

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 16 January, 1978
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Curl, Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Johnstone,
Mr. Rees, Mr. Scowen, Miss Spurr, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Booth
and Mr. Wilson.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 15 November, 1977 were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Ward reported that arrangements for the Society's stand at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition were in hand. A small group consisting of Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Elliott and Mr. Ward was appointed to plan the exhibit and Mrs. Marr had been asked to help with display.

3. REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS

- (a) COMMON

Mrs. Johnstone reported on a meeting of the Sub-Group. No action had yet been taken to tidy up the area at the corner of West Common and Redbourn Lane. Mrs. Elliott was asked to write to Mr. Arnold on the matter.

It had been learned from the "Harpenden Forum" that the Conservation Corps had been asked by the Town Council to do further clearance on the area near the Prickle Dells. It was agreed to ask the Commons Sub-Committee of the Town Council to let the Society know beforehand of any clearance work proposed by the Corps.

The question of car parking was discussed and it was agreed to ask the "Forum" to publish a list of permitted parking places with a plan showing these and the bridle paths. The "Forum" would also be asked to publish a note on the nuisance of rubbish dumping.

The formation of a group called "Friends of Harpenden Common" had been proposed by Miss Pratt with members taking responsibility for the care of areas of the Common. It was agreed that the suggestion should be discussed at the open meeting to be organised by the Common Group in May.

Mr. Weston reported that a considerable amount of rubbish had been cleared from the verges of the main road and work had been started on the banking outside Rothamsted.

Mr. Harrison agreed to take up with the Police the dangerous parking of cars on the main road outside the Silver Cup.

The Secretary was asked to write again to the Town Council suggesting that trees be planted to replace the elms felled along Cross Lane and by the side of Jockey Meadow.

3. (b) TREES

Mr. Scowen reported that the tree-planting at Amenbury Lane and Bowers Way car parks had been successfully carried out on 26 November and 3 December, with help from Harpenden Venture Scouts. Guards had been put round the trees but unfortunately two pyracantha bushes had been damaged by vandals. Further planting would be done next year if finances permitted.

The Town Council had agreed to replace the two dead beeches in Leyton Road, and the elms in the High Street would be replaced with limes when it became necessary.

Mrs. Elliott reported that a member had offered trees to the Society. It was decided to pass the offer on to the Lea Valley Group if their nursery had room.

It had been found that there was no preservation order on trees at the corner of Milton and Station Roads where flats were to be built. The Secretary was asked to apply for one.

(c) PLANS

Mr. Rees reported on planning application for 12 flats on Green Belt land at the junction of Lower Luton Road and Westfield Road. Green Lawns Service Station, Luton Road had submitted plans to upgrade the garage which would include a large canopy roof with bright lighting. It was felt this would spoil the rural character of the area. Mr. Rees agreed to write to the District Council on both projects.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting would be held on 13 March, followed by talks on the Award Scheme, for which a plaque designed by Mr. Usher was approved.

At the December meeting, members had voted for a Cheese and Wine Party instead of the Annual Dinner. This would be held on Wednesday, 5 April. Miss M. Pratt and Mrs. Elliott would be responsible for the organisation and would ask Mr. Savage for help.

On 8 May, the Common Group had asked Miss J. M. Thurston to give an illustrated talk on the "Flora of Harpenden Common".

5. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Harpenden Parish Council notifying change of name to Town Council.
St. Albans District Council saying the question of facilities for skate-boarding was being examined urgently.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that Mr. A. Evans, Mr. P. Wilson, ~~and~~ Mr. C. Curl, Mr. B. Rees and Mr. P. Usher should form a Panel to judge the nominations put forward by members under the Award Scheme.

Mr. P. Wilson had spoken on environment to an interested audience at Woodend School and would put forward a proposal for Junior Membership of the Society at the next meeting.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 21st February at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library.

Anne Russell

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 21 February, 1978
at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library

Present: Mrs. Russell in the chair
Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Catterfeld, Mr. Curl, Mrs. Johnstone
Mr. Parsons, Mr. Scowen, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston, Mr. Usher
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Booth,
Mr. Dixon, Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Rees,
Mr. Savage and Miss Spurr

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 16 January, 1978 were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Harrison had been in touch with the Police about the parking of cars on the main road outside the Silver Cup. They were looking into the matter and would report back to him.

3. REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS

- (a) PLANS.

In his absence the Secretary read a report from Mr. Rees on several planning applications but it was decided that no action by the Society was necessary.

- (b) TREES

Mr. Scowen reported that a suggestion had been made by Miss Warrington that trees be planted to hide the wall of the tool shed in Rothamsted Park. Mrs. Elliott read a letter from St. Albans District Council saying that plane trees were now available and agreeing to put a Preservation Order on the trees at the corner of Milton and Station Roads. It was agreed that she should reply asking if the Council would plant the plane trees in the gaps left by felled elms along the hedge of Jockey Meadow, also two copper beeches which had been offered to the Society by Mrs. Harrod. Mr. Ward reported that a chestnut tree had been blown down near the Queen's Head, and it was agreed that the Secretary should suggest to the Council that it should be replaced by a plane tree. The yew tree to be planted on Church Green had now been delivered to Mr. Scowen and would be planted as soon as weather permitted. Mrs. Russell reported that Mr. Arnold had agreed to charge the Society £30 for the trees and guards supplied and had expressed the Council's appreciation of the Society's contribution to tree planting.

