

## HS Membership Report for 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2011

### HS Distributors' Pre-lunch drink – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011

27 people came

20 are distributors (3 forgot) (out of a total of 40) Many regretted not being able to attend.

7 extras were Ian Fulton, Chris and Sybil Marsden, Eric Midwinter, Peter Barrett, Michael and Barbara Ouston

The cost was - food £47.24 + drink £20.47 = £67.71      £2.50 per head.

In all we have 33 distribution rounds (+ a postal distribution). Some of the rounds are done by couples, making a total number of distributors 35 + 5 reserves = 40. Currently we are 1 distributor short in the Elliswick/Station Road area because Mr. Gordon Chichester-Miles has moved.

### Membership - approximate

644\* households and institutions – of whom

38 non-paying institutions (e.g. schools, library, council, etc.)

371\* paying families

236\* paying singles – of whom about a third, maybe more are still outstanding.

28 new members this year (14 just recently)

159 pay by standing order

- These figures are probably up a bit because of new membership, but I haven't taken into account deaths, resignations and those who have moved away. Once you have paid, for my purposes, you are a member for the year.

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(Families classify as 2 points and singles classify as 1 point = 978 members.)

## **HARPENDEN SOCIETY**

### **AWARDS**

#### **Report for the Committee Meeting on 4 July.**

##### **Plaque Presentations**

1. Breathing Space. I have arranged with Jane & Keith Lunn to make the presentation on Wednesday 13 July at mid-day. They have invited to use tea-coffee afterwards. So far Chris Marsden and I are the only people I know who can attend. We need more.
2. Porters Park development. The presentation has to be arranged: ideally up at the Park. Decision please.

We need photos and an article for the Newsletter. Eric unfortunately cannot attend (he has replied to my invitation). Please can I have commitment to these.

## HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting 4 July 2011

Report for Agenda item 8(a) Transport

### 1. Roads etc.

#### 1.1 Harpenden Urban Transport Plan

Despite the statement I made in my last report the Plan was not made available in late May/early June. I have been in contact with Rupert Thacker of Herts Highways. He advises that the Plan will go to HCC Highways and Transport Panel in July and anticipates that the actual document will be available in September.

#### 1.2 Road Closure : Lower Luton Road B653

Minute 5.1.2 : I spoke to the Engineer dealing with this and the road closures relate to the junctions at Westfield Road/Bower Heath Lane, and the roundabout at Common Lane (Batford Mill).

The resurfacing work at Bower Heath Lane/Westfield Road junction was carried out on Sunday 26 June. I do not yet know when the work at Batford Mill will be done.

#### 1.3 Road Closure : Luton Road A1081

A notice has recently been published in the local paper advising that Luton Road (A1081) will be closed between Roundwood Lane & Kinsbourne Green Lane for highway maintenance. The period given is sometime between 11 July and 31 August. I will obtain more details.

### 2. Rail

#### 2.1 Harpenden Station ticket gates

These should have become operational on Monday 27 June. The hours of operation will be Monday – Friday : 5.30 – 10.30am & 3.00 – 8.30pm

Saturday : 6.30 – 11.30am

Sunday : 9.00am – 4.00pm

Outside those times the gates will be left open.

#### 2.2 Harpenden Station footbridge

The proposals for the new footbridge are to be revised. The existing footbridge will still be removed but its replacement will be much further south to suit the location of the new ticket gates on Platform 1. I will provide more details as they become available. The new footbridge will include lifts.

#### 2.3 Skew Bridge

Despite the optimism in my last report the vegetation has not been removed from the Skew Bridge, nor have I seen a road closure notice. I anticipated that the work would be carried out at the end of May. I will chase the contact that I have at Network Rail. In addition could I ask that the matter is mentioned at the next meeting with the Town Council on 1 August.

MCH

28.6.2011

## Plans Group Report for 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011

There has been a sudden increase in the number of controversial applications. A group concentrated at the northern end of the High Street and the junction of Luton Road and Townsend Lane.

1. Taxi Office and Rank in Kirkdale Road.  
This would cause disruption and problems for the residents, a better location would be outside Sainsburys. We objected.
2. Glen Eagle Hotel. This has closed and talks by the owner suggest that he wants to convert it or build flats. There has been a lot of correspondence but a divergence of views. Luxury flats, old peoples flats, or continued use as a hotel. Some people feel the owner has not tried to make a success of the hotel, as he sees a development opportunity. We have not made any comments as no application has yet been made.
3. Ogglesby's Motor Dealership site. Again no definite plan but considerable correspondence on the options, eg flats.
4. St Hilda's School, Douglas Road. Strong objections from local residents, who seem as much concerned about the parking and traffic problems in mornings and afternoons as about the actual plan. We felt that the main thrust was replacement of temporary buildings with brick structures, so that it was not detrimental to the area. So we did not object.
5. Crabtree Lane. There is a plan for 12 houses on a very restricted site at 39 to 49 Crabtree Lane. The Town Council has objected and asked for it to be "called in". We have made no comment so far but will be considering the application this week.

AHS 1/7/11

## TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

### REPORT TO COMMITTEE – 4th JULY 2011

Since our last committee meeting on 8th May I have attended four meetings of the Town Council, and the Common Walk, as follows:

16 <sup>th</sup> May	Annual Council Meeting
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Environment Committee
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Policy & Finance Committee
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Common Walk
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Council Meeting

Now that the Town Council publishes details of all agendas together with reports and minutes on its website plus other information the quarterly "Forum" I see my role changing. In future I will endeavour to highlight what would appear to be the interesting topics discussed and decided by the Council. I will, of course, attempt to answer any questions.

#### 1. Annual Council Meeting

Mainly ceremonial – i.e. "Mayor Making", plus routine admin, viz. committee memberships, bank signatories, etc.

#### 2. Environment Committee

Two items of interest:

- (i) Minutes of the meeting of Rothamsted Park Management Committee
- (ii) Report on ongoing negotiations with Bamville Cricket Club.

