

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
22 January, 1980 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford,
Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard, Mr. MacInnes,
Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. M. Smith, Mrs. Suitters,
Mrs. Wang, Mr. Curl, Mr. Wilson

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Barnes
and Mr. Weston

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December, 1979 were approved and signed subject to the correction of Westfield to Leafield under item 3(c) and the deletion of "destroyed by the contractor" in the reference to the tree outside Davenport House under "Any other business".

2. MATTER ARISING

The Secretary reported that he had been told by British Rail that the model of the new station was not available, but it was hoped that the speaker on 22 April would exhibit it when he spoke on "The London Midland Electrification".

The Secretary also reported that LADACAN felt strongly that the development of Stansted would be disastrous for Hertfordshire, and he undertook to get copies of their Newsletter on the subject so that the Committee could consider how best to support their protest.

Mrs. Wang reported that the damaged tree outside Davenport House had been replaced.

3. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) PLANS

Mr. Rees reported on recent planning applications. After discussion it was decided to recommend that if permission were granted to change the use of the coach house at the rear of 5, Milton Road to residential use, it should be on a restricted basis limiting the occupancy to the owner's family.

An application for the change in conditions governing tenants of part of Batford Mill was discussed. This would allow tenants from outside the county with the possibility of workers being brought in coaches. The Lea Valley Group had already written to the District Council pointing out that extra car parking space would have to be provided. The Secretary agreed to write in support of this recommendation.

He also agreed to write to the District Council about the proposed building at Waldgrave Park, suggesting that because of the prominence of the site, it should have as unobtrusive a finish as possible. The Lea Valley Group had already suggested this.

(b) TREES

Mr. Usher read a letter from Mr. Peter Moyse, enclosing photographs of two trees in private gardens which had been mutilated by bad

- 3.(b) pruning. It was decided that the Society exhibit at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition should include an item on the subject and should also provide information on Tree Preservation Orders.

Mr. Evans reported that Mr. Arnold had suggested that an acacia would be a suitable tree for planting on the concourse. Discussion took place on a proposal to plant the tree on the day of the street collection, but the Committee decided to leave it until the autumn. Messrs. Jarvis had generously offered to prepare the site, and Herts. Forestry Ltd. would remove the stump, and supply and plant the new tree for the sum of £605.

The shop next to Barclays Bank had been made available as a headquarters on the day of the street collection.

The Treasurer appealed for helpers. He reported that the Town Band had kindly agreed to play on the concourse during the morning, and it was agreed that the Morris Men should be asked if they would take part. Mr. Bright of the Bourne School of Music had kindly offered to organise a concert in aid of the Concourse Tree project. The Committee agreed that the offer should be accepted.

(c) SCHOOLS LIAISON GROUP

Mrs. Godfrey reported that the Group would meet on Thursday, 25 January. It was agreed that two screens should be allocated to the Group for an exhibit at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition.

(d) TRANSPORT

Mr. Usher said that after the appeal in the Newsletter, several members had expressed an interest in the Group, and it was agreed that some of them should be approached to attend a Group meeting.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

The Treasurer reported that subscriptions were coming in well and he had already received £20 towards the Concourse Tree as a result of the Press release.

5. PRESS AND NEWSLETTER

Miss Haberer was complimented on the recent Newsletter. She said she had unfortunately omitted to include items on Bottle Banks and the Recycling Directory, but these would appear in the next issue.

6. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Suggestions were made for a summer event including an open-air concert, a walk along the Nicky Line and a garden party tea.

7. SECRETARY'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

After a request from the Women's Institute, the Secretary had written to the Motormart, and he was glad to report that the amount of unsightly advertising material in their windows had been reduced. Mr. Curl had kindly agreed to speak at meetings arranged by Rotoract and the Hilltop Ladies' Club.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rogers expressed concern about the number of Sainsbury's trolleys left about Harpenden. The Secretary agreed to write to the firm, with a copy to the Police.

Mrs. Godfrey announced that the next meeting of the St. Albans Civic Society would be on 31 January with a speaker from SAVE.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 19 February at 7.45 pm. at Harpenden Hall.

Antonia Evans

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
19 February, 1980 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. A. Evans in the chair
Mr. Usher (part-time), Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland,
Miss Ashford, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer,
Mr. Haggard, Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith,
Mrs. Suitters, Mrs. Wang, Mr. Weston.

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January, 1980 were approved and signed.

2. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) PLANS

The Secretary reported that great concern had been expressed by the residents of Ambrose Lane at the construction of a new access road to Highfield Printing Works, and an appeal had been made to the Ombudsman. It was felt that the entrance was too near a bend just before a bridge, that many trees had been felled and that it might lead to an expansion of industry in the area. Mr. Rees said that the contractors appeared to have complied with the conditions of planning permission granted in 1974, but felt that the Society should keep a watchful eye on further developments. The Committee were very sympathetic to the residents' objection and it was agreed that the Secretary should write to their secretary in support of their appeal.

Traffic arrangements in Southdown were discussed, and there was a fear that the green triangle at the junction of Walkers and Southdown Roads might disappear when the new roundabout was made. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to the County, District and Town Councils expressing the Society's concern that the green should be retained.

Mr. Rees reported on two planning applications, to which it was agreed objection should be made. One was for permission to move a slatted, timber fence at 18, The Deerings, for which the site plan was inaccurately drawn. The other was a proposal to build three bungalows on part of the gardens at the rear of 69/71, Roundwood Lane. Here also, the plan was inaccurately drawn, and according to the privacy standards, there was space for only one bungalow.

In view of the many applications being made for planning permission to build rear extensions to existing properties, Mr. Rees felt the Society should draw the attention of the Council to the necessity of limiting their depth to 3 metres, especially in the case of semi-detached and terraced houses. This was agreed.

Mr. Weston expressed concern at the possible closure of the domestic refuse dump in Dark Lane. The Committee agreed that this would be disastrous, and that the Secretary should write to the Chief Executive Officer of Hertfordshire County Council. Mrs. Wang reported that the Upper Lea Valley Group had already written. It was agreed that if no decision was reached at the County Council's meeting on 6 March, an appeal for signatures in support of objection to the closure should be made at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition.

- 2.(a) Mrs. Wang reported that she felt it important that re-planting should follow alterations to Stanley Engineering Company's factory in Coldharbour Lane. The Committee had objected to planning permission on the grounds that the extension impeded access for fire fighting vehicles, and it was agreed that the Secretary should write to the District Council regretting that permission had been granted and stressing the importance of re-planting.

(b) TREES

Mr. Powlesland reported on a very successful street collection on 16 February, when £442 had been raised towards replanting the concourse tree. The Society had also received an offer of £750 from Blue Arrow Travel Group, and Mr. Ward reported that the Chamber of Trade had agreed to sponsor an appeal to local tradesmen. The Methodist Church had also expressed a wish to plant a tree. The Committee felt that the re-planting of the concourse tree should be regarded as the Society's responsibility to mark its jubilee, but many other trees in the High Street needed to be replaced, and the support of other bodies would be welcomed here. It was agreed that a meeting of officers with a representative of the Town Council should be called to discuss the matter.

(c) COMMON

Mr. Usher reported that Mr. Wilson had sent him particulars of a method of grass cutting that might be used on the Common. This would be discussed at a future meeting.

(d) LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mrs. Wang reported on a meeting to discuss the formation of a South Beds Lea Valley Group, and the possibilities of a right of way being created through the National Children's Home ~~owned land~~ *farmland*.

(e) SCHOOLS LIAISON GROUP

Mrs. Godfrey reported that the Group had met on 25 January. The Working Party on the Urban Studies Box would meet on 12 March, when the exhibit for the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition would be planned. Volunteers would be sought to plan a draft trail through the village.

(f) RECYCLING

Mr. Usher said that Mrs. Nuttall had left Harpenden, and it was decided to leave the appointment of a new convenor for the group until after the Annual Meeting.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

The Treasurer reported that about half of the members had paid their subscriptions and 17 new members had joined since the street collection on 16 February.

4. PRESS AND NEWSLETTER

The Herts. Advertiser had been asked to publish a report on the street collection and the Review would also be asked to do so.

5. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mr. Ward reported the resignation of Mr. MacInnes as meetings secretary.

The next open meeting would be on 25 February, when Mr. G.A.Griffiths of Hertfordshire County Council would speak on "Rural Aspects of the Herts County Structure Plan".

The Annual General Meeting would take place on 11 March. This was usually followed by a talk on the Society's Award for the year, but so far no nominations had been received.

Plans were going ahead for the Society's exhibit at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition on 27 to 29 March.

As a summer outing, Mr. Powlesland suggested a garden party in the grounds of 1, West Common with a concert by the Williams School of Music. Mr. Powlesland and Mr. Barnes agreed to explore the possibilities.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Letters of thanks had been received from Rotoract and St. John's Church Swans Club for providing Mr. Curl as a speaker at their meetings.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Possible nominations for next year's Committee were discussed.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 18th March at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Viner

18/3/80.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on
Tuesday, 28 March, 1980 at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford,
Lady Bawden, Mr. Bush, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer,
Mr. Haggard, Mr. Raw, Mr. Rees, Mrs. Suitters,
Mrs. Wang, Mr. Wilson

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Barnes
and Mr. Jennings

The Chairman welcomed Lady Bawden, Mr. Bush and
Mr. Raw as new members of the Committee.

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February, 1980 were approved
and signed, subject to the amendment of item 2(d) to read
"National Children's Home farmland".

2. Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition

The Secretary exhibited a model of the Society's stand for the
Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition, showing sections on St. Nicholas
Church Tower Appeal, Schools' Liaison Group, the Concourse Tree,
Railway Electrification, Trees, the 1980 Award, Anti-litter and
the Upper Lea Valley Group. He appealed for volunteers to man
the stand from 27 to 29 March.

3. St. Nicholas Church Tower Appeal

Mr. Rees asked if the Society would contribute towards the cost
of renovating the 15th century tower of St. Nicholas Church. The
Committee agreed to a proposal by Mr. Raw that a donation of £25.
should be made.

4. 1980 Award

As announced at the Annual General Meeting, the Panel of Judges
had agreed that the Society's Award for 1980 should be made to the
Glen Eagle Hotel for their new extension. The Award would be made
at the Wine and Cheese Party on 7 May, to which representatives of
the Hotel, Gwyn Morris and Partners (the architects) and Marshalls
of Luton (Builders) would be invited. It was agreed that the
Chairman of the Town Council should be asked to present the award.

5. Concourse Tree and High Street Planting

Discussion took place on further fund raising and it was agreed
that the Treasurer should draft a suitable letter to be sent to
members of the Chamber of Trade.

6. Wine and Cheese Party

Mr. Evans outlined plans for organising the party and a Sub-Comm-
ittee (J. Bush, A. Godfrey, E. Ward and A. Evans) was appointed
to arrange the details. It was agreed that Committee members
should wear name badges, and should try to introduce members
coming alone to other members.

7. Southdown Townscaping

The District Council's plan for traffic arrangements at Southdown
had been exhibited at the Annual General Meeting and had aroused
much criticism, mainly at the loss of part of the green triangle.
As the matter was urgent, Mr. Evans and Mr. Ward had inspected

the site the next day and had submitted to the Town and District Councils a revised plan reducing the paved area and replacing it with grass bordered by chains at the Grove Road end. This would also reduce dangers to pedestrians crossing the road at this point.

8. Dark Lane Refuse Dump

The Secretary reported that a decision on the closure of the Dark Lane Refuse Dump had been deferred until a future meeting of the County Council.

9. The Nicky Line

Mr. Ward reported that the County Council had ruled out the use of the line to convey refuse out of the county from a depot at Hemel Hempstead as road transport would be cheaper. Any decision to re-open the line would be made by British Rail on economic grounds.

10. Next Open Meeting

On 22 April, Mr. R. Saunderson, Public Relations Officer, British Rail, would speak on "The London Midland Electrification". It was agreed that he should be asked to bring the model of the new Harpenden Station, and that he should be apprised beforehand of the Society's concern over the landscaping of the new station and the future of the buildings in Station Approach.

11. Review of Sub-Groups

Membership of the Sub-Groups was announced as follows:

<u>Commons Group</u>	Lady Bawden (Convenor), Miss Ashford, Mr. Evans, Miss Pratt, Mr. Scowen, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston
<u>Trees Group</u>	Mr. Barnes (Convenor), Mr. Haggard, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Leishman, Mr. Scowen, Miss Spurr
<u>Plans Group</u>	Mr. Rees (Convenor), Mrs. Godfrey, Mr. Raw, Mr. Smith, Miss Spurr, Mrs. Wang
<u>Transport Group</u>	Mr. Rogers (Convenor), Mr. Jennings, Mr. Raw, Mrs. Wang
<u>Lea Valley Group</u>	Mr. Haggard (Representative) Mrs. Wang (Deputy Representative)
<u>Schools Liaison Group</u>	Mrs. Godfrey (Convenor), Mr. Curl, Miss Haberer, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Wilson
<u>Recycling Group</u>	Mr. Usher (Convenor), Mrs. Powlesland, Mr. Rogers, Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Ward

12. Reports of Group Convenors. (a) Plans Group

- (a) The Chairman welcomed the strengthening of the Group by the addition of Mrs. Godfrey, Mr. Raw and Mrs. Wang. The Secretary suggested that the Group should now submit their own comments on planning applications to the District Council after submission to the Committee. This was agreed.