- (c) SPECIAL PROJECTS

Mr. Ward showed a plan of the Society's stand for the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition, for which the subjects included the Hyde, the Award Scheme, the Lea Valley, Tree Planting and the St. Albans Road Options. Volunteers to man the stand were asked for. The exhibit would be on show in the Public Library for the week after the Exhibition, and the Award section would be shown at the Annual General Meeting and at the Wine and Cheese Party.

3.(d) LEA VALLEY

Mrs. Catterfeld reported that the Group had obtained a quantity of subsoil from Rothamsted which would be used for infilling on the sides of the river.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

Mrs. Russell ^{reported} that notices about the Annual General Meeting on 13 March would be sent out shortly.

The Committee accepted with regret the resignations of the Chairman, Mrs. Ann Russell and the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Jean Elliott. Mr. J. Borthwick, the Honorary Treasurer also wished to relinquish his duties. Four Committee members, Mr. Booth, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Savage and Mr. Scowen were due to retire under Rule 7, and Mrs. H. Catterfeld wished to resign. Nominations for Officers and Committee were received.

Miss Pratt put forward suggestions for the Wine and Cheese Party on 5 April, and it was agreed that tickets should cost £1.25.

5. AWARD SCHEME

Mr. Curl reported that the Panel had inspected the projects nominated by members, and recommended that the award be given for the re-developed site at 64-72, High Street (including Rowe's and Rolt's old shops). It was agreed that Mr. Rees should be asked to offer the award to the architect, developer and builder concerned, and to invite them to the Wine and Cheese Party, when the plaque would be awarded. Other nominations had been Ketts, High Street, Gorselands, and cottages in St. John's Road and Crabtree Lane.

6. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Copy of a letter from LADACAN to Robin Corbett, M.P., objecting to proposals to extend Luton Airport.

From Harpenden Town Council saying they would ask Mr. Weston to attend to matters on the Common and would arrange for a Preservation Order on the trees at the corner of Station and Milton Roads.

Mr. P. Wilson enquiring about the position of the footpath through the grounds of St. George's School.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ward reported that in future a charge of £2 per hour was to be charged for the hire of the library. It was agreed that enquiries should be made about hiring a room at the Public Hall.

Mr. Usher, who had attended at Mr. Wilson's request, raised the question of a new scheme proposed to the Department of the Environment by St. Albans Road Traffic Association to control heavy goods traffic in the St. Albans area. Owing to lack of time the matter had to be left but the subject would form part of the Society's exhibit at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 18 April at 7.45 p.m. at a place to be notified.

Paul A. Usher

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 18th April, 1978 at 7.45 p.m. in St. Nicholas Committee Room

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford, Mrs. Comer,
Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Pattison,
Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith, Miss Spurr, Mr. Evans,
Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Weston, Mr. Curl, Mr. Wilson
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Barnes
and Mr. Parsons, *Mr. Harrison*.

The chairman welcomed and introduced the following new Committee members:-

Mrs. S. Comer, Miss I. Haberer, Mr. J. Haggard, Mr. A. Pattison
Mr. P. Rogers, Mr. M. Smith and Mrs. B. Suitters

Re-constitution of Working Groups

The chairman outlined the functions of the groups and members were appointed as follows:-

Plans and Projects

Mr. Rees (Convenor), Mr. Evans, Mr. Smith, Mr. Usher, *Mr. Weston*.

Discussion took place on the question of forming a group to keep a watchful eye on developments before they reached the planning stage. This would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Trees

Miss R. Spurr (Convenor), Mrs. P. Leishmann, Mr. Haggard,
Mr. Scowen, Mrs. M. Jones.

Commons

Mrs. Johnstone (Convenor), Mr. Ward, Miss M. Pratt, Mr. Scowen
Miss Ashford, Mrs. Comer

Transport

A new group was formed to deal with all aspects of local transport.

Mr. Pattison (Convenor), Mr. Ward, Mr. Rogers.

Youth Group

The formation of a Youth Group was discussed but a decision was left for a future meeting.

Other appointments

Membership Secretary	Mrs. Suitters
Press Secretary	Mr. Evans
Newsletter Editor	Miss Haberer
Liaison with Lea Valley Group	Mr. Pattison or Mrs. L. Wang, Mr. Haggard

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 21 February, 1978 were approved and signed.

2. FUTURE EVENTS

Miss J. M. Thurston would give an illustrated talk on "People and Plants on the Common" on Monday, 8th May.

A Lea Valley Walk had been arranged for Sunday, 9th July, to be followed by tea at Cherry Hayes, Mackery End by kind invitation of Mrs. Jean Elliott.

Members were invited to attend the "Town Meeting" of Harpenden Town Council on Monday, 24th April.

On Friday, 12th May the Town Council had invited a representative of the Society to an informal reception at Rothamsted Manor to meet the Burgermeister and members of the Stadtrat of Alzey.

St. Albans District Council had invited members to meet the London Appreciation Society and join them on a conducted tour of Harpenden on Saturday, 7th October.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the Wine and Cheese Party on 5th April had made a profit of £7.50, but he thought the present state of the Society's finances was unsatisfactory. Many members had not yet paid their annual subscriptions and measures to collect them were discussed.

4. SPOTLIGHT ON LEISURE EXHIBIT

The Secretary reported that the exhibit had been a great success and had been seen by about 1,000 people in the Public Hall and 3,000 in the Public Library. He would discuss with Mr. Evans the proposal to enter the display for a Civic Trust Award.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

A questionnaire on the St. Albans City and District Plan had been received from the District Council. It was agreed that Mr. Evans, Mr. Pattison and Mr. Ward should discuss the plan and complete the questionnaire.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Great concern was felt at the proposed alterations to Harpenden Station, which involved moving the entrance to the East side of the bridge. It was considered that access would cause dangerous congestion in Station Road, and objections should be made on these grounds. It was agreed that the Plans Group and other interested members should meet as soon as possible to study the plans and formulate the Society's objection.

Mr. P. Wilson reported that the Local History Society wished to take over the custodianship of a collection of slides of Harpenden which the Society had bought from Captain Bond. It was agreed to donate the slides to the Local History Society.

Miss Spurr reported that the guards had been removed from the trees planted recently. The chairman agreed to enquire into the matter.

7. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 23rd May at 7.45 p.m. in St. Nicholas Committee Room.

Paul A. Vthe.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 23rd May, 1978 at 7.45 p.m. in St. Nicholas Committee Room

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair

Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford, Mrs. Comer, Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Rees, Miss Spurr, Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Weston, Mr. Curl, Mr. Wilson

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Ward, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Parsons and Mr. Pattison

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 18 April, 1978 were approved and signed.
2. MATTERS ARISING
 - (a) In reply to a question by Mr. Harrison about the removal of tree guards, Mr. Usher said he had been in touch with Mr. Arnold. The guards had been removed from the trees in Amenbury Lane car park as they would spoil their shape, but those in Bowers Way had been removed in error. He would inspect and replace any guards thought necessary.
 - (b) Mr. Wilson reported that he, Mr. Curl, Mr. Rogers, Mrs. Robinson of the National Housewives' Register, and Mrs. Ruttley of Wood End School had met to discuss how work in schools could be related to that of the Society. It had been suggested that schools be invited to plan a Town Trail, which could perhaps be published, and that the Society could help by supplying information and by taking small parties to visit local places of interest. Miss Haberer suggested that a competition could be held for the best trail. Mr. Harrison proposed that a School Liaison Group be formed. Mr. Curl and Mr. Wilson would consider the matter further and report to the next meeting.
3. REPORTS BY GROUP CONVENORS
 - (a) COMMONS

In Mrs. Johnstone's absence, Mr. Usher reported that the Honorary Secretary had obtained a copy of the plan for the management of the Common by the Herts and Middlesex Trust for Nature Conservation. It seemed an admirable plan but unfortunately the work done by the Conservation Corps had deviated from it. It was agreed that further discussion be left until all Committee members had seen the plan, copies of which would be sent out with the next agenda.

Mr. Harrison felt that more signs were needed to indicate the authorised parking places on the Common. It was agreed that the whole question of parking should be discussed fully at the next meeting of the Committee.
 - (b) TREES

Miss Spurr reported on a meeting of the Tree Group, The Tree Fund had a balance in hand of £20 with the promise of a further £9. Sites for re-planting in the autumn were considered, and it was

3. (b) proposed to plant by Jockey Meadow, which already had the consent of the Council, to replace the tree on Leyton Green planted by the Girl Guides but vandalised, and to plant a tree on Hatching Green to be given by the National Council of Women in memory of Mrs. Joan Moffatt. Mr. Haggard reported that several trees in Stewart Road needed replacements. It was agreed that an appeal for help with planting be made in the Newsletter.

3. (c) PLANS

Mr. Rees' resignation as Convenor was accepted with regret, but he would remain a member of the Group. Mr. Maurice Smith had agreed to act as Convenor.

Station

The meeting held to discuss the alterations to Harpenden/had agreed to the proposals with certain reservations and their recommendations had been sent to Mr. McKenna. Further discussion took place and the Committee felt that another letter should be sent stressing the difficulties and dangers of access that would result from the new plans and suggesting that the present arrangements for short and long-stay car parking on different sides of the bridge should be allowed to continue.

The questionnaire on the St. Albans City and District Plan had been completed and returned.

.. (d) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Wilson said the Report on the Lea Valley prepared seven years ago by the Harpenden Society and the Urban Design Group needed to be revised and appealed for help. Mr. Maurice Smith had already agreed to help, and Mr. Haggard offered his assistance.

4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Suitters reported that membership now stood at 469 families with 205 subscriptions received. There was need for further effort to collect subscriptions and Mr. Evans had drafted a polite demand to be sent out as soon as possible. This would also be repeated in the next Newsletter.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Powlesland reported that £285 had been received in subscriptions and the Society had a balance of £263 in hand. A life membership scheme was suggested but was thought to have drawbacks. It was agreed that payment of subscriptions by Banker's Order should be encouraged and members would be reminded of this facility when next year's subscriptions were due.

6. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

Hertfordshire Society Annual Report and invitation to send a representative to the Annual General Meeting.

Civic Trust News - to be circulated to Committee members.

Council for the Protection of Rural England Newsletter - to be circulated to Committee members.

7. FUTURE EVENTS

An organiser of events was still needed and the Chairman made an unsuccessful appeal to members of the Committee.

A Lea Valley Walk had been arranged for Sunday, 9th July to be followed by tea at Cherry Hayes.

Mr. J. W. B. McKenna, Chief Technical Officer, St. Albans City Council, had agreed to give a talk on Tuesday, 19th September. He would also be glad to meet Committee members in his office at any time.

A conducted tour of Cambridge by Cambridge Civic Society was proposed for a Summer Excursion.

The London Appreciation Society would visit Harpenden on Saturday, 7th October, and the Society had been asked to arrange a conducted tour for them.

8. MEETINGS OF OFFICERS

It was agreed that meetings of the Society's Officers should be called when urgent matters needed attention.

9. NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter would be published early in September and Miss Haberer asked for contributions.

10. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, 20 June, at 7.45 p.m. in St. Nicholas Committee Room.

Discussion took place on the most convenient night for Committee members to meet, and a proposal that meetings should be held on the same date each month met with approval. When the date fell on a Saturday or Sunday, the meeting would be held on the Friday or Monday.

Paul G. Vane.
20/6/78.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
20 June, 1978 at 7.45 pm in St. Nicholas Committee Room

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford,
Mrs. Comer, Mr. Haggard, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Pattison,
Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. M. Smith, Miss Spurr,
Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Wilson

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Barnes,
Miss Haberer and Mr. Weston

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 23 May were approved and signed.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer and Membership Secretary reported that the drive to collect subscriptions had been very successful. £350 had been received in subscriptions and the bank balance was now over £300.

3. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) PLANS

An application by the Aldwyck Housing Association to build two blocks of flats on the site of the old Harpenden North railway station was discussed. A 2-storey block was proposed opposite Martham Court and a 3-storey block at the corner of Manland Avenue and Station Road. It was felt that the 3-storey block would present an eyesore from the opposite side of the Lea Valley as it was doubtful whether the fine trees on the site could be retained as a screen. Mr. Ward had already spoken to Mr. Arnold about the need to preserve the trees. It was agreed that a strong objection to the plan should be made to the District Council and a suggestion made that the site should be used for single-storey buildings for such purposes as recreation. A blanket tree preservation order should also be requested. Mr. Usher agreed to discuss the matter with the Chairman of Harpenden Town Council.

Mr. Smith reported that an objection had been lodged on behalf of the Society to an application by Pinneys to acquire 30 feet of land at the side of their garage in Station Road. The Lea Valley Group had also objected.

It was agreed that the Society should apply for a blanket tree preservation order for the site at Somerled, Townsend Lane, which was being developed by Costains.

Harpenden Rise Laboratory had applied for permission to build an accoustically insulated enclosure for compressors. Mr. Usher thought this application should be watched.

It was agreed that the Society should take the initiative in reviving a plan for the development of the Southdown area. This would be discussed fully at the next Committee meeting.

(b) SCHOOLS' LIAISON GROUP

The formation and functions of a Schools' Liaison Group were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Comer and Mr. Rogers

- 3.(b) should meet to discuss the matter further and that Mr. John Smyth should be asked for his advice on how to interest children in the work of the Society.

(c) TREES GROUP

Miss Spurr reported that the newly planted Tulip tree in Bowers Way needed regular watering and it was decided to ask the help of a member of the Society living nearby.

She also reported that she was meeting the Director and Architect of the Aldwyck Housing Association on the site in Station Road to discuss the preservation of the trees there.

(d) TRANSPORT

Mr. Ward reported that he would attend the Annual General Meeting of LADACAN to be held shortly.

(e) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Haggard enquired about the finances of the Lea Valley Group, and it was decided to arrange a meeting of the Treasurers of the Group and of the Society to go into the matter.

(f) COMMONS GROUP

Copies of the management plan for the Common drawn up by the Herts. and Middlesex Trust for Nature Conservation had been circulated to Committee members. There was considerable criticism of the Trust's recommendations and it was agreed that the Commons Group should formulate an alternative plan.

4. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary reported that the Local History Society had offered the use of its room at Harpenden Hall for Committee meetings. It was decided to accept their kind offer.

5. EVENTS

The Secretary reported that Mr. Rees, Mrs. Jones and Mr. Weston had attended the Civic Service on Sunday, 11 June.

Posters were distributed to advertise the Lea Valley Walk on Sunday, 9 July, to be followed by tea at Cherry Hayes.

Through the kind offices of Lady Bawden, the Cambridge Civic Society had invited a party of not more than 40 members to visit Cambridge early in October. It was agreed to accept the invitation.

Mr. Wilson reported that the Lea Valley Group had been invited to visit Enfield on Saturday, 8 July to see work being done by Mr. Allan Hall of the Countryside Commission. If members wished to join the Group, they should get in touch with Mrs. Catterfeld.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 18 July at 7.45 p.m. in the Harpenden History Society's room at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Q. Vane

Norman P.

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 13th JULY 1978 AT 92 EASTMOOR PARK

Present: Brenda Suitters (Membership Secretary) and Norman Powlesland (Treasurer) representing the Harpenden Society.
Heather Catterfeld (Secretary) and Alan Stacey (Treasurer) representing the Upper Lea Valley Group.
Paul Usher (Chairman).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and establish the financial and administrative relationship of the Upper Lea Valley Group to the rest of the Society.

It was decided that:

- 1 Subscription income from members recruited through the ULVG will go to the HS but will be available for the use of the ULVG should the need arise. No separate ULVG account will be kept by the HS treasurer.
- 2 Subscriptions already collected by the ULVG for 1978 and all their existing funds will remain in the possession of the ULVG. All funds other than subscriptions will continue to be managed by the ULVG treasurer.
- 3 The responsibility for collection of subscriptions will belong to the HS. Any subscriptions collected by the ULVG (for example at their Annual Public Meeting) will be passed over to the HS treasurer.
- 4 Members recruited through the ULVG will be full HS members. All members will receive both HS and ULVG Newsletters.
- 5 The section of the Newsletter devoted to the ULVG will be paid for and delivered by the HS as part of its own Newsletter.
- 6 Members recruited through the ULVG will be identified as such in the HS's membership list but all members will receive a standard HS membership card.
- 7 Members recruited through the ULVG should be made aware that the ULVG is a working group of the HS and that they are full HS members so that they understand why they are receiving HS literature.

Immediate action required:

- 1 Alan is to produce a full ULVG membership list showing the last time a subscription was paid.
- 2 Brenda will send out a request for subscriptions on ULVG notepaper to anyone who has not paid for 1978.
- 3 Heather is to let Paul have a copy of the ULVG notepaper. Paul is to type the request and ask Anthony Evans to reproduce 50 copies. These are to be given to Brenda who will post them.
- 4 The relationship between the ULVG and the HS will be explained simply in the next Newsletter.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
18 July, 1978 at 7.45 p.m. in Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Ward, Miss Ashford, Miss Haberer,
Mr. Haggard, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Rogers, Mr. M. Smith,
Miss Spurr, Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Wilson
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Parsons, Mr. Pattison, Mr. Rees and Mr. Weston

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 20 June were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

It was agreed to offer the Local History Society £15 p.a. for the use of the room at Harpenden Hall for committee and group meetings.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Ward reported that the Town Council wished to collaborate more closely with the Society. There was still some money in hand from the Jeakins Bequest which the Council proposed to spend on trees and seats, and they asked for suggestions for sites.

It was agreed that the Committee should accept Mr. McKenna's invitation to meet him for discussion in the near future. Topics suggested were the Southdown development, the new Station, the proposed roundabout at Bull Road and the future of Childwickbury.

The Secretary had written to the St. Albans Civic Society suggesting that the officers of the two societies should meet for discussion on items of mutual interest.

He had attended the Annual General Meeting of LADACAN, which had been well conducted with representatives of many organisations taking part.

4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Suitters reported that only half of the members reminded about their subscriptions had paid. It was decided to send final reminders with the Newsletter to be circulated in mid-August.

5. GROUP CONVENORS' REPORTS

- (a) SCHOOLS' LIAISON GROUP

Mr. Wilson reported that a meeting had been arranged for 27 July at 10.30 a.m. to which representatives of the Local History Society and St. George's School had been invited.

- (b) PLANS

Mr. M. Smith reported on a proposal to build 3 bungalows on land at the rear of Flowton Priory with access from Hatching Green. He had written to the District Council stressing the importance of retaining a screen of trees on the West side.

He had made an objection to seven flats proposed at the corner of Tufnells Way and Carpenters Close as they were out of character with existing properties and the site would be overcrowded.

- 5.(b) It was agreed that there was a general lack of good design in proposals for additions such as porches and windows, and Mr. Smith was asked to draw the Council's attention to this.

Mr. A. Evans showed a revised plan for the new car park at Rothamsted. The Committee was pleased to see that the Architect had conformed to the Society's suggestion to divide up the parking area by the planting of hedges.

Mr. Usher read Mr. McKenna's reply to his letter about the plans for the new Station, in which he explained the Council's proposals for access.

(c) TREES GROUP

Miss Spurr reported that the Group had discussed sites for planting about 20 more trees, and the Committee agreed that enough funds should be made available.

(d) COMMONS GROUP

Mrs. Johnstone reported that copies of large-scale maps of the Common had now been obtained by Mr. Weston, and the Group would meet to consider management proposals.

(e) LEA VALLEY GROUP

A meeting had been held on 13 July to establish the relationship between the Group and the Society and Mr. Usher read the resolutions passed by the representatives.

Mr. Wilson reported that the Annual Public Meeting of the Group would be held on Friday, 1st September at All Saint's Hall, Batford, at which a film would be shown illustrating the year's work of the Group.

He also reported that the Welwyn and Hatfield Upper Lea Valley Group had constructed a through-walk under the motorway between the Lemsford Reserve and Stanborough Lake.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust Scheme was discussed, and a Harpenden Trail, designed by schools in competition, was suggested as a proposal.

The development of the Southdown area had been proposed as one of the topics to be discussed with Mr. McKenna in the near future, after which it was suggested that a sub-Group be formed to consider the matter further.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 22 August at 7.45 p.m. in the History Society's room at Harpenden Hall. It was also proposed to hold a Committee meeting on 26 September.

Anthony Evans
22/8/78

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
22 August, 1978 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: In Mr. Usher's absence, Mr. A. Evans took the chair
Mr. Ward, Miss Ashford, Mrs. Comer, Miss Haberer,
Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Pattison, Mr. M. Smith, Miss Spurr,
Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Weston, Mr. Curl, Mr. Wilson
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Usher,
Mr. Powlesland, Mr. Barnes and Mr. Rees.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 18 July were approved and signed.

2. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

- (a) COMMONS

Mrs. Johnstone reported that the opinion of residents had been sought on the question of extra lighting on West Common from Elm Cottage to West Common Way. The Secretary had written in support of the view of the majority that present lighting was adequate.

Members had been invited to suggest sites for seats to be bought from the residue of the Jeakin's Bequest. The Secretary would forward the suggestions to the Town Council.

Discussion took place on the management of the Common between St. John's Road and the Brickle Dells. It was agreed that a selective clearance was desirable and the Secretary would put this suggestion to the Town Council.

Mrs. Johnstone reported that no action had yet been taken to remove the dead elms on the strip of Common between Redbourn Lane and West Common Way. They were unsightly and dangerous and the Secretary was asked to write to the Jarvis Trust, the owners of the land.

Mrs. Comer reported that the grass opposite Pimlico had been seriously eroded by car parking. Mr. Weston agreed to inspect the area.

- (b) TREES

The Group had conferred with Mr. Arnold and sites for trees had been agreed at Stewart Road, on the green opposite Aldwickbury School and Manor, the avenue to the swimming pool from Amenbury Lane, and on Hatching Green. Nearer the date, a working party for the planting would be organised.

Miss Spurr was concerned that the larch trees in Douglas Road should be preserved but she had been informed by Mr. Arnold that Tree Preservation Orders could not be imposed on trees in private gardens. It was agreed that she should get in touch with him again.

- (c) PLANS

Mr. Smith had examined current proposals but found no need for objections.

It was reported that work on the Bull Road roundabout would probably start in October.

- 2.(c) Plans were going ahead for the Fine Fare Supermarket at Southdown, but it was felt that the redevelopment of the whole area needed serious consideration. In this connection, Mr. Evans mentioned a proposal for one-way traffic in Cravells Road. It was hoped that Mr. McKenna, the Chief Technical Officer of St. Albans City Council would include the subject of Southdown in his talk to the Society on 19 September.

(d)- TRANSPORT

Discussion took place on the use of advisory signs to deter heavy goods vehicles from using through roads crossing the Harpenden district, particularly Lower Luton Road (A6129). The Secretary had written to the Ministry of Transport for full information on these signs. When this was received, Mr. Pattison would convene the Group to discuss the matter further, also the proposal to re-classify the A6129 as a B road.

Mrs. Johnstone felt there was a need for a bush shelter on the A6 opposite to the one at the end of West Common Way. Mr. Pattison agreed to make a survey and report to the Committee.

(e) YOUTH LIAISON GROUP

A report of a very successful preliminary meeting held on 27 July had been circulated to Committee members, and a further meeting had been arranged for 13 September.

(f) LEA VALLEY

The Annual Meeting of the Group would be held on Friday, 1 September.

Mr. Wilson reported that the Countryside Section of the Herts County Planning Office proposed to make a special study of the Lea Valley between Wheathampstead and Harpenden. Their report would be awaited with great interest.

3. EVENTS

On 19 September, Mr. McKenna, St. Albans City Council, would speak to the Society on matters of local importance.

Arrangements were discussed for the visit to Cambridge on 8 October at the invitation of the Cambridge Civic Society. It was agreed to hire a 29 seater coach at a cost of £1.70 per head.

Bookings of the Public Hall had been made for the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 13 March, 1979 and for a Wine and Cheese Party on Thursday, 12 April. In view of the proximity to Easter, the Secretary agreed to try to change the latter date to Friday, 6 April.

The Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition would be held on 29, 30 and 31 March, 1979.

It was agreed that the Secretary should invite Mr. D. Sansom, Chairman of LADACAN, to address the meeting of the Society on 21 November, 1978 on the theme of airport development.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretary reported that he had received a complaint about the unsightly appearance of boxes to contain gas meters outside houses in Cowper Road. These were likely to become widespread and it was thought the system might also be adopted by the Electricity Authority. Mr. Evans agreed to write a letter of objection, asking if the boxes could not be let into the walls of the houses.

Miss Spurr had noticed that garden rubbish was being deposited on land owned by Rothamsted Experimental Station at the rear of Park Avenue South. Miss Ashford agreed to notify Mr. Barnes.

5. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 26 September at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul G. Viner.

26/9/78.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
26 September, 1978 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. Ward, Miss Ashford, Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Haggard,
Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Pattison, Mr. Powlesland, Mr. Rees,
Mr. M. Smith, Miss Spurr, Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Weston
Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Comer,
Miss Haberer and Mr. Wilson

1. Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 August were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Evans reported that he had written to Eastern Gas suggesting that the gas meters being installed outside houses should be sited carefully and, if possible, set into the walls.

The Secretary said he had made a provisional booking of the Public Hall on 26 March, 1979 for the Wine and Cheese Party. As this date was near that of the Annual General Meeting, the possibility of combining the two events was discussed but the feeling of the majority of the Committee was against this suggestion. The Secretary was asked to try to book the hall for a day in late April or May.

Miss Ashford reported that Mr. Barnes had written to occupiers of houses in Park Avenue South asking them to stop dumping garden refuse on the footpath at the rear of their gardens.

After Mr. McKenna's talk on 19 September, Mr. Usher felt that the redevelopment of the Southdown area was still a matter of great concern and one which should be watched carefully.

3. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) PLANS

Mr. Smith reported three proposals to which it was agreed that the Society should object: (1) for a bungalow at the rear of 14, Moreton Avenue on the grounds that piecemeal "tandem" development was undesirable; (2) for 20 "starter" flats on land adjoining the industrial estate in the Lea Valley on the grounds on unsuitability of site and difficulty of access; (3) for the re-building of a house used for offices in Arden Grove which would be a gross over-development of the site.

It was proposed to build 28 houses on the site of "Somerled", Townsend Lane. Although this number seemed excessive, the Committee agreed that further inspection was necessary before an objection could be made, and Mr. Smith and Mr. Rees agreed to do this.

(b) TREES

Miss Spurr reported that she had order^{ed} trees to the value of £61 for autumn planting.

(c) COMMON

Mrs. Johnstone reported that work had started on the carpark for the Rover Football Club's changing room.

- 3.(c) Mr. Ward said he had received many suggestions for sites for seats, which would be inspected by the Chairman of the Town Council's Commons Committee, Mr. Weston and himself.

(d) YOUTH LIAISON GROUP

A meeting of the Group had been held on 13 September and another meeting was planned for November.

(e) LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mr. Powlesland reported that the Group had bought a dumper truck and he had given them £28.39 to enable them to meet their debts. The Committee agreed to make a further grant of £30 to the Group.

Mr. Usher reported that the Group's Public Meeting on 1 September had been well attended and a very good film of the year's work was shown with commentary.

(f) TRANSPORT

Mr. Pattison reported that, contrary to a report in the local Press, the Kingsman local bus service was still running.

He was getting in touch with London Country Buses and St. Albans District Council about erecting a bus shelter on the A6 opposite West Common Way.

He had attended a meeting organised by the Lower Luton Road Action Group where it was reported that the County Council were taking steps to increase the safety of the road. These included placing footpaths behind hedges, 'improving' junctions at Bowers Heath Lane and Marshall's Heath Lane, and making a pelican crossing at Pickford Hill. The County Council stated there would be little benefit in re-classifying the road as a B road, but a traffic census was to be carried out.

4. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Arrangements were discussed for the visit of the London Appreciation Society on Saturday, 7 October.

Mr. D. Sansom, Chairman of LADACAN, had agreed to speak at the open meeting on 21 November.

5. RESIGNATION

Mr. Malcolm Parsons was unable to attend Committee meetings, and his resignation was accepted with regret. He wish to continue to receive copies of the minutes.

6. PROPOSALS FOR RECRUITMENT

It was agreed that membership of the Society was much too small for a town of Harpenden's size, and Mr. Powlesland suggested that an appeal be made in the next Newsletter asking each member to endeavour to recruit one new member. Mr. Evans agreed to write a suitable appeal. It was also agreed that an appeal be put in the "Forum".

Mrs. Suitters said that despite two reminder letters, several members had still not paid their subscriptions for two years. It was agreed that a final personal visit should be made to them before deleting them from the membership list.

7. AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter would be published at the end of October.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday,
17 October at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Usher

7/10/78.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
17 October, 1978 at 7.45 pm. at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the Chair
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford,
Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard, Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Pattison,
Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith, Miss Spurr,
Mrs. Sutters, Mr. Weston, Mr. Curl, Mr. Wilson.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 26 September were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary reported that he had booked the Public Hall on Wednesday, 16 May, 1979 for a Wine and Cheese Party.

3. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

- (a) TRANSPORT

The Committee felt great concern at the increasing use of Lower Luton Road by heavy lorries and felt they should be more active in supporting the proposal of the Lower Luton Road Action Group to re-classify the A6129 as a B road, which would ban heavy goods vehicles. Mr. Pattison agreed to write to the County Council accordingly. A similar letter would also be sent to the Press.

- (b) SCHOOLS LIAISON

Copies of the report of a meeting held on 8 September were circulated. The meeting had been well attended by representatives of several educational organisations, and a further meeting would be held on 8 November.

- (c) TREES

Miss Spurr reported that some protected trees had been cut down on the site being developed at the corner of Milton and Station Roads. She had been assured that they would be replaced in due course but it was agreed that the site needed to be watched.

Although there was a strong feeling among the Committee that the elm tree outside Woolworths should be replaced by a mature tree, it was agreed that any action should be deferred until the spring, when it could be seen how much life the tree still had.

- (d) COMMON

Mrs. Johnstone reported that she now had large-scale maps of the Common and a meeting of the Group would be held on 24 October to consider its management.

Mr. Weston enumerated the sites which had been agreed with the Town Council for seats and trees to be bought with the balance of the Jeakins Bequest. The Council had also made a grant of £100 from the Bequest to the Lea Valley Group to provide three trees for the Batford area.

- (e) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Wilson reported that members of Luton Youth Hostels Association

3. (e) had helped to erect three seats on the through-walk, and work on the sluice gate was progressing.

(f) PLANS

Mr. Smith reported that he and Mr. Rees had looked again at the "Somerled" development in Townsend Lane, but although the gardens would be small, they felt that no objection could be made on the grounds of density of houses. It was agreed that the trees on the site, which had a blanket preservation order on them, needed to be watched carefully.

An objection had been made to a proposal to convert 21, Overstone Road into two dwellings on the grounds that the house was unsuitable, car parking would be difficult and an undesirable precedent would be created.

Plans were exhibited and discussion took place on the proposed supermarket and church hall at Southdown. It was agreed that the Secretary should put the following points to the District Council: 1) the Committee would like particulars of plans to cope with the increase in traffic; 2) they felt the building should be set back to increase the pavement area; 3) they would like to see a model showing the relationship of the development to existing buildings; 4) there appeared to be no way into the church hall from the car park except for an emergency exit; 5) they would like to have guide lines as to how the rest of the Southdown area was to be developed.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT ON RECENT EVENTS

The Secretary reported that the visit of the London Appreciation Society on 7 October and the Society's visit to Cambridge on 8 October had both been most successful and enjoyable. He had written to thank the Cambridge Civic Society for their hospitality and had invited them to visit Harpenden.

5. FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH LADACAN SPEAKER

The Secretary asked for suggestions for titles for the meeting on 21 November, which would be publicised in the Newsletter and the local Press.

6. AUTUMN NEWSLETTER AND RECRUITMENT

It was decided to defer publication of the Newsletter until mid-November. The membership appeal would be included, but the Committee felt that further efforts were needed to enrol new members, and it was agreed to put an insert in the "Review" in January. This would have a circulation of 8,800 and would cost about £100. Other suggestions for publicity were "Harpenden Forum", the Town Guide and the new "Billboard" feature of the "Harpenden Advertiser".

The Secretary appealed for suggestions for a meeting of the Society in February, 1979.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 28 November at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Anthony Evans
28/11/78.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
28 November, 1978 at 7.45 pm. at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. A. Evans in the Chair
Mr. Ward, Miss Ashford, Mrs. Comer, Miss Haberer,
Mr. Haggard, Mr. Rees, Mr. M. Smith, Mrs. Suitters,
Mr. Weston, Mr. Curl

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Usher,
Mr. Powlesland, Mrs. Johnstone, Miss Spurr, Mr. Wilson

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 17 October were approved and signed.

2. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) TREES

In Miss Spurr's absence Mr. Ward reported that assurance had been received that trees on the site at 1 and 3, Milton Road would be preserved and that the weeping ash was protected by a preservation order. A blue cedar had been planted in Stewart Road.

A screen of silver birch trees was to be planted in front of the Rugby Club buildings in Redbourn Lane.

(b) COMMON

Mr. Ward reported in the absence of Mrs. Johnstone on a meeting of the Group held on 24 October. Work had started on the car park for the Rover's Football Club changing rooms. The building was to be a second-hand one and would need watching to see that it conformed to the standard expected.

Several members felt there was a need for a long-term plan for the management of the Common, but after much discussion it was agreed that the Common was well looked after by the Commons Committee of the Town Council who were vigilant and active, and met members of the Commons Group from time to time to deal with problems as they arose.

Mr. Ward reported that a selective thinning of the scrub in front of East Common would shortly be carried out by the Town Council.

The management of the area between West Common and the A6 presented problems because the manorial rights were owned by several people.

Mr. Rees proposed and it was agreed that the Society should suggest to the Town Council that they try to acquire these rights.

The Secretary read correspondence between Mr. Adcock of West Common and the Secretary of Rothamsted about the parking of cars on West Common in front of Rothamsted. The Police had also been notified of the nuisance. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to Rothamsted suggesting that they erect "No-parking" notices in front of their buildings on West Common.

(c) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Haggard reported that work was going ahead on the new sluice gate and a footpath clearing party had been organised.

He put forward a proposal made by Mrs. Wang that the Society might consider sponsoring a competition for the best-kept forecourt on industrial premises. It was agreed that, if such a competition were organised, it should be confined to the Lea Valley industrial estate.

2. (d) TRANSPORT

Mr. Ward read a letter which Mr. Pattison had sent to the County Council and the local Press urging the banning of heavy goods traffic from Lower Luton Road.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters reported that so far the membership appeal in the last Newsletter had brought in only five new members, and four more had joined at the recent meeting. In view of this poor response, it was decided to abandon the proposal to put an insert in the "Review" in January, but instead, to put an advertisement in and ask for editorial mention in March or April.

4. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Arrangements were discussed for the meeting on 6 December, when mincepies and hot punch would be served before Mr. Curl's talk on "Old Harpenden". After the talk, the slides would be presented to the Chairman of the Harpenden and District Local History Society. The meeting on Thursday, 1 February would be on the subject of "Recycling of Waste" and the Secretary hoped to get a speaker for a slide talk from the Department of the Environment or from the Conservation Society. Members of the Society had been invited to a meeting of the St. Albans Civic Society on 7 December, when Mr. M. Middleton, Director of the Civic Trust, would speak on "Conservation and Renewal".

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Ward, Mr. Usher and Mrs. Suitters had had a useful meeting with officers of the St. Albans Civic Society. Collaboration between the two societies was discussed, particularly on the subjects of the Childwickbury development, the Redbourn toxic waste plant and the banning of heavy goods traffic from Lower Luton Road. A stand had been booked for the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition on 29, 30 and 31 March, 1979, and it was decided to mount an exhibit jointly with the Lea Valley Group and the Local History Society on "Harpenden - past, present and future". The St. Albans group, Threshold, had asked for the Society's support for their proposals for the Chequer Street development. These had been circulated to Committee members but it was agreed that the Society should not be involved.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In view of the inability of Mr. M. Harrison and Mr. W. Barnes to attend the meetings of the Committee, it was agreed that they should be asked if they wished to continue their membership.

The next Newsletter would be published in February, 1979.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 23 January, 1979 at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Usher.

23/1/79.