Committee. Mrs Russell reported that Mrs Calterfeld had accepted cooption, but regretted that she was unable to be present this evening.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. PARKING ON THE COMMON

Mr Pettingale was having notices forbidding parking put up on the triangle and outside Rothamsted Park. Attention would be drawn to the car parking facilities in Amenbury Lane. Stickers would be put on cars ignoring the signs. In cases of persistent contravention the police would prosecute.

Mr Scowen raised the question of making good the damage caused to the surface of the common by parked cars. It was agreed this was a matter which could very suitably be raised at the meeting with Council members on 21st October.

2. ROWE'S BAKERY

In spite of many assurances received that the buildings were being repaired nothing had been done, and it was clear that they were falling further into decay. It was agreed to write again to the Council, drawing their attention to the need for repairs and asking them to take action.

3. ROSE COTTAGE

The Secretary reported she had written to the Council, pointing out that several planning applications had been made without the owner's knowledge or permission. No reply had yet been received.

4. FOOTBALL PAVILION AND CAR PARK ON COMMON

The Department of the Environment had informed the Society that a public enquiry into this planning application would be held on 2nd December.

Mr Anthony Evans' offer to represent the Society at the enquiry was accepted with thanks.

Dr Bowden was strongly of the opinion that the house should be allowed. Harpenden Rovers should not be penalised in comparison with other organisations who had been allowed club facilities on the Common. Both Lady Bowden and Dr Bowden thought that the use of the Golf Club car parking facilities should be explored.

It was pointed out that the Society's objection was to the siting of the pavilion and the asphaltting of the common car park. It was not part of our case to suggest alternative sites.

REPORTS BY PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

1. PLANNING APPLICATION AT THE MOAT HOUSE HOTEL

Mrs Cunneen and Mrs Goss reported that they had been unable to get any information from the Council about the terms of the original planning permission. Mr Dixon had inspected the plans, and reported that the proposed building was too heavy and obtrusive especially as seen from the A6. It was agreed that further efforts should be made to discover exactly what had been permitted under the original planning permission, and that an objection should be made in respect of this second stage application.

2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 'LITTLE MANOR' WEST COMMON WAY

Planning applications had been made for two single dwelling sites adjoining 'Little Manor'. The main consideration was the preservation of trees on and along the boundary of the sites. Mrs Goss would consult Mr Arnold on this point.

REPORTS BY TREE GROUP

Mrs Goss reported two cases in which local residents had successfully taken action to preserve trees threatened by building development.

1. SITE AT COWPER ROAD/GRANERY LANE

Planning permission had been given for 18 dwellings on this site, subject to a condition, among others, that there should be no topping, lopping or felling of trees, or tampering with hedges, without the special permission of the Council.

Mr Haynes of 40 Cowper Road had noticed that trees along the lane including some in his own garden, were being marked for felling. After representations to the developers, and contact with the Council's enforcement officer, Mr Young, the developers had agreed to contact the council if any topping, lopping, etc. was required.

2. SITE AT LITTLE MANOR

The carrying out of the planning permission to build a house on this site would have involved the destruction of an oak tree subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

Mrs Stevens of 22 Barlings Road did not accept this position. She managed to arrange a site meeting with the enforcement officer, the arborist and the developers, at which it was agreed that the site for the foundations would be moved so that the oak tree could be preserved.

It was agreed, on Mrs Johnstone's suggestion, that the Secretary should write to Mrs Stevens, thanking her for her action in this case.

3. VISIT TO WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM

The visit to Westonbirt Arboretum had had to be cancelled, due to lack of support.

SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP

Mr B Nixon had drafted a series of letters enclosing copies of the report on Southdown to Council and Parish Council members and officials, and their reactions were now awaited.

Mrs Johnstone pointed out that the Civic Trust had made very helpful and interesting suggestions in the past, and suggested that the sub-committee should invite their comments on the Southdown project.

SOCIETY'S FINANCES

Mr Borthwick reported that the Society had a bank balance of just under £20.

Expenses in the year had totalled £530, which included £100 spent on behalf of the Upper Lea Valley Group, of which only approx. £56 had been paid back.

The Society had a total membership of 450. There were 40-50 subscriptions outstanding.

It was agreed subscriptions of 50p per member and 75p per family were too low, but they could only be raised at an Annual General Meeting. It was agreed to review this matter at the January meeting in order that it could be put before the next Annual General Meeting.

Mr Scowen suggested that members should be encouraged to pay more than the minimum subscription. It was agreed to put a note to this effect in the next newsletter.

Discussions took place on the possibility of reducing costs of hiring a hall, and producing less expensive posters. Any suggestions for less expensive halls would be welcomed. Mr Borthwick would consult Mr Brown about the use of cheaper posters, and would get in touch with the Treasurer of the Upper Lea Valley Group about reducing their debt.

NEWSLETTER

Mrs Russell asked that items for inclusion in the next newsletter should reach her before November 5th. The Upper Lea Valley Group would like to share our newsletter. She would get in touch with Mrs Calterfeld on this point and generally on closer co-operation with the group.

SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Gladwin of the Herts, Essex Conservation Trust would not be able to come on 26th January. It was agreed to invite him to speak on 28th January, if the hall were available on that date. He would bring a film, and speak on the work of the Trust in general and on Lemsford Springs in particular.

The Secretary invited suggestions for future public meetings and visits. Visits were suggested to Fannions Hall, and to the top of the Lea Valley scheme at Ware, and that a speaker be invited from the Friends of Ashridge.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 21st October | - Meeting with Council Members |
| 1st December | - Mr Aubrey Bontwood on The Rothschilds and their Chiltern Heritage. |
| 28th January 1976 | - Mr Gladwin of the Herts and Essex Conservation Trust on Lemsford Springs. |
| 16th March | - Annual General Meeting. Mr McKenna on the Town Centre Study |
| 7th April | - Annual Dinner Lord Hill |
| 11th May | - Upper Lea Valley Group film.
The St Albans Society had been invited to join the meeting, and to show a film about French Row. |

MEETING ON OCTOBER 21ST

Councillor Bilsborough, Councillor Jenkins, Mr Pettingale, possibly Mr McKenna and possibly someone from the northern area planning sub-committee would be present.

The committee would have a short preliminary business meeting at 7.45 pm. It was agreed that the Council would be asked to speak first on general planning matters in a conservation area, and the mechanics of planning, and we could then raise specific questions on particular planning problems such as the Moat House Hotel, Rose Cottage, Rolts etc.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th November in the Public Library at 7.45 pm.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 16th December 1975
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs. Russell
Lady Bawden, Mrs. Catterfeld, Mrs. Cunneen, Mrs. Elliott,
Mr. Borthwick, Mr. Curl, Mr. Evans, Mr. Nixon,
Mr. Savage (part-time), Mr. Scowen, Mr. Squires *Mr. Johnson*.
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Booth, Mrs. Goss
and Mrs. Jones

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November were approved, subject to correction of item 6, which should read Wood End, not Roundwood Park.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (a) Item 3(b) - Mrs. Russell reported that Mr. H. Nixon regretted that he was unable to come to the December meeting, but would report on the work of the Conservation Corps at the January committee meeting.
- (b) Membership Drive - Four members and their families had distributed 250 newsletters and membership leaflets in the Wood End area.
- (c) Southdown - Mr. Evans stated that copies of the Action Group's report had been sent to the District Council and to the Parish Council. There had been a good press in the Herts Advertiser, and the Harpenden Ratepayers Association had offered support. The Group were being consulted about possible renovations to the Methodist Church Hall, and the planting of hedges.

3. REPORT ON OPEN MEETING HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER

Mrs. Russell reported that, in spite of the atrocious weather, about 70-80 people had turned out to hear the very entertaining, informative and enjoyable talk by Mr. Boutwood. The mince pies and hot punch were much appreciated and thanks were due to Mrs. Elliott and other members of the committee. A very small profit had been made.

4. SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP

Mr. Nixon reported that a letter had been received from the Director of Social Services, Bedford, enclosing a copy of a Circular from the Manpower Services Commission about work creation programmes. It was possible that the Southdown project might be eligible.

It was decided to take no action on the Circular. Too many qualifications were imposed.

Mr. Nixon had spoken to Mr. McKenna who expressed considerable interest in the Southdown report. Mr. Pettingale had been instructed to liaise with Mr. McKenna to help implement any proposals which are desirable. Mr. McKenna did, however, sound a note of caution. Money was very tight, and the Council were under great pressure not to enter into any additional financial commitments.

The Group's report had been welcomed by the Parish Council, and would be submitted to the Planning Committee of the District Council at their meeting on 26th January. Mr. McKenna and some members of the Committee would like to

discuss the suggestions beforehand. It was agreed that Mrs. Russell, Mr. Nixon and Mr. Evans should represent the Group, and would wait to hear further from Mr. McKenna.

Various problems affecting Southdown were discussed. The implications for the shopping area of the extensive residential development now taking place had yet to be thought out thoroughly. The Cravells Road corner site was badly in need of improvement. Mr. Curl said it might be possible to resite the toilets on the school (small car park) site. Technical considerations had led to them being placed on the corner of Cravells Road in the first place. There was of course the question of cost, and the problem of vandalism wherever they were sited.

5. REPORTS FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

(a) Plans Group

Gorselands - Mr. Evans reported that there would be three blocks of Georgian-style terrace houses. They were small in scale, set out rather nicely, and in his opinion unobjectionable. The majority of trees would be retained. It was agreed that Mrs. Goss should be asked to look at the problem of the trees, and to get in touch with Mr. Arnold if necessary.

Moat House Hotel - This proposal had not yet come before the Planning Committee.

Radio mast at Fire Station, Rothamsted - Mr. Curl reported that the North Group Sub-Committee were not happy about this proposal, and the Parish Council and the Recreation Committee were very much against it. The mast would show above the park, and would improve the fire station when the intention was ultimately to remove it. Thus, improvement of access to the old people's home would be prevented, and the present use of the park access by vehicles perpetuated.

(b) Common Group

Mrs. Johnstone reported that there was more rubbish on the Common than before the clean-up took place, and suggested that a 'clean-up corps' of Society members be formed. It was agreed this suggestion should be put to members at the open meeting in February.

Members again expressed their concern at carparking on the Common. It was agreed to reopen with Mr. Burgin, the local representative on Herts County Council, the possibility of using the land behind the Silver Cup, which was owned by the County Council, as a temporary car park. It was not thought that the expense of so doing would be very great. The Society would also enquire further from Mr. Pettingale about progress on the action of notices etc. forbidding carparking on the Common.

(c) Lea Valley Group

Mrs. Catterfeld reported that work had been started on a horse barrier at the ford at Marquis Lane. Following a suggestion from Lady Bawden, for which the group were very grateful, they had applied for a grant from the Herts Playing Fields Association towards the construction of 'playing mounds' on the recreation ground, and had met a representative from the Association. They were also pursuing with Mr. Arnold the possibility of obtaining felled elm trees for play equipment.

The group agreed with the principle of a joint newsletter, but were not sure they would always have enough news for a joint two-monthly letter. The Society's next newsletter would be issued at the end of January.

A meeting had been held between the two Treasurers and the Secretary of ULVG. It was merely a question of squaring up the books. The group wished to retain their financial independence and their own bank account, their secretarial expenses were in fact paid by the District Council.

6. FOOTBALL PAVILION ENQUIRY

Mr. Evans had given the Society's evidence at the public enquiry on 2nd December. It was clear that the Society was in a minority - some members had spoken in favour of the application, and he was disappointed that more members had not attended the enquiry in support of the Society's views.

Lady Bawden offered to write to the Review, replying to Mr. Higgins' letter, and supporting the case for the sharing of the golf club facilities.

7. SPOTLIGHT ON LEISURE EXHIBITION

It was agreed that the Society should continue to take a stand in the exhibition. Mr. Savage would arrange for the Society to be given a suitable position.

8. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wilson had offered to continue scrutinising C.P.R.E. bulletins for items of interest to the Society.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members briefly discussed the proposed temporary ban on parking on Church Green. It was noted that there was strong opposition to the ban, led principally by Councillor Hunt and local traders, whilst the scheme was approved in principle. There was some concern that the ban would lead to further parking on the Common.

It was agreed that names for the 1976/77 committee should be put forward at the next meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, 20th January 1976 at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 18th November 1975
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: In the chair - Mrs. Russell
Mrs. Catterfeld, Mrs. Cunneen, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Goss,
Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Jones
Mr. Booth, Mr. Borthwick, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Evans

Apologies for absence were received from Lady Bawden, Dr. Bowden,
Mr. Nixon and Mr. Squires

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th October were approved.

2. REPORT ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 21ST OCTOBER

Mrs. Russell gave a short report on the special meeting between members and officers of the St. Albans District Council, led by Councillor Bilsborough, and members of the committee, held on 21st October.

It was agreed the meeting had been most useful and informative, and should be repeated next year, possibly after the Council elections when the membership of the Planning Committee might have changed.

It was agreed to follow up the promise given that a list of dates of meetings of the Planning Committee would be supplied to the Society.

3. REPORTS FROM THE SUB-GROUPS

(a) Plans Group

Mr. Dixon reported on the following recent planning applications:

Moat House Hotel - The application is for detailed planning permission for the second stage of the development, for which planning permission in outline has already been given. It was decided to reiterate our objection to the obtrusive size and appearance of the proposed extension, which will largely obscure the view of the convent from the A.6, and also to object to the proposed use, which appears to be for service flatlets rather than hotel purposes.

Rebuilding of No.9 High Street (Consumer Tea Co.) - The proposal was for alterations and extensions to form a shop with administrative offices above. The proposal for the shop front would form a separate application. It was decided to object to the application on the grounds that the new roofline and dormer windows would be out of keeping with the existing development, and that, as the building was in the Conservation Area, the shop front proposal should be included and the redevelopment considered as a whole.

Gorselands - This, the third scheme on the site, was for fifteen terrace houses in a mock-Georgian style in blocks of 6, 4 and 5, 15 garages and 7 parking spaces. The felling of some T.P.O.-protected trees would be required. It was agreed to ask Mr. Usher and Mr. Evans to comment on the proposal.

The Grange, East Common - The proposal was for two singularly ugly detached dwellings on part of the site. It was agreed that we should press for more attractive buildings, and the preservation of trees on the site.

Proposed radio mast at the Fire Station, Rothamsted Park - It was agreed to obtain more details of the height and size of the proposed mast.

30 Ridgewood Drive - The Society had been asked by the Council whether it wished to comment on this application, which raised a matter of principle in that the proposed extension would seriously affect the neighbouring property and might, if granted, lead to similar applications elsewhere. Mrs. Elliott knew of the matter personally, and agreed to deal with it.

Gleneagles Hotel - Mrs. Russell reported that the Council had turned down the application for extensions at the hotel.

(b) Common Group

Mrs. Johnstone reported that Mr. H. Nixon, volunteers from the National Conservation Corps and others had cleared a lot of scrub from the prickly pears, making it a better play area for children. Whilst a good job had been done, she was disappointed that the Society had not been consulted before work was started.

It was agreed to invite Mr. H. Nixon and either Mr. Fulton or Mr. Curl from the Parish Council Commons Sub-Committee to attend the next committee meeting and report on the work carried out and their future plans.

(c) Tree Group

Mrs. Goss reported that the Herts County Council were offering a free replacement tree (not an elm) for any elm lost through Dutch Elm disease.

The Corsican pine tree at Alders End Lane, although subject to a T.P.O., had been felled quite legally, on the grounds that its preservation would prevent the development of the site in accordance with the planning permission obtained.

(d) Footpaths Group

Mrs. Jones agreed to look into the possibility of arranging a footpath walk in the Mackerye End area, possibly in late April or early May.

(e) Upper Lea Valley Group

Mrs. Catterfield gave quite a detailed report on the work being carried out by the group. Dead and dying trees had been cut down along the railway bank, and the trunks were being used to pile round the freshwater pool in the Marquis Lane playing field. More tree planting was taking place, undergrowth being cleared and general maintenance work, grass cutting, tree care, etc. continuing. The group were carrying out work on the new bridge and its approaches at the ford. One poplar tree would have to be felled at Gibraltar House, but arrangements were being made to protect the poplar seedlings.

Mr. Borthwick confirmed that he would be checking the Society's membership list with that of the Group, in order to enable joint newsletters to be sent in future thus avoiding duplication and waste.

4. PUBLIC ENQUIRY INTO DEVELOPMENT AT CRABTREE LANE

Mr. Dixon reported that planning permission in outline had been granted on appeal for development of all but 5 acres of the site, which were reserved for open space. The precise location of the open space had not been defined.

Mrs. Goss stated that a tree preservation order had been made on the trees and hedges on the site.

It was agreed that the Society should emphasize to the Council that the ridge line should be preserved, and the open space kept in one block.

5. PUBLIC ENQUIRY INTO PAVILION AND CAR PARK FOR HARPENDEN ROVERS

Mr. Evans produced copies of the evidence he proposed to give on behalf of the Society at the public enquiry. It was appreciated there was strong support locally for the Harpenden Rovers' proposal, not least among some committee members themselves. It was felt, however, that the Society should stand by its objection to the car park in its entirety, and to the pavilion in its present form and in the badly sited position proposed, while making clear it had no objection to the Rovers playing football on the Common, as they had done for many years. Mr. Evans was thanked for his clear and thorough exposition of the Society's case.

6. NEWSLETTER AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Surplus copies of the November newsletter (about 250) would be distributed together with membership leaflets in a small area of Roundwood Park. Mrs. Russell asked for volunteers to help her with distribution.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next open meeting will be on Monday, 1st December when Mr. Aubrey Boutwood will speak on 'The Rothschilds and their Chiltern Heritage'. Mrs. Elliott will be responsible for providing the mince pies, and Mrs. Johnstone and volunteers for the hot punch.

The talk by Mr. Gladwin of the Herts & Middx Trust for Nature Conservation on the Trust's work at Lemsford will take place on Wednesday, 4th February and not on 28th January as previously arranged.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, 16th December at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

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