On behalf of the Plans Group, Mr. Rees commented on the proposed alterations to the Herts. County Structure Plan 1980, and said that as far as this district was concerned, no alterations were needed. He advised that the opening paragraphs of the County Council's statement should be recorded:

- 12.(a) "A series of changes to Hertfordshire County Structure Plan are
(cont.) proposed in a new document - "Hertfordshire County Structure Plan -
Proposed Alterations 1980" - published for consultation by
Hertfordshire County Council this week.

Although the current plan received the Secretary of State for the Environment's approval after a three year delay only last September, it was prepared during 1974 and 1975. Since that time, changes have taken place which lead to revisions in forecasts of the county's population, housing requirements and employment.

Recent studies have also suggested the need to refine policies dealing with housing, villages, the landscape, shopping, leisure and mineral working. In addition, the Secretary of State had asked for some changes to be made including new proposals for Stevenage."

Mr. Rees recommended that planning permission be refused for rear extensions at 3, Lea Walk, 27 Meadway, 46, Granby Avenue and 12, Churchfield on grounds of their excessive depth in relation to adjoining property.

He also recommended that an application by the Tandoori Restaurant, 80, High Street to delete from planning approval two clauses limiting opening hours and forbidding the sale of takeaway food, should be refused in order to safeguard the amenities of the area.

12.(b) Transport

Mr. Usher reported that he had drafted a letter to send to members who had expressed an interest in transport, in an attempt to get support for the Group.

(c) Trees

In the absence of Mr. Barnes, Mr. Ward reported that the Group had met on 7th March. The Irish yew for Church Green would be planted shortly, and a silver-leaved alder had been planted on Hatching Green as a chestnut had been damaged by vandals.

(d) Recycling

The Chairman reported that he had written to Sainsburys about the possibility of a bottle bank being installed in their car park.

(e) Lea Valley

Mr. Haggard reported that a start had been made on the re-building of the banks on either side of the sluice gate. The Annual Meeting of the Group would be held on 11 September at All Saint's Hall, Batford, when slides of the Upper Lea Valley would be shown.

(f) School's Liaison

Mrs. Godfrey reported that work was proceeding on Box No. 2, containing background information for two planning games and on the development of Harpenden since 1900. A press release on Box No. 1 would be ready soon.

13. Newsletter

The next copy of the Newsletter would be published at the end of April.

14. Any other business

Mr. Ward said he had been in touch with the Librarian and it had been agreed that the Society's Spotlight on Leisure exhibit should be shown in the Public Library from 14 to 24 April.

14. Mr. Usher reported that he had received a request from the Secretary of Long Buftler's Residents' Association asking if they could become affiliated to the Society. After discussion, it was agreed that the Officers should consider the request and report to the next meeting of the Committee.

A proposal by Mrs. Wang that the Society might publish picture postcards of Harpenden to replace the poor ones at present on sale was not thought to be feasible as it would need a large outlay of capital.

Mrs. Wang reported that she had written to the District Council about the excessive advertising by the Herts. Advertiser at Henderson's, Batford and Hockaday's, High Street, but had received no reply.

Mr. Wilson agreed to look into the felling of mature trees at Batford Mill, reported by Mrs. Wang.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 15 April at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Anthony Gans
15/4/80

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

SUB-GROUPS FROM MARCH, 1980

COMMONS GROUP

Lady Bawden (Convenor)
Miss Ashford, Mr. Evans, Miss Pratt,
Mr. Scowen, Mr. Ward, Mr. Weston

TREES GROUP

Mr. Barnes (Convenor)
Mr. Haggard, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Leishman,
Mr. Scowen, Miss Spurr

PLANS GROUP

Mr. Rees (Convenor)
Mrs. Godfrey, Mr. Raw, Mr. Smith,
Miss Spurr, Mrs. Wang

TRANSPORT GROUP

Mr. Rogers (Convenor)
Mr. Jennings, Mr. Raw, Mrs. Wang

UPPER LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mr. Haggard (Representative)
Mrs. Wang (Deputy Representative)

SCHOOLS' LIAISON GROUP

Mrs. Godfrey (Convenor)
Mr. Curl, Miss Haberer, Mr. Rogers,
Mr. Wilson

RECYCLING GROUP

Mr. Usher (Convenor)
Mr. Powlesland, Mr. Rogers,
Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Ward

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
15 April, 1980 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Evans in the chair
Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford, Lady Bawden,
Mr. Bush, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard,
Mr. Jennings, Mr. Raw, Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith,
Mrs. Suitters, Mrs. Wang
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Usher and Mr. Wilson

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March were approved and signed.

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY, 7 MAY

Mr. Evans reported that details of arrangements for the party had been made by the Sub-Committee. It was agreed that publicity was needed and that the next Newsletter should advertise the party and should be published as soon as possible. It was also agreed that representatives of the St. Albans Civic Society and the Redbourn Society should be invited.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Secretary reported that he had heard from Mr. Saunderson that he could not bring the model of the new Harpenden Station when he came to speak on "The London Midland Electrification" on 22 April. On Miss Haberer's suggestion it was agreed that he should be asked to bring a photograph of the model.

Mr. Bush reported that he had made bookings of the hall for meetings on 23 September, 29 October, 4 December, 1980, and 10 February, 9 March and 6 May, 1981.

NEWSLETTER

As the next Newsletter was being published earlier than intended, it was agreed that an extra number should be published to include dates of future meetings.

REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) PLANS

Mr. Rees commented on proposals for ground floor extensions at 27, Meadway, 46, Granby Avenue and 10, Churchfield which would adversely affect adjoining property. It was agreed that objections should be made to planning permission being granted.

After discussion on an application for change of use of the old International Supermarket to a Wimpey Restaurant, it was agreed that the Society should recommend that evening opening hours should not be later than those of other local restaurants. It should also be stressed that the fascia board should be unobtrusive.

Other applications to which Mr. Rees recommended objections were the demolition of a listed barn at Plover's Cottage, Hatching Green, the erection of a detached house at the rear of 5 Park Avenue South, a first-floor rear extension at 140, Station Road and two illuminated signs on the Tandoori Restaurant, 80, High Street.

5. (a) Mrs. Wang reported that the fascia board on the International Supermarket did not conform with the conditions of planning permission that the colouring should be the same as that of adjacent shops.

Mr. Evans had heard that the new Pinefare Supermarket proposed to have a large, illuminated sign. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to the District Council immediately for details and should voice the Society's concern about the fascia boards on the International Supermarket and other local shops.

The Secretary read a letter from the District Engineer saying that it was not possible to make a park for motor cycles in the centre of Harpenden. Mr. Rogers agreed to draft a reply.

(b) COMMONS

The Committee agreed to Lady Bawden's suggestion that Miss Thurston should be invited to join the Group and that she should be asked to organise the collection of wild flower seeds.

(c) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Haggard said he hoped soon to be able to give details of a long-term plan for tree planting in the Lea Valley area.

(d) SCHOOLS LIAISON

Mrs. Godfrey reported that the Group would meet on 1 May, and agreed that the Group's first Resources Box should be on show at the Cheese and Wine Party on 7 May.

6. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

The Treasurer reported that 261 members had not yet paid their subscriptions, and it was agreed that a reminder should be put in the next Newsletter.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Miss Haberer expressed concern at the numbers of unsightly concrete markers that were appearing in many places, particularly at the junction of Walkers Road and the A1081. The Commons Group agreed to look into the matter.

Mr. Evans criticised the signs at the new Bull Road roundabout and Mr. Raw undertook to inspect and make further enquiries.

The Secretary drew the attention of members to the Annual Town Meeting to be held at the Public Hall on 21 April at 8 p.m.

Discussion took place on the possibility of holding a Garden Party at Rothamsted Manor this autumn or instead of a Wine and Cheese Party next year. Mr. Haggard undertook to make enquiries.

Mrs. Wang reported on damage to trees by vandals and the removal of a litter bin in Station Road and agreed to report these to the Council.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, 20 May at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Viner.
20/5/80.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
20 May, 1980 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair

Mr. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford,
Lady Bawden, Mr. Bush, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer,
Mr. Haggard, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Suitters,
Mrs. Wang

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Raw,
Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Wilson

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April were approved and signed

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Ward agreed to ask Mr. Meadows to photograph the obtrusive collection of concrete markers for various services at the junction of Walkers Road and the A1081 so that a press release might be prepared for submission to the local press and Civic Trust News.

Mr. Haggard reported that it would not be possible to hold a Garden Party at Rothamsted Manor.

3. WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

The party had been a great success with about 140 people present, and the Treasurer reported a net profit of over £200.

4. GROUP CONVENORS' REPORTS

(a) PLANS

In Mr. Rees' absence, Mr. Smith reported that objection was recommended to an application to build 8 houses and garages at Tintern Close. It was suggested that the number be reduced to 7 to avoid overcrowding.

Objections were also recommended to extensions at 33, Meadway, 25, Holly Bush Lane, 130, Piggotts Hill Lane, 20, Bury Wick and 33, Holly Bush Lane.

Mr. Smith also reported that Davis Estates were appealing against the rejection of their application to build between Brackendale Grove and Roundwood Lane. It was agreed that a copy of the Society's earlier letter of objection should be sent to the District Council.

Mrs. Wang reported that if permission were given for a new building adjacent to 8, Grove Road, it might mean the removal of the only tree in the road. A Tree Preservation Order should be sought.

Mr. Powlesland commented on the dilapidated state of Budgen's old shop, and the Secretary agreed to write to the Town Council to seek action.

Mr. Raw had investigated the road signs at the Bull Road and Piggotts Hill Lane roundabouts, and in his absence, his detailed observations and suggestions for improvement were read by Mr. Smith. Mr. Evans agreed to study these and make recommendations at the next meeting.

- 4.(a) The Secretary reported that a member living at Kinsbourne Green had complained that gravel from the drive to Green Lawns Service Station spilled into the road, causing a hazard. It was agreed that he should ask the District Council to take the matter up with the owners.

(b) TREES

Mr. Ward read a letter from a member saying that the site of Batford Nursery School, which contained some fine trees, was being disposed of by the County Council. Mr. Usher agreed to ask Miss Spurr to apply for a Tree Preservation Order to cover the site.

Mr. Evans reported that a plan for the re-planting of trees in the High Street was being prepared by the Town Council's Commons Committee. He agreed to convene a meeting of the Executive Officers to draw up a list of tree donors and to make firm proposals for re-planting.

Mr. Ward reported that "Trees" would be the subject of the Society's September meeting, and Mr. Arnold had been approached to speak and lead a panel of experts.

An amended plan for the townscaping of the Southdown area had been received from the District Council and was exhibited. The Committee was greatly disappointed that its objections to the original plan had not been acknowledged by the District Council, and none of its suggestions were incorporated in the revised plan. Mr. Evans agreed to take the matter up with the Chairman of the Town Council and with Mr. Curl.

(c) COMMONS

Lady Bawden reported that Miss Joan Thurston had agreed to join the Commons Group, and to write a short article on wild flower seed collection for the next Newsletter.

Mr. Fryd had been asked for a plan of the Common and particulars of the rights of commoners.

The Secretary proposed that the Commons Group should organise the open meeting on 10 February, 1981. This was agreed.

(d) LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mr. Haggard reported that the Group were being entertained by Hertford Civic Society on Saturday, 24 May.

The work on the footbridge was now completed.

(e) SCHOOLS LIAISON GROUP

Mrs. Godfrey gave an interesting description of the contents of Sources Box No. 2., the subject of which was "Harpenden Today".

(f) TRANSPORT

Mr. Usher expressed great concern at the cutting down of trees on the railway embankment in Carlton Road in connection with the electrification scheme. Mr. Ward agreed to approach Mr. Arnold for his opinion as to what action could be taken.

4.(g) RE-CYCLING

Mr. Usher reported that Sainsburys had not agreed to his proposal that they should provide a skip for bottles. Miss Haberer's suggestion that Finefare should be approached, was approved.

5. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

The Treasurer reported a disappointing result to reminders to members who had not paid their subscriptions, and it was agreed that personal calls should be made on them.

6. PRESS AND NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter would be published early in July.

7. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Miss Haberer suggested that Miss Joyce Wells would probably be willing to give a talk on "Old St. Albans". It was agreed that Mr. Bush should ask her to speak on 4 December, or, failing that, on 29 October.

It was agreed that another Wine and Cheese Party should be held in 1981, and that the provisional booking of the Public Hall for 6 May, 1981 should be confirmed.

Mr. Bush suggested that the Society might take part in the Harpenden Carnival, and agreed to explore the possibility.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary announced that the Harpenden Civic Service would be held on Sunday 8 June at St. Nicholas Church. Lady Bawden agreed to represent the Society.

The Local History announced a visit to Pitstone Farm Museum on Monday 23 June .

Cambridge Civic Society had expressed an interest in the Society's Award and had been sent particulars.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Wang commented on a report in the local press about the diversion and fencing of the footpath through St. George's School grounds.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Paul Usher
17/6/80.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
17 June, 1980 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford, Mr. Barnes,
Lady Bawden, Mr. Bush, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer,
Mr. Haggard, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Raw, Mr. Rees,
Mr. Rogers, Mrs. Wang
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Evans,
Mrs. Suitters and Mr. Wilson

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary reported that he had protested about the delapidated condition of Budgen's old shop but neither the District nor the Town Council had any powers to take any action.

Mr. Fryd had agreed to take up the matter of the gravel spillage from the approach to Green Lawns Garage with the owners and with the District Council.

Lady Bawden reported that she had represented the Society at the Civic Service on 8 June.

3. CONCOURSE AND LOWER HIGH STREET PLANTING

Lady Bawden read an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Town Council Commons and Greens Committee outlining proposals for planting in the lower High Street. A proposal had also been made to plant daffodils on the Common. This met with criticism from the Committee and Mr. Ward agreed to ask for further details.

The Commons and Greens Committee also proposed to ask for donations towards the planting from public bodies, including the Society. It was agreed that careful liaison with the Town Council was necessary and that Mrs. Curl, Chairman of the Commons and Greens Committee should be invited to the meeting of the Society's Sub-Committee on 24 June, when the whole question of tree planting and monies raised for the purpose would be discussed.

4. SOUTHDOWN TOWNSCAPING

Mr. Rees reported that the scheme for Southdown townscaping and traffic arrangements was being re-drafted by the District Council.

5. AMBROSE LANE DEVELOPMENTS

Mr. Rees read a letter from St. Albans District Council saying that no new industrial development was planned at the Printing Works. It was agreed, however, that the Committee should press the National Childrens' Home to get the present sign replaced with one of more subdued colouring and to plant trees along the new access road.

6. PROPOSED BUPA DEVELOPMENT

A proposal to build a 40 bed hospital with an operating theatre in Piper's Lane was discussed and it was agreed that objection should be made as the site was part of the Green Belt, and the amenities of adjoining properties would be seriously affected. It was also felt that access was unsatisfactory and that more detailed plans should be submitted.

7. LADACAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Secretary had received a notice of LADACAN'S Annual General Meeting on 24 June, to be followed by a discussion on the future policy for Luton and Stansted Airports at which Professor Sir Colin Buchanan would be guest speaker. Mr. Haggard and Mr. Usher agreed to attend the meeting.

8. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) PLANS

The Committee agreed that objection should be made to a proposal to demolish two listed barns at Bynville Farm which were of historic interest, and to an application to change the use of 20, High Street to building society offices as this would not be in the interest of a local shopping centre.

An application to build bungalows on land to the rear of 69-71, Roundwood Lane had now been reduced to two bungalows, but it was felt that the Committee's objection to the first application for three should be repeated.

Mrs. Wang reported that in future the Town Council would ask applicants for permission to erect fascia boards to supply copies.

(b) COMMON

Planting on the Common was discussed and Lady Bawden agreed to try to find out the byelaws governing planting.

(c) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Haggard reported that the banks around the footbridge had been reinforced and a new footpath constructed.

(d) TRANSPORT

A meeting of the Group would be arranged for 15 July. Mrs. Wang reported that the Town Council were providing six more cycle stands on the concourse outside Woolworths.

(e) RECYCLING

Mr. Usher reported that it seemed likely that the District Council would proceed with plans for a bottle bank in Harpenden at Bowers Way car park. He would, however, approach Fine Fare to ask if they would be willing to instal one at their new supermarket.

(f) MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

The Treasurer again reported disappointment that about 140 members had not yet paid their subscriptions. The Committee agreed to a suggestion from Mr. Haggard that these members should receive envelopes with their Newsletters in which to put their subscriptions which would be collected a few days later.

9. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mr. Bush reported that Miss Joyce Wells was willing to talk on "Old St. Albans" at the meeting on 4 December.

Mr. Arnold and the District Council's Landscape Architect had agreed to speak on "Trees in Harpenden" on 23rd September.

It was agreed that Mr. J. Fryd, Mr. D. Weston, Mrs. Curl and members of the Town Council Commons and Greens Committee should be invited to the meeting to be arranged by the Commons Group on 10 February, 1981.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lady Bawden raised the question of amalgamating the Local History Society with the Harpenden Society, and asked if the matter could be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Bush reported that the Society would be welcome to take part in the 1981 Harpenden Carnival but some money-making activities would be involved. The matter would be considered at a later date.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 22nd July, 1981 at 7.45 p.m. in Harpenden Hall.

Anthony Evans
22/7/80

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
22 July, 1980 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Evans in the chair
Mr. Ward, Lady Bawden, Mr. Rees, Mr. Bush, Mrs. Godfrey,
Mrs. Suitters, Miss Haberer, Mrs. Wang, Mr. Haggard,
Mr. Jennings, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Wilson

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Usher,
Mr. Smith, Mr. Raw, Mr. Powlesland and Miss Ashford

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary reported that he had written to the District Council about the encroachment of the garage activities on to Kinsbourne Green and had received a sympathetic reply. Now, on the advice of the District Council he would write to the Lord of the Manor requesting his co-operation.

The matter of possible amalgamation with the History Society, raised by Lady Bawden, was examined and it was decided that closer liaison and mutual support was preferable to any formal link-up.

3. CONCOURSE AND HIGH STREET PLANTING

Mr. Evans reported on a meeting with Mr. Arnold, the District Council Arborist. A planting plan had been provisionally agreed and approved by Mrs. Curl, Chairman of the Commons and Greens Committee. Mr. Arnold would now proceed to obtain quotations. The Society would ask the Town Council to make the actual purchase as this would ensure a full refund of V.A.T. Mr. Powlesland had been asked to pursue negotiations with Aldwickbury School to enable their contribution of a semi-mature tree to be included in the scheme. A Norway Maple was proposed for the Concourse tree to replace the dead elm (a Norway Maple would transplant best as a large, mature tree). Discussion took place at the instigation of Mr. Wilson on the desirability of planting two sizeable trees on the Green opposite to Barclays Bank as, in his opinion, these would tend to close the present open view into the High Street from the Common. This view was strongly supported and Mr. Evans undertook to discuss the matter with Mrs. Curl and Mr. Arnold. Mr. Evans, supported by the Honorary Secretary, disagreed strongly with Mr. Wilson and said that, had the two trees been proposed for the first green, Mr. Wilson's point would be valid. Members also asked that the possibility of continuing the planting towards Sun Lane be examined. Mr. Evans said this would be governed by cash available but he would keep it in mind. (Details of the planting proposals are recorded on the plan submitted.)

4. NICKY LINE

The Honorary Secretary reported that replies were now starting to come in to our letter seeking to revive interest in our proposal for the line to be converted into a footpath. St. Albans and Dacorum District Councils had replied sympathetically but replies were still awaited from British Rail and the County Council.

4. The Honorary Secretary exhibited a map sent to him by the County Council's Chief Planning Officer showing the proposed route of the Redbourn By-pass. He said that the proposal strengthened our case by maintaining the whole route, except bridges, intact.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LADACAN

In the absence of the Chairman, Mrs. Godfrey reported on the outcome of the meeting - chiefly on LADACAN'S attitude to the proposed development of Stansted. Expansion of Stansted was detrimental to the County in every way and must be resisted. It was agreed to support LADACAN in its stance.

6. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) PLANS

Mr. Rees brought to the Committee's attention three important proposed developments: (1) a two-storey licensed premises in Thompson's Close; he advised recommending refusal on grounds of lack of parking, restricted access and unsuitable position generally; (2) a two-storey dwelling with garage in Kirkwick Avenue; he advised opposition on grounds of overcrowding the site and prejudicing the amenities of neighbouring properties: (3) light industrial units behind Bowers Parade; he advised supporting approval, subject to the usual safeguards. Mr. Rees supplied detailed findings and recommendations so that the Honorary Secretary could write to the District Council conveying these views, of which the Committee approved.

SOUTHDOWN DEVELOPMENTS

Mr. Evans and Mr. Jennings reported at this stage on these developments. Agreement had been reached with the District and Town Councils on the treatment of the Green to secure maximum area of grass compatible with the closing of the back road at the southern end and the provision of "residents only" parking facilities. Mr. Jennings said that the Finefare notice "Customers only car park" had already been altered to "Finefare customers only car park" but that it was an open car park and no suggestion of restriction should be implied. The Honorary Secretary agreed to write to the District Council and point out the need for clarification. He would also speak to the Secretary of the Allotments Association about the fencing along the back of the car park and the adequacy of access to the allotments.

(b) COMMONS

Lady Bawden reported that she had had meetings with Mr. Weston, the Common Keeper, who will attend meetings of the Group as an observer from the Town Council Commons and Greens Committee. There had also been one meeting of the Group.

The Group were expressing strong objection to the proposal to plant daffodils on the Common and would make their views (endorsed by this Committee) known to the Council. The policy with regard to the conservation of the Common was laid down in the Town Centre Plan and should be adhered to. The regeneration of wild flowers, as proposed by Miss Thurston, was entirely in accord with this plan.

At the suggestion of Mr. Haggard, Lady Bawden undertook to speak to Mr. Weston about the possible preservation of the damaged ginko tree on the West Green.

- 6.(b) As soon as labour could be provided, Mr. Weston would continue to supervise the progressive widening of the "rides" through the scrub on East Common.

(c) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Haggard reported progress on various works in hand.

(d) TRANSPORT

A very successful meeting of the Group had been held with four people hitherto not involved in the Society's activities taking part. Among several topics discussed was a proposal to be made to the County, District and Town Councils that the footway between the built-up areas of Harpenden and St. Albans alongside the A1081 be converted to dual use as a cycle path and footway. Mr. Raw undertook to draft proposals for the Secretary to forward to these authorities for consideration. A further meeting of the Group was fixed for 9 September.

(e) TREES

Mr. Usher sent a report that our concern about the protection of the mature trees on the Batford Nursery School site had been noted by the District Arborist and an appropriate recommendation passed on to the Planning Committee.

7. NEWSLETTER

late.
It was decided that ~~early~~ September was the appropriate time for the next Harpenden Society News.

8. FUTURE EVENTS

Mr. Bush reported that arrangements for the Autumn session were being completed. The meeting on 23 September would be addressed by Mr. Paul Arnold, supported by the District Council's Landscape Architect and possibly one other speaker. Mr. Bush asked for appropriate questions to be submitted as soon as possible.

Mr. Bush also announced that the speaker for the meeting on 29 October would be a Crime Prevention Officer on the subject of "Vandalism - Who Pays?".

9. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary reported that his enquiries had elicited a reply that a typical week at the Grove Road "Dump" meant 1540 cars bringing rubbish; with a maximum on Sunday reaching as many as 540. He also asked that careful watch be kept on the development of the National Childrens' Home site as it was planned to erect another sign to direct traffic into the site. He had had some assurance that there was no intention to develop the site further for commercial uses.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members expressed concern at the deterioration of street name signs around the town - even the disappearance of several. The Secretary undertook to seek assurance from the District Council and Town Council that this matter was receiving attention. The Secretary asked for sanction to seek a regular advertisement space for the Society in "Forum". This was agreed.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING was fixed for Tuesday, 16 September at 7.45 p.m. in the History Room at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Usher 16/9/80.



Harpenden 63457

The Harpenden Society

92 Eastmoor Park,
Harpenden, Herts.

Dear

According to our records you have not renewed your membership for 1980.

It still costs only £1 for family membership: 75p for individual membership: 50 for pensioners and students. Perhaps it is because our subs are so very nominal that it is too easy to overlook regular annual payment. So, to eliminate the yearly chore, we now offer the facility of payment by banker's order: a form for this purpose is enclosed. Of course, if you prefer to pay by cheque or in cash please do so.

We value your membership and we need your support, whether active or passive, so please do take action and help us in our watchdog role, protecting and extending local amenities.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Suitters (Mrs)
Membership Secretary.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
16 September, 1980 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford,
Mr. Bush, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer, Mr. Jennings,
Mr. Raw, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sutters, Mrs. Wang
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Haggard,
Mr. Rees and Mr. Wilson. *Lady Bowden.*

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Members raised the questions of the fencing at the rear of the car park behind Fine Fare and the necessity for screening the service area. The Secretary agreed to write to Mr. McKenna about the general landscaping at the entrance to the car park and to contact the Secretary of the Allotment Club with regard to the fence.

3. GROUP CONVENORS' REPORTS

(a) PLANS

In the absence of Mr. Rees, Mr. Smith commented on several planning applications and gave reasons for recommending that the Society should raise objections, to which the Committee agreed. These included: (1) a detached house in Park Avenue South on the grounds of unsatisfactory back land development; (2) the addition of a bedroom and bathroom at 33, Hollybush Lane, to which the Society had objected earlier on grounds of overdevelopment of the site; (3) the demolition of a double garage and erection of a house in Clarence Road, which would mean overdevelopment of the site and would be out of character with surrounding properties.

Mr. Ward brought the attention of the Committee to a proposal to build two 2-bedroom houses and 18 1-bedroom flats on the site of Arkhill House, Clarence Road. It was agreed that the District Council should be asked to ensure that the design of the buildings be kept in character with neighbouring houses and that the occupancy of the one-bedroom flats should be limited.

Mr. Evans reported that Croudace were appealing against the Council's decision not to allow their application to build 80 4-bedroom houses on land on East Common between Cross Lane and Mud Lane. The East Common Residents' Association were organising an objection, and he would give further details at the next meeting of the Committee. It was agreed that a note on the subject should be included in the next Newsletter, urging individual members to protest.

Mr. Jennings raised the question of the closing of the slip road at Southdown, and its use as a car park by residents of the houses facing the road. To take away all public rights of access was proving difficult owing to a fine legal point concerning the ownership of the land under the road. It was agreed that the Society should ask the District Council to undertake responsibility for the road and its upkeep.

3.(b) TREES

Mr. Evans reported that Mr. Arnold was obtaining quotations for the tree planting proposed for the High Street. When the cost was known payment would be made by the Society through the Town Council.

Mr. Usher had received a letter from a resident of Aldwickbury Crescent who was concerned about the removal of trees on the ~~Tree Hill~~ Top Estate. He had replied that this was to provide room for a pavement and was in keeping with the final landscaping plan.

(c) LEA VALLEY

Mrs. Wang reported that plans were now going ahead for the planting of 150 trees in Lower Luton Road. Volunteers would be needed to plant the trees, and Mr. Ward suggested that she should approach the Venture Scouts.

The Group had held a very successful Public Meeting on 11 September, when slides had been shown illustrating the Group's work in the valley during the past nine years.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters reported on the successful efforts of the distributors of the Newsletter in collecting overdue subscriptions. The Treasurer reported that there was a balance of £70 on the Society's current account and £1,700 on deposit.

Mr. Usher said that the Long Buftlers' Residents' Association had asked for affiliation with the Society. He had offered them membership as a group, with a charge of £1 per annum for each Newsletter they requested.

5. TRANSPORT

Mr. Raw reported on a meeting of the Group, which had discussed traffic arrangements in Southdown. He had been in touch with St. Albans Road Traffic Association on the question of the control of heavy lorry traffic in the area. The Group felt that the Society should be represented on the Association, and it was agreed that Mr. L. Freitag should be asked to do this.

Mrs. Wang raised the question of the new footbridge to be built at Harpenden Station. She felt that the modern design would be out of keeping with the present Victorian building and the pillars would take up too much room on the platforms. It was agreed that no action should be taken as the bridge would have been designed to fit into the style of the new station when it was built.

The Secretary reported that he had written to British Rail asking for action to be taken to counteract the increasing delapidated state of the station in general.

6. NEWSLETTER

Miss Haberer asked for contributions for the next Newsletter which would be published at the end of September.

7. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Ward reported that he had inserted an advertisement for the Society in the next issue of "Harpenden Forum" at a cost of £20. There would also be a notice of the Society on the inside cover of the History Society's new book "Bygone Harpenden - a Pictorial Record", to be published in November. No charge would be made for this.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Usher reported that Eastern Gas had re-arranged the markers at the top of Walkers Road in a more acceptable way.

Mrs. Wang was pleased to report that missing road signs were being replaced.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 21st October at 7.45p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Usher.
2.10/8.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
21 October, 1980 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair
Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford, Lady Bawden,
Mr. Bush, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard,
Mr. Jennings, Mr. Raw, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Suitters, Mrs. Wang.
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Evans,
Mr. Rees and Mr. Wilson

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September were approved and signed.

2. HIGH STREET TREES

In Mr. Evans' absence, the Secretary reported that the tree planting in the High Street would probably take place at the beginning of December, and he had written to the Town Council about arrangements for a ceremony for the planting of the concourse tree. Mr. Usher undertook to make enquiries about plaques to record the donors of the trees.

3. NICKY LINE

The Secretary read a letter from Rothamsted Experimental Station saying they would not object to the line being used as a footpath, but if it were also used as a nature reserve it might mean an increase in vermin harmful to crops. St. Albans District Council had written the proposal into the district plan which was due to have been discussed in September. It was agreed that it was time to take further action, and that British Rail should be asked about the present position on the closure of the line.

Mr. Powlesland put forward a suggestion that the line should be used as a bridleway.

4. SPOTLIGHT ON LEISURE EXHIBITION

The Committee authorised the Secretary to apply for a stand at the exhibition to be held on 26/28 March, 1981.

5. BRITISH RAIL AND COUNTY COUNCIL PROPERTIES

The Secretary had written to Mr. Saunderson, Public Relations Officer, British Rail, about the dilapidated state of the Station and the adjoining area. Mr. Saunderson replied that he had passed a copy of the letter on to the Area Manager, asking him to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Society. When his letter was received, a meeting would be arranged. Mr. Ward suggested that a representative of the Town Council should be invited to attend such a meeting. In replying to Mr. Saunderson, the Committee asked the Secretary to mention its concern about the replacement of the Station footbridge, the untidy state of the garden of the old stationmaster's house, the urgent need to remove the offensive graffiti on the Carlton Road footbridge, and the replacement of the station clock.

The Secretary had also written to the County Council about the general untidiness of areas of Harpenden, particularly of Victoria and Vaughan Roads near the library.

6. CROUDACE DEVELOPMENT

The Secretary reported that the appeal in the Newsletter for members to oppose the Croudace development had yielded little result so far, and he asked those who had not already done so to send their objections to him for forwarding to the Minister for the Environment.

HOUSE AGENTS' SIGNS

The informal agreement between local estate agents not to erect "For Sale" boards on private residential properties in the Harpenden area had recently been broken by Messrs. Connells. The Chairman had been approached for the Society's views, and his letter supporting the voluntary restriction on "For Sale" boards had been published in the "Herts. Advertiser" of 10 October, in an appeal by the other estate agents to readers to make their views on the question known.

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters reported that seven new members had joined since the advertisement in the "Forum". Subscriptions had been received from 688 households but 49 were still outstanding.

NEWSLETTER

Miss Haberer regretted that an article on Southdown had not been received in time for the October Newsletter, but would be published in the next issue in January.

SOUTHDOWN

Mr. Jennings expressed great concern at the many problems of Southdown, and Mr. Usher stressed the need for a new plan for the area. After discussion it was agreed that a Southdown Sub-Group should be formed, to be headed by Mr. Jennings, and, if possible, to work jointly with the Southdown Residents' Association. The matter would be discussed further at the next meeting.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Bush reported that arrangements were complete for the next public meeting on Wednesday, 29 October, when Mr. Paul Klein, Crime Prevention Officer, Herts. County Constabulary, would speak "Vandalism - who pays?"

Bush again raised the question of the Society taking part in Harpenden Carnival organised by the Round Table in aid of local charities. It was agreed that the Society should take part, that the Local History Society should be asked to collaborate.

CLUB CONVENORS' REPORTS

COMMON

Bawden reported that the Town Council's proposal to plant hedges on the Common was going ahead. She had had a talk with the Council about the Common in general, and was concerned about the increase in the rabbit population.

CRAVELLS AREA

12.(b) PLANS

In the absence of Mr. Rees, Mr. Smith commented on an application for permission to build a house adjoining 31, Sauncey Avenue, which he recommended should be opposed as the design was out of character with nearby properties. This was agreed.

(c) SCHOOLS LIAISON

Mrs. Godfrey reported that Resources Box No. 2 on "Harpenden Today" was nearing completion, and she hoped that it would be used for a pilot study in a school next term.

She was exploring the possibility that a model of Victorian Harpenden might be made at St. Albans College of Art.

Miss Haberer suggested Harpenden's twin town, Alzey, as a possible subject for a future resources box.

(d) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Haggard reported that the Mackereye End footpath had been cleared with the help of the Conservation Corps.

Mrs. Wang appealed for volunteers to help with tree planting in Lower Luton Road on the 15/16 and 22/23 November.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Godfrey suggested that the Society should publicise the correct methods of tree pruning as instances of trees being spoiled by bad pruning were becomingly increasingly common. It was agreed that Mr. Arnold, the District Council arborist, should be asked to write an article for the local press. Miss Haberer suggested that Herts. County Council might be willing to publish a leaflet on the subject.

Mrs. Wang reported that Motor Accessories were exhibiting four unsightly fluorescent posters in their shop windows. Mr. Ward agreed to look into the matter.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 18 November at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Paul Urner.
18/11/80.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,
16 December, 1980 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair

Mr. Evans, Mr. Ward, Miss Ashford, Lady Bawden,
Mr. Bush, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard,
Mr. Rees, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Suitters, Mrs. Wang

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Powlesland,
Mr. Jennings and Mr. Wilson

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November were approved and signed.

2. HIGH STREET TREES

The Secretary reported that the Norway Maple tree to commemorate the Society's Jubilee had been planted by Mr. Colin Curl, Mayor of St. Albans on Saturday, 29 November.

Mr. Usher submitted designs for plaques to record the donors of trees, and was getting estimates for them.

Mr. Evans said it was hoped to find a better tree guard for the concourse tree, and discussion followed on the question of replacing the seat, which might encourage vandalism. It was agreed that Mr. Ward and Mr. Evans should discuss the matter with Mrs. Curl, Chairman of the Town Council Commons and Greens Committee.

3. CROUDACE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Evans exhibited a copy of the appeal against the Croudace Development sent to the Minister for the Environment on behalf of the Society and the East Common Land Association.

4. POSTCARDS

Mr. Ward reported that he had received a quotation from Highfield Printers for 8,000 cards (1,000 each of 8 designs) for £180. The Local History Society and the Town Council had each ^{agreed} to contribute one-third of the cost. The Committee approved the acceptance of the estimate. A collection of prints of old Harpenden selected by Mr. Wilson and photographs of modern Harpenden by Mr. Meadows would be exhibited in the library, and people would be invited to vote for four of each. It was proposed to put the cards on sale at the Library, Woolworths, W. H. Smith Ltd. and another stationers at the price of ^{about} 8p per card.

5. MEETING WITH BRITISH RAIL

The meeting with the Area Manager had had to be postponed until January, 1981.

It was agreed that the Secretary should make enquiries about an anti-graffito spray being developed by Messrs. Hubdean Ltd., Oxford.

6. HOUSE AGENTS' SIGNS

Mr. Ward said the Harpenden Ratepayers' Association had repeated their request to the Society to support their proposal to use car-stickers as propaganda against the erection of "For Sale" boards. He had replied saying the Society could not participate.

He had been in touch with the Town Council, who had made a strong protest to Messrs. Connells.

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mr. Ward said the January Newsletter would invite members to pay their subscriptions by Banker's Order and would include the necessary form. It was pointed out that the last form used was misleading and it was agreed that it should be revised.

NEWSLETTER

Miss Haberer reported that the next Newsletter would be published early in January. It would include a notice of the Annual General Meeting on 9 March, 1981 and requests for nominations for the Committee and for the Society's Award for 1981.

9. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Committee agreed that Lady Bawden should ask the Local History Society if they could provide a speaker on the history of Harpenden Common for the February meeting.

Miss Haberer suggested that the next Newsletter should include a notice of the summer meeting, and it was agreed that it should take the form of a walk over Rothamsted Farm on Sunday, 7 June.

Mr. Bush was asked to make bookings of the Public Hall for the 1981 meetings.

GROUP CONVENORS' REPORTS

(a) TRANSPORT

Mr. Usher reported that he had received a letter from Long Buftlers' Residents Association saying that they had written to the Town Council in support of the Society's criticisms of the Southdown traffic arrangements.

(b) PLANS

The Local History Society had compiled a list of Harpenden buildings of historic or architectural interest, and it was agreed that the Secretary should ask Mrs. Ross for a copy.

Mr. Rees exhibited a map of the St. Albans Draft District Plan showing the Green Belt area and sites scheduled for development. He had found nothing in the plan to which he felt the Society should object.

He recommended that the Society should object to planning permission being granted to a single-storey side extension at 15, Paddock Wood to replace an existing garage, and for a BUPA hospital between Ambrose Wood and Westfield Wood on 4 acres of the National Childrens' Home farm, which would conflict with the Metropolitan Green Belt policy.

He suggested that more details should be asked for as to the precise location of a building proposed for Grove Play Group.

The Secretary was asked to write to the District Council on these matters.

Mrs. Wang said that plans were now being dealt with much more quickly and objections sometimes needed to be made before the Group could submit them to the Committee. It was agreed that the Plans Group should be given authority to act without the prior sanction of the Committee.

10 (c) UPPER LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mrs. Wang reported that 110 trees had been planted along Lower Luton Road between the shops and Greenacres, and more would be planted.

An offer of trees had been received from the Country Gentleman's Association at Letchworth. Some of these were suitable for gardens, and it was agreed that they should be offered to Residents' Associations, and mentioned in the Newsletter.

Mr. Haggard reported that a fence had been put up by the footbridge over the river to protect nearby trees.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary reported that in writing to thank the Society for the loan of its exhibition stands, the St. Albans Civic Society had said they were now buying similar ones and would be pleased to lend them to the Society if needed.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 27 January, 1981.

Paul Vane.
27/1/81.