#### 3. Policy and Finance Committee

- (i) High Street Banners:  
Doubts have been expressed concerning the brackets bolted to the wall of Barclays Bank and their ability to resist the pull of a banner in a high wind. Until the matter is resolved banners will not be "flown" across the High Street.
- (ii) Park Hall windows to be replaced.
- (iii) Budgetary control – outturn 2010/1022.  
Further savings reported and transferred to reserves.
- (iv) Anti-fraud policy – reviewed and updated.

#### 4. Common Walk

Attended by 23 people – including the Town Clerk, his wife and their dog. Also seven councillors.

The walk, led by the Commons and Greens Officer, took in the works currently being carried out on the Common.

A buffet was provided afterwards in the Golf Club Lounge.

## 5. Full Council Meeting

My first chance to see all seven new Councillors who were elected in May.

The following items may be of interest:

- (i) Draft Policy Statement 2011/2012. (A sort of Manifesto!)
- (ii) The Annual Report 2010/2011 to be approved by the Council. I am waiting to get hold of a copy.
- (iii) Annual Return – to be submitted for audit by both internal and external auditors.
- (iv) Draft Statement of Accounts. (Circulated separately from the Agenda) and thus not available to me until finalised.

NOTE: The meeting lasted only 55 minutes; there was little debate or dissent. All matters were approved unanimously.

**marion.grey@ntlworld.com**

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**From:** <marion.grey@ntlworld.com>  
**Date:** 03 July 2011 21:55  
**To:** "Chris Marsden" <clmarsden@ntlworld.com>  
**Subject:** Committee Meeting 4th July

Hello Chris

Here is my report for the BCAG.

1. Discovery Day as we all no this year was very kind to us weather wise, and the Harpenden Society was able to display itself for all to see and raise more awareness to the Harpenden public what the society is all about, and a good day was enjoyed by all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part in any shape or form on the day. I would also like to say that doing a joint stand with the BCAG also to help raise awareness that the Harpenden Society is not on its own in its attempts to make Harpenden a better place and keep it that way.

2. I would like to confirm my availability on Thursday 7th July to take part in the Harpenden Society Newsletter hand-out in order to increase membership and awareness, and that I will meet you at Harpenden Station at 5.50am in order to prep for the hand-out.

3. Highland Gathering Sunday July 10th I wish to confirm all arrangements for the hire of the stall are in place, the entry fee of £30 I have paid myself in order to secure the site , and could the society please organise re-imbursement of the above entry fee minus the £5.00 for Harpenden Society membership fee, if this is agreeable.

Details: I have in my possession a vehicle permit for one, and two adult permits for the stall holders, if there are other members of the Society are intending to help at different times of the day, stall holder passes or programmes may be handed over at the main entrance for the next person to gain entry, however, if helpers who have completed their turn wish to stay for the rest of the day they will need to purchase their own programme £3.00 in advance of £6.00 on the day. You can reserve additional programmes at the £3.00 rate by e mailing

[hlc.gathering.stalls@gmail.com](mailto:hlc.gathering.stalls@gmail.com) no later than Friday 8th July for payment and collection at the gate. Please bring a copy of your e mail with you as confirmation.

4. Stall pitch number is M35 and is situated at the north west corner of the general display ground arena 1. Further information is available via myself.

Gates open at 8am , I will be there from 8.30am to setup. I would be grateful if anybody wishing to come and help during the day starting at 10am when the gates open could let me know please.

5. Thank you very much for letting me know of the intention of the Porters Park award, if you could confirm the timings of mid day 12 noon on 13th July please.

6. Having spoken with Brian Ellis of HTC regarding the proposed change of use of 5 garage sites in Batford into possible affordable housing or rejuvenation of the garages as they are. I understand from the media in the Herts Ad that a decision to this end is in the making. A number of Housing Associations including a proposed association that I have come into contact with are being given a chance to make their representations, and hopefully we will finally see some good come of our efforts.

7. I am glad to hear that there are a number of areas in Harpenden that HTC are proposing to reclaim these sites from SADC for the good of the Town, of which Batford would be part.

03/07/2011

8. I am sad to say that a number of commerce buildings and businesses have closed down of which the Lea Trading Estate is less active for about 50% of its area.

9. Generally things in Batford are quite quiet at the moment, although I am aware that a number of young offenders are or will be at Her Majesty's pleasure very soon.

Regards

Chris Grey



## **HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING 4/7/11**

### **BATRORD SPRINGS VOLUNTEERS – REPORT FOR 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER 2011**

The long dry Spring has not stopped the normal level of plant growth on the Reserve and has attracted record numbers of volunteers to our Conservation sessions. So far we are averaging 20 per session this year. Very encouragingly many of the new faces are youngish and two who joined late last year have agreed to the commitment of becoming Committee members.

The HTC Voice your Choice grant has been received and work has begun to improve the area between the pond and the river, including the installation of two replacement picnic benches. The initial weed clearance has been largely completed and a programme of seeding and planting will follow which will include the replacement of several dead trees. Hopefully the results will begin to show next year.

For the first time we have a work experience student on the Reserve for the summer break. He has been set the task of renovating the wooded area opposite the Gibraltar Castle pub which has received little attention over recent years.

Our ties with the 4<sup>th</sup> Harpenden Scouts were strengthened on 6/6 when they held a sponsored work day on the Reserve to raise funds for their trip to the world jamboree in the autumn.

The new Reserve signage is now in production. We expect installation to begin in the summer. There is currently no progress to report on the land ownership front but the changes generated by the recent local elections have possibly improved the chances of a successful outcome later in the year.

O. Randell Secretary.

## **Harpenden Society**

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 7.30pm

### **Present:**

Mr A Steele, Mr P Barrett (Secretary), Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mr Fulton, Mr K Jennings, Mr Nash, Mr M Howe, Mr R Thomas, Dr J Davis, Mrs P Ayres, Mr C Grey, Mrs B Ouston

1. **Apologies for absence:**  
Mr E Midwinter, Mr C Marsden, Mr O Randell, Mrs R Horne, Mr A Allen, Mr J Hunt.
2. **Minutes of committee meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010**
  - 2.1 Signed
- 3 **Matters arising**
  - 3.1 Changes
- 4 **Items for AOB**
  - 4.1 See below
5. **Reports**
  - 5.1 **Transport (Road and Rail)**
    - 5.1.1. Mr Howe circulated a report.
    - 5.1.2. Mr Howe added that Herts Highway is to close Lower Luton Road during the summer for resurfacing (Pickford Hill – Batford Road, Bower Heath Lane – Porters Hill). Mr Howe is to ask why this work was not carried out in this area along with previous work.
    - 5.1.3. Dr Davis reported a van parked on Piggotts Hill Lane that has been there on the pavement for a long while. Police to be notified
  - 5.2 **Transport (Air)**
    - 5.2.1. Letter in Herts Ad 28/4 noting the continuing easterly winds and resulting aircraft noise over Easter – with an encouragement to press the authorities to re-visit the southerly loop proposal.
  - 5.3 **Plans**
    - 5.3.1 St Hilda's School extension to buildings proposal. Mr Steele to comment when plans are put forward
    - 5.3.2 Brushwood - Secretary has written to SADC several times over the past 6 months. The information is now available in the public domain and he will pursue to obtain. This period of delay is quite unacceptable for anyone.
    - 5.3.3 Access across the common. Mr Jennings commented on developments.
    - 5.3.4 The Town Council had no objection to the wayleave for drains near to the Three Horseshoes on the common. There are notable inconsistencies with these approvals
  - 5.4 **Commons & Greens**
    - 5.4.1 Nothing to report.
  - 5.5 **Town Council**
    - 5.5.1 Annual Town meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Discussion included maintenance of trees and meetings in St Albans instead of Harpenden.
    - 5.5.2 Meeting with Town Clerk 9<sup>th</sup> May. Included items such as:  
Consequences of the district for the elected roles;  
Memorial Hospital; Public meeting at Davenport House held by Peter Lilley;  
Westfield Allotment site proposed development for 20-24 affordable or social housing.

## **5.6 Environment**

- 5.6.1 Nothing to report.

## **5.7 Green Belt**

- 5.7.1 There are changes in personnel for Green Belt contacts. Robert Donald & Chris Brazier were re-elected but the positions of Leader and Planning Portfolio Holder have not yet been decided.  
Mr Thomas will contact the new post holders and discuss the development plans.

## **5.8 Batford**

- 5.8.1 Still waiting on the change of use for garages in Batford.
- 5.8.2 HTC meeting discussing the way forward of the BCAG.
- 5.8.3 BCAG concerned about the lack of policing, particularly the front desk;
- 5.8.4 Conservative / Liberal newsletter indicated a large amount of involvement at Porters Park – the BCAG are angered by this due to the amount of work put in by themselves. Mr Grey is to forward an article regarding this to the newsletter editor.

## **5.9 Batford Springs Volunteer Group**

- 5.9.1 AGM. Approved the change of name.
- 5.9.2 Awarded £2000 in Voice Your Choice.

## **6 Newsletter**

- 6.1 Next issue: final copy date is 25<sup>th</sup> July for August issue.
- 6.2 Volunteers for handing out Newsletters at the station to commuters for 2 mornings in second half of June 6.30 – 8.30 - up to 4 are required. Mr Howe asked if Mr Marsden had made contact with Thameslink (contact name supplied by Mr Howe).
- 6.3 Mr Midwinter asked for each member of the HS committee to take 20 copies to distribute to neighbours.

## **7 Chairman's Items**

- 7.1 Reminder of strategy workshop on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Email has been distributed by Mr Marsden.
- 7.2 Mr Howe reminded the committee that Mr Marsden has asked for reports to be distributed prior to the meeting in writing.

## **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Mrs Suitters sent a thank you card for the gift. *read out.*
- 8.2 Voice Your Choice items

## **9 Finance**

- 9.1 Nothing to report.

## **10 Events**

- 10.1 Summer Event update. Attendees to email or contact Mrs Stanton. Mr Allen to issue a cheque for the deposit and people to pay on the day. Mrs Stanton to confirm with Stockwood.
- 10.2 Discovery Day. Mr Grey to provide the marquee and picture boards. The Secretary has the promotional items and roller poster. Newsletter to be distributed. Mr Grey to man the stand, with help from Mr Jennings. Any help for an hour or so would be appreciated and to contact Mr Grey with availability.

## **11 AOB**

- 11.1 Membership Secretary:

Mrs Ouston emailed the committee with regards to the membership issues which covered items below:

Mrs Ouston to invite the newsletter distributors to meet, including Mr Marsden (date to be decided) for a thank you at either her home or the Guide Hut. The committee agreed it was good idea to thank the volunteers in this way.

Subscription renewals are slow, with a third that have not yet renewed.

Mrs Ouston is to remind these contacts. Ms Stanton suggested using Business Reply instead of buying stamps for SAEs.

Mr Allen is looking into DD for subscriptions but bank charges are too high for this.

Mrs Ayres suggested standing orders (111 members currently pay with this method).

Mrs Ouston has looked into extending this to others with a new membership form to include this.

Mrs Ouston asked for help with either the cheque date entry or secretarial duties. Mr Barrett offered to distribute some renewal letters in the North Harpenden area - Mrs Horne and Mr Allen currently helping. Mrs Ouston asked for further volunteers.

- 11.2 SADC - Secretary to develop and improve working relationships under the Inclusive Strategy and Localism Bill. No immediate action but pave the way without jeopardizing or compromising the excellent existing working relationship with Town Clerk or the Town Council as emphasized by Mr Thomas.
- 11.3 Outcome of ANTAS meeting 16<sup>th</sup> April at Buntingford  
Mr Barrett attended. Items included Civic Voice, Hatfield incineration and High Speed 2.
- 11.4 Appointment of a new police Sergeant James Twitchett.  
New Redbourn Parish Centre – facilities for police office open on 2hr sessions per week.
- 11.5 Speakers' Evenings – some items put forward. Rooms are booked until February. Mr Bullimore asked for all speaker information to create the green information card.  
Mr Thomas to speak about prisons and Mr Randell (or Ian Salvage) to speak about nature reserves in the autumn.  
Mr Bullimore to look at the design of the speaker evenings card, perhaps an invitation style.
- 11.6 Voice Your Choice - The Town Clocks did not achieve any of the money allocated. The M&Co clock has now been repaired. Mr Thomas is to enquire about the Southdown Clock and write to the landlord on behalf of the Society.  
Mr Thomas suggested that the society look at the other items within the Voice Your Choice to support in the future.
- 11.7 Trustees - to review the Society Constitution since Mr Allen declined to become a trustee.
- 11.8 Mr Fulton thanked Mr Barrett for his help in keeping him informed during his lengthy recuperation.
- 12 **Dates of next meetings:**  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
5<sup>th</sup> September 2011

*Cellanor*  
4/7/11

## HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011  
at 7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Harpenden

### Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 28 March 2011
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Items for AOB
- 5 Update and discussion of reports:
  - a) Transport – road and rail
  - b) Transport – air
  - c) Plans
  - d) Commons and Greens
  - e) Town Council – Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011
  - f) Environment
  - g) Green Belt
  - h) Batford
  - i) Batford Springs Volunteers
- 6 Newsletter – next edition & volunteers for distribution at Harpenden Station next.
- 7 Chairman's items – reminder of Strategy workshop on 13<sup>th</sup> June – Secretary raising.
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Finance – current state *Sunday 3/7/11*
- 10 Events – Society Summer Event (situation) & Discovery Day on the Common (volunteers). *Saturday 11/6/11*
- 11 AOB: *33 Volunteers*
  - (i) Membership Secretary – a) meeting of Newsletter distributors, & b) non-payment of membership subscriptions – need to resolve.
  - (ii) Initiate meeting with SADC Chief Executive in an effort to develop a working relationship with HS - inclusiveness within the proposed Localism Bill.
  - (iii) Outcome of the recent ANTAS Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> April at Buntingford
  - (iv) Appointment of the new Police Sergeant James Twitchett
  - (v) Speakers' Evenings – Secretary updating on current situation.
- 12 Date of next meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011.  
*v1) Voice Your Choice.*

Secretary.

## HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting 9 May 2011

Report for Agenda item 5(a) Transport

### 1. Roads etc.

#### 1.1 Harpenden Urban Transport Plan

The Plan continues its progress as I reported to the last meeting. I anticipate that it will be available to Stakeholders (as we are known) and the public in late May/early June.

#### 1.2 HCC Draft Bus Strategy and Interlink Strategy

Having been given a letter at the last meeting I have obtained a copy of both the HCC Draft Bus Strategy and Interlink Strategy. They are fairly lengthy documents and I have yet to read them in full. The deadline for comment is 6 June 2011.

### 2. Rail

#### 2.1 Harpenden Station

The provision of ticket gates etc continues, but progress is fairly slow. The gates and most of the equipment has been fitted in the buildings on both sides. I anticipate that they will be brought into operation in late May/early June. The existing entrance to platform 1 will then need to be altered & closed off.

#### 2.2 Skew Bridge

On 29 March I received a telephone call from Network Rail in Swindon advising that the work to remove vegetation from the Skew Bridge in Southdown Road and to generally tidy up the structure would be carried out in mid May. However this is subject to a road closure and I have not yet seen a notice for this. Therefore I believe that this date is a bit optimistic.

The Town Council appear to have been involved in this as per the email dated 19 April from Peter Barrett. That mentions a road closure timescale of 6 weeks, so that would be the end of May. After all this time I can only hope.

#### 2.3 Cycle Parking at Harpenden Station

The new cycle shelters have been completed and both accommodation and capacity have been much improved. When I used them just before Easter there was space available at 9.30am which has not been the case previously.

MCH

4.3.2011

## **Harpenden Society**

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7.30pm

### **Present:**

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mr P Barrett (Secretary), Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mrs R Horne, Mr K Jennings, Mr Nash, Mr M Howe, Mr R Thomas, Mr A Allen, Mr C Grey, Mr O Randell, Mr E Midwinter, Mr C Marsden, Mr J Hunt, Dr J Davis, Mrs P Ayres

1. **Apologies for absence:**  
Mr I Fulton, Mrs B Ouston,  
Welcome to Chris Marsden and Eric Midwinter
2. **Minutes of committee meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010**
  - 2.1 Signed
- 3 **Matters arising**
  - 3.2 Changes to the constitution for AGM
- 4 **Items for AOB**
  - 4.1 Awards
5. **Reports**
  - 5.1 **Transport (Road and Rail)**
    - 5.1.1. Mr Howe circulated a report.
  - 5.2 **Transport (Air)**
    - 5.2.1. Easterly winds means a drone of airplane noise at 6am each morning. Nothing new to report.
  - 5.3 **Plans**
    - 5.3.1 Taxi firm plans for a rank at bottom of Kirkdale has been objected to by the Harpenden Society.
    - 5.3.2 The Gleneagles Hotel has closed down and suggestions have been made for building flats. This has been turned down.
    - 5.3.3 Mr Jennings enquired about the proposed access for a new build at Limbrick Road. Mr Steele to find out the status. Mr Barrett confirmed that the application had been made.
    - 5.3.4 Harpenden Common Golf Club. Wish to replace glass frontage with new changing rooms to encourage a greater membership. Mr Steele to monitor.
  - 5.4 **Commons & Greens**
    - 5.4.1 Environment Committee. Covered Batford Springs Nature Reserve. The Town Clerk updated the attendees with the lease and managerial control suggestions - the cost to be borne by the Town Council but control with SADC. This is not suitable for the Town Council.
    - 5.4.2 Mains sewer junction (way leave) from Three Horseshoes (Cross Lane). Owners are prepared to pay for the work. Mr Nash to monitor the situation.
    - 5.4.3 Proposed tree works at the golf club car park - to clear trees for more parking. Committee minded to approve certain tree removals but not a significant oak tree.
    - 5.4.4 Easter Faire. The ground is still under repair from the Moscow State Circus. The fair is not to take place this year.
    - 5.4.5 Footpath extension Bull Road proposed which would mean taking a small part of the common for the footpath. Cost of £6-10,000 put forward for consideration.
    - 5.4.6 Orienteering Society for use of the common in early evening training sessions. 12 months on a trial basis.
    - 5.4.7 Pizza Express license to put chairs on common land outside their restaurant up for approval again.



## **5.5 Town Council**

- 5.5.1 Details as above.

## **5.6 Environment**

- 5.6.1 Nothing to report.

## **5.7 Green Belt**

- 5.7.1 Mr Thomas circulated a report and will report this at the AGM

- 5.7.2 General agreement within District Council and sub-committee up to <sup>4150</sup>~~4025~~ houses (units) proposed (as per previous plan). This would mean 1/3 extra houses in Harpenden.

Agreed of councils for development to be sustainable, the amount of housing and non green belt land. Mr Thomas waiting on devolvement process details and the appeals procedure.

- 5.7.3 Dr Davis commented on the relationship with CPRE and maintenance of that.

## **5.8 Batford**

- 5.8.1 HTC meeting for the way forward for the BCAG. Councillor suggested the relaunch BCAG as Harpenden East but Mr Grey nor the HTC, not in agreement with the idea.

- 5.8.2 Use of garages within Batford. Mr Grey has asked HTC to propose that the land needs a proper use rather than becoming derelict.

## **5.9 Batford Springs Volunteer Group**

- 5.9.1 Mr Randell submitted a report on the management / change of tenure of the nature reserve. A year on lease under management of SADC but all costs to be borne by HTC.

- 5.9.2 Mr Steele offered the support of the Harpenden Society in principal but BSVG currently has to wait for the results of the Town Clerk's submissions.

- 5.9.3 Mr Bullimore suggested gaining information through the Freedom of Information Act.

- 5.9.4 Mr Thomas suggested that the Society writes in favour of the reserve being handed over to BSVG with management and costs being within the same body. Secretary conferring with Mr Randell.

## **6 Newsletter**

- 6.1 Mr Midwinter to take over the editorship of the newsletter.

- 6.2 Mr Bullimore, Mrs Horne and Mr Midwinter to meet to discuss the next issue.

- 6.3 The scheduling to be reset.

- 6.4 The next issue to be May / June.

## **7 Chairman's Items**

- 7.1 None

## **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 London Green Belt Council – general meeting minutes

- 8.2 Hertfordshire Draft Bus Strategy and Interlink Strategy

- 8.3 Waitrose Community Matters details – Mr Bullimore suggested putting the Society forward but donating any money to the other two charities. Suggestion not accepted.

## **9 Finance**

- 9.1 Gift Aid claim rejected due to an incorrect address – which was in fact correct.

- 9.2 Banking issues with a lost cheque but the relationship reinstated.

- 9.3 Membership fees steadily coming in

- 9.4 The financial details to be reported at the AGM

- 9.5 Mr Allen requested that all committee members have a few membership forms each for distribution.

## **10 Events**



- 10.1 Summer Event update. Mrs Stanton presented the committee with the proposal of a group visit to Stockwood Discovery Centre. This would include a talk / tour of the centre starting at approx 2pm on a Saturday or Sunday in June / July, with a cream tea in the café. Cost would be approx £8 per head (based on 25 in the group), including a specialist talk extra for the group.

The committee agreed in favour of Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The event to be publicised at the AGM for signing up.

**11 AOB**

- 11.1 Voice Your Choice – for individual households only.

11.2 AGM :

- 11.2.1 4 nominations for committee members – (Allen, Ouston, Midwinter, Marsden) no opposing.

Mrs Weekes not nominated

Mr Turberville stood down earlier in the year

Presentation of a gift for Mrs Suitters

(Ms Tomkins is currently in hospital so will not be able to receive a presentation at the AGM)

- 11.2.2 Constitutional amendments

To be presented by Mr Hunt

- 11.2.3 Group reports

3-5 minutes each (Howe, Thomas, Davis, Nash)

- 11.2.4 AGM documents – 40 copies

11.3 Awards

Ox Lane garage received a letter of commendation

Plaque to go to Porters Park

Breathing Space – Mrs Horne visited the area and met with the owner, who is in charge of the redevelopment. Mrs Horne asked whether 2 plaques for this year is possible, or wait for the full development of Thompsons Close.

The Committee voted that 2 plaques were acceptable and that Breathing Space should receive a plaque.

- 11.4 ANTAS – Executive Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, the first attended by our secretary. Next bi-annual meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April at Buntingford. Secretary attending.

- 11.5 Organiser for speaker events. Mr Steele asked for possible candidates.

- 11.6 Changes to the constitution will continue as they stand. Mr Allen did not wish to become a trustee.

- 11.7 Website – Mr Bullimore stated that the website is now open for the committee to upload information and photos. The management of the website to be agreed at a separate meeting.

- 11.8 Discovery Day. Agreed to attend on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Mr Grey to organise the stand and items within.

**12. Membership**

Nothing to report.

**12 Dates of next meetings:**

31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 AGM

9<sup>th</sup> May 2011

4<sup>th</sup> July 2011

5<sup>th</sup> September 2011

malcolm Osborne

Vice Chairman

9/5/2011

## HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting - Monday 28 March 2011  
at 7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Harpenden

### Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence – Welcome to Chris Marsden and Eric Midwinter (newly nominated)
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 14 February 2011
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Items for AOB
- 5 Update and discussion of reports:
  - a) Transport – road and rail
  - b) Transport – air
  - c) Plans
  - d) Commons and Greens
  - e) Town Council
  - f) Environment
  - g) Green Belt
  - h) Batford
  - i) Batford Springs Volunteers
- 6 Newsletter – next edition
- 7 Chairman's items
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Finance – current state
- 10 Events – Society Summer Event – current situation
- 11 AOB:
  - (i) Civic Voice – discuss subject matter and need to register interest.
  - (ii) AGM - finalising arrangements – Chairman/Secretary - 3 minutes per report!
  - (iii) ANTAS biannual meeting 16.4.11.- Secretary
  - (iv) Organiser for Speakers' Evenings – Any takers?
- 12 Date of next meetings: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

(v) Harpenden Common Discovery Day - Sat. 11/6/11 - Caroline.

(vi) Changes to the Constitution - Treasurer not a Director.  
Secretary.

(vii) Awards - Rosemary Hume

Arnold's date of birth for trustee details - note provided

## HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting 28 March 2011

Report for Agenda item 5(a) Transport

### 1. Roads etc.

#### 1.1 Harpenden Urban Transport Plan

I have contacted Rupert Thacker at Herts Highways regarding the current status of the Plan. He stated that "The comments received from the Public Consultation have been reviewed and a final version prepared that has been signed off by the Officer and Member Steering Group. The next stage is for the Plan to go to the April SADC Cabinet and the St Albans Highways Joint Member Panel prior to the County Council's Highways and Transport Panel for adoption."

I have two concerns regarding this. One is that it seems to be all St Albans approval despite being the Harpenden Plan. Secondly is as I have mentioned before, that of monitoring the Plan during its life time now that the Forum has been disbanded. I will not be surprised to see "improvements" imposed on the Town with very little public input/consultation.

#### 1.2 Car Parking Charges

The charges for the car parks in Harpenden will change on 4 April. Generally charges will rise by £0.10 or £0.20 except for up to ½ hour which remains at £0.60. The car park at Lydekker remains the cheapest.

The On Street Pay & Display charges also rise from £1.50 to £2.50 for up to 2 hours.

## 2. Rail

### 2.1 Harpenden Station

The work to install the ticket gates at the station progress with the buildings basically completed and awaiting fitting out with the gates etc.

Unfortunately they are of a standard design and have little sympathy with the existing Victorian station buildings. I did discuss this with the Planning Dept at SADC but the Station is outside the Conservation Area and is not subject to the need to apply for Planning Permission,. The location of the ticket gates on Platform 1 will result in a longer route from the Eastern access off Station Road to platforms 2, 3 & 4. It will also not be possible to park on the Eastern side and go across the bridge to purchase a ticket.

### 2.2 Skew Bridge

As I had still not heard from Network Rail I have sent an email to the Route Manager named on the web site. I will report at the meeting if any response has been received.

### 2.3 Cycle Parking

The cycle parking at the station is being completely re-vamped and expanded. The number of spaces will increase from 158 to 260.

This work will be carried out in late March/early April and is costing £57,000.

### 2.3 Train Fares

Two snippets of information on train fares.

- a. For every £1.00 spent on a train ticket:-
  - 48p goes to Network Rail
  - 17p on staff
  - 17p on miscellaneous costs including train maintenance, administration, contractors
  - 4p on fuel/energy
  - 3p to train company profit.
- b. In real terms, that is excluding inflation, unregulated train fares have risen considerably since 1995, the year of privatisation.

Standard class 28%  
Long distance standard class 47%  
First class 60%

**Mary Barrett**

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**From:** "Richard Thomas" <richardfthomas@btinternet.com>  
**To:** "Mary Barrett" <evelyn.barrett@btopenworld.com>  
**Sent:** 23 March 2011 18:14  
**Subject:** Report from Richard Thomas for the Harpenden Society meeting of 28.3.11 and the AGM

Peter, this is what I plan to say to the AGM. I will present it briefly at the meeting of 28.3.11, as it is up to date, or as up to date as it can be subject to the implications of what the Chancellor has said today in his budget, and what is yet to be published by the Treasury. Under Mr Brown unpopular stuff was dribbled out in written announcements later, and this may yet happen here.

I think the piece is suitable for publication in the next newsletter, although some of the message is the same as David Rankin's article in the last one. I will cover that point at the AGM, but the words are sufficiently different for the article to stand on its own.

### Report to the AGM of the Harpenden Society

The Harpenden Green Belt Association was formed seven years ago. Over that seven year period, the District has had to cope with new and complex planning laws, extremely high housing targets set centrally by the East of England Regional Authority, the abolition of those targets and indeed EERA itself by the Coalition, and finally the delegation to local authorities of many central government planning responsibilities.

Over that time we have kept close to the St Albans District Council, its planners and its Policy Planning and Advisory Panel, known as PPAP. PPAP's purpose is to make recommendations on how many houses should be built in the District, and where. We have developed good relationships too with our Town Council, the County and EERA. These have all allowed us to contribute constructively to the debate on the future of Harpenden, and to mobilise informed opinion in the town.

However we have pulled no punches in public meetings - last year at the packed meeting in the Public Hall with the Leader of the District Council, and then at another meeting here in Park Hall organised by the Society with the District's new Head of Planning and Building Control.

Over our seven year history we have also enjoyed a fruitful relationship with the Harpenden Society, and we are very pleased that the two organisations are linked through my membership of the Society's committee, as we share the Society's concern for the town. We have a common purpose.

We are all aware that new houses must be built, but the question is how to finance the necessary extra school places, medical services and improved transport, how to manage the congestion that new houses would entail, and how to protect the green belt that has contributed so much to the character and sustainability of the town.

What happens next? Towards the end of 2010 PPAP reached agreement that 250 houses a year should be built in our District up to 2028, of which 100 should be affordable. That makes 4,250 new houses by 2028. To put that into context, there are some 12,000 houses in Harpenden itself, so in the next 17 years the District's housing stock is planned to increase by something like one third the size of Harpenden. For Harpenden itself there are no proposals for house building on the green belt that surrounds our town, and we asked our members to support this in the District Council's consultation that has just ended. However there is a major unknown. The outline of the delegation by central government of planning powers to local government is clear, but the detail has not yet been announced, so no-one can yet be certain if the District Council can proceed on this basis.

23/03/2011

Right now there is general agreement within the District Council and PPAP about the number of new houses to be built, that the green belt should be untouched, and that all development must be sustainable. This is a promising position to be in, but there may be dangers ahead, so in your interests we are keeping a very close watch on what happens next.

I must not close without thanking the Society for its recognition and support of the work of the Green Belt Association, and our very energetic volunteers without whom we could do nothing.

Richard Thomas  
Chairman

**Report from Batford Springs Volunteers. Oliver Randell - Secretary**

**Transfer of ownership, Batford Springs Reserve**

I have reported to the HS on this topic across the past year. Events have moved rather more rapidly in the last quarter, as noted below.

Following an extended period of informal negotiation, SADC made an initial offer towards the end of 2010 for the transfer of ownership of the Reserve to HTC. The proposal was for the leasing, leading to full transfer, of the Reserve, the Marquis Lane amenity land and the path to the Crabtree Lane ford (but not the HQ building). The target date was given as April 2011. This looked promising.

Late in 2010 the formal offer was received. It was based on an outdated Management Plan, only £5.3k of financial assistance and a proviso that SADC, through their Countryside Management Services (CMS), would retain all managerial control over the work done on the Reserve. Both HTC and BSV considered the terms of this offer unacceptable.

The Management Plan was brought up to date, the true costs involved were assessed at £17k+ and the role of CMS was proposed to be one of advice and monitoring. John Bradshaw (JB) duly reported back to SADC, summarising our views.

They have now responded. Two heads of department have met with JB. They had expected HTC to rubber stamp the original proposal and left with no further commitment or meeting date. The head of CMS has contacted the BSV chairman proposing discussions towards the BSV becoming a 'Friends of' group, operating to CMS standard procedures. This change would basically reduce the BSV involvement from conservation work to maintenance activities.

Whilst discussions have not been suspended, this U turn by SADC potentially blocks any meaningful progress on the transfer process. The situation is not helped by SADC's refusal to allocate any funds to the ongoing expenses other than this year's maintenance costs.

The view of the BSV committee is that if CMS move to become actively involved in the management of the Reserve (something they have not done in the past), and if the BSV were required to operate within the limited framework of a Friends group then conservation work at best would decline and at worst, cease. This change could lead to a reduction in the size and enthusiasm of the current volunteer team. Given that BS is our only designated nature reserve this course of events would be regrettable.

The BSV ask the Harpenden Society to afford all possible support to the HTC in its endeavours to secure a workable transfer of ownership. The ownership and management of the Reserve by the HTC and its Environment Committee is seen as the most practical way to further both the ecological development of the Reserve and to provide continuing pleasure to the people of Harpenden.

The present state of affairs is especially regrettable in that BSV have had a volunteer attendance of 20 per conservation session so far this year. Equally we have now built up a group of professional advisors (botanists, wildlife experts and scientists) who attend conservation sessions to give practical advice and are providing direct input into the long-term plans for the ongoing conservation and maintenance of the Reserve.

## **Harpenden Society**

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 7.30pm

### **Present:**

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mr P Barrett (Secretary), Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mrs R Horne, Mr Nash, Mr M Howe, Mr R Thomas, Mr A Allen, Dr J Davies, Mrs P Ayres, Mr C Grey

1. **Apologies for absence:**  
Mr I Fulton, Mrs B Suitters, Mrs B Ouston, Mr K Jennings
2. **Minutes of committee meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010**
  - 2.1 Signed
- 3 **Matters arising**
  - 3.2 Archives (11.1)
  - 3.3. Chairman. Mr Steele is to retire at the AGM in March 2011. Mr Thomas nominated a prospective candidate (Mr Chris Marsden) for the committee's opinion. Mr Marsden has lived in Harpenden since the 1970s. He was a school Deputy Head. He then joined BP with responsibility for CSR. Later he became a Professor of Corporate Governance at Cranfield University. He was awarded an OBE and is chairman of two voluntary bodies. Mr Thomas stated that Mr Marsden would like to know about the Society's values and activities. The committee is to meet Mr Marsden informally and has no objection to recent member becoming Chairman. It was stated that no other prospective candidates have been put forward by the committee.
- 4 **Items for AOB**
  - 4.1 Awards
5. **Reports**
  - 5.1 **Transport (Road and Rail)**
    - 5.1.1. Mr Howe has not had a response from Network Rail on the skewbridge and also has not received a response from Urban Transport.
  - 5.2 **Transport (Air)**
    - 5.2.1. Dr Davis stated that he is pressing Luton's management to persuade pilots to adhere to the centre line of the Dover exit, not short cut it.
  - 5.3 **Plans**
    - 5.3.1 Mr Steele reported on the questionnaire on the Core Strategy, which is seen to be biased. The Plans Group answered the questionnaire and submitted a paper in addition. The housing target has been significantly reduced.
    - 5.3.2 A taxi company has proposed using a property in Kirkdale Road for a taxi office and rank but residents have asked that this be objected to by the Plans Group.
    - 5.3.3 The plans group is to object to a drive across East Common for access to a potential new build house.
  - 5.4 **Commons & Greens**
    - 5.4.1 Environment Committee Meeting. Mr Nash did not attend but received the report, which mentioned new allotment gates and watering contracts.
  - 5.5 **Town Council**
    - 5.5.1 Council Tax is to be reduced by 2.25% this year. Debate about ponds on allotments and it was decided in terms of measurements. Allotments may have a pond or a shed but not both items.
    - 5.5.2 Core Strategy draft document for Pensions regarding shortfall. (Caroline – I am not sure what this is about or what it means)



- 5.5.3 Town Mayor nominations include Nicola Lineker and Michael Weaver.
- 5.5.4 Mr Barrett circulated minutes from the meeting with the Town Clerk to the committee. Dr Davis commented on the CPZ of Marquis Lane parking leading to issues elsewhere, such as parking on the playing fields.
- 5.5.5 Dr Davis stated that there is a lot of pressure regarding the Westfield allotment site. The Society used to be strong regarding this and Dr Davis asked the committee to remember the history, as issues have previously been fly tipping and litter.
- 5.5.6 Mr Steele asked the Town Clerk when discussions will start regarding development for the Red House. Peter Lilley is to meet the Davenport House patients group on 11<sup>th</sup> July. The NHS has control over the Red House. The day to day running could be transferred with a request for hospice care and intermediate care.

## **5.6 Environment**

- 5.6.1 Dr Davis felt the meeting was upbeat and very useful. An image in the Herts Advertiser showed a churned up verge from a lorry parking. Dr Davis asked for further information and images to push this issue forward.

## **5.7 Green Belt**

- 5.7.1 Mr Thomas reported on the questionnaire bias. The Green Belt Association supported the Town Council's opinion which is to uphold the housing targets but not on green belt land.
- 5.7.2 There is a suggestion that Harpenden propose its own housing plans / targets. The GBA would be happy to assist the Town Council.
- 5.7.3 The GBA sent in a letter taking issues with one of the key points in the new strategy – to concentrate the development in the already built up district. This would not help sustain the smaller areas and their resources (chemists, local shops etc).

## **5.8 Batford**

- 5.8.1 Fire at the flats (by the petrol station) following a disgruntled resident being evicted.
- 5.8.2 BCAG meeting with 5 councillors in attendance from the North Ward.
- 5.8.3 Lower Luton Road closure was discussed, in particular incorrect signage, car damage and damage to verges in many roads.
- 5.8.4 Fuel station issue. The 2 main stations were closed for the same period, with the nearest fuel stations in Luton being closed due to lack of fuel.
- 5.8.5 Loss of commercial premises in Batford. Mr Grey in particular voted for the change of premises from business to residential.
- 5.8.6 BCAG Treasurer is standing down. New membership is needed and lack of response is concerning.
- 5.8.7 Lack of use of municipal garages.

## **5.9 Batford Springs Volunteer Group**

- 5.9.1 Nothing to report.

## **6 Newsletter**

- 6.1 New edition is being distributed.

## **7 Chairman's Items**

- 7.1 Mr Jennings to chair the next public meeting.
- 7.2 Mr Steele to organise the screen and PA system.

## **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Conservation magazine.

## **9 Finance**

- 9.1 Mr Allen stated the Gift Aid gives the society £1410.71.
- 9.2 The accounts are prepared and were sent to the committee via email. Mr Allen reported on those accounts (income, expenditure, interest and accruals).
- 9.3 Mr Allen requested information on the value of display boards.
- 9.4 £12,220 brought forward.

- 9.5 Mr Allen is to have the accounts audited and then published as previously discussed.  
9.6 Back up for Mrs Ouston's data has been agreed and purchased. Mrs Ayres stated that data protection should be considered.  
9.7 Mr Nash enquired as to whether subscription payment is still suitable at meetings.

## **10 Events**

- 10.1 Since a full calendar of events has not yet been arranged, event cards will not be published.  
10.2 Mrs Stanton proposed several ideas for the Summer event. Stockwood Discovery Centre with a tour and refreshments was the favourite. Mrs Stanton is to contact Stockwood for possible dates and organisation. This will be put forward at the AGM.

## **11 AOB**

- 11.1 Archives  
Dr Davis had lodged his 1960-89 summary of the Society's activities along with the representative attachments (nb. The originals requested) with the County Archivist in Hertford for their safekeeping. As proposed, the Treasurer's ledger was retained for the Society's own records, along with copies of the above, in the Chairman's Care.  
11.2 Discovery Day - set for 11<sup>th</sup> June.  
11.3 Mr Allen was nominated as Treasurer.  
11.4 Trustees. Mr Barrett has circulated a report on the activities of the Trustees concluding at the next AGM.  
11.5 Mr Barrett circulated the list of activities and achievements, as approved.  
11.6 Website. The constitution is to be published on the website. Dr Davis commented that membership contact details should be amended. Mr Allen requested that a standing order form be uploaded as well.  
11.7 Speakers. The committee needs an event organiser and request for candidates to be put forward. Mr Barrett put forward a list of possible speakers.  
11.8 Resignations. The society is looking for new committee members for the positions previously held by Mrs Suitters, Ms Tomkins and Mr Turberville.  
11.9 Town Clocks. M&Co is to repair the clock on their building. The two other clocks (Southdown and WHSmith) will be voted on under Voice Your Choice.  
11.10 Awards. 5 nominations – ponds (awarded in a previous year), Zara's restaurant ( Not eligible as actually Bedfordshire), Breathing Space, garage in Ox Lane & Porters Park.  
11.11 Mr Grey to create a display for the AGM for both Porters Park and the Harpenden history.

## **12. Membership**

Nothing to report.

## **12 Dates of next meetings:**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 AGM  
9<sup>th</sup> May 2011  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
5<sup>th</sup> September 2011



28/3/11

## HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting - Monday 14 February 2011  
at 7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Harpenden

### Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 10 January 2011
- 3 Matters arising -- to discuss appointment of Chairman -- Richard Thomas speaking *CH213*
- 4 Items for AOB *MAS Jen.*
- 5 Update and discussion of reports
  - a) Transport -- road and rail -- verbal report
  - b) Transport -- air
  - c) Plans
  - d) Commons and greens
  - e) Town Council - *Meeting with Town Clerk 7/2/11*
  - f) Environment
  - g) Green Belt
  - h) Batford
  - i) Batford Springs Volunteers
- 6 Newsletter -- next edition, *Links Cards*
- 7 Chairman's items -- Chair for next Public Speaker's evening 24.2.11. - *Speaker confirmed by Chairman*
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Finance -- current state -- Gift Aid update - *L1410.71p*
- 10 Events -- ideas for Society Summer Event
- 11 AOB:
  - (i) Treasurer -- appointment Arnold Allen (see secretary's email)
  - (ii) Trustees -- conclusion of their role as at 31.3.11. (AGM) (see sec's email)
  - (iii) AGM - finalising arrangements - secretary
  - (iv) Society Website -- update re: inclusion Constitution or any other matters for interest of members or those considering joining
  - vii) Society Speakers -- arranging -- secretary *raise*
  - ✓viii) Future of the Red House - *raise*
  - ✓ix) Westfield Allotment Site -- Society's position - *Discuss*
  - X) *Awards - Archery*
- 12 Date of next meetings: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

In the press is a proposed Waste Incinerator Site, Harper Lane, Radlett. I have not placed this item on the Agenda for discussion since I suggest a watching brief.

Secretary.

Discovery Day on the Common 11/6/11

FOR THE COMMITTEE MEETING 14/2/11: Note on SADC  
Environment Forum meeting

The latest of the thrice-yearly meetings was held 11/1/11 and was attended by the usual representatives such as Residents' Associations etc. in the area and with me representing the Society. It was upbeat in tone and consisted of a short presentation on the current state of recycling in the District, currently 53% and slightly better than expected with a target of 60% by 2015. I have the SADC Minutes should anyone wish to see them but a few points:

Garden Waste – which we were told can include prunings up to broom handle width, is shredded in a specialist plant at South Mimms and held for 2-3 weeks at 60°C (in response to my query about the danger of spreading tomato/potato blight), turned over and kept a further 4-6 weeks similarly mainly by self-heating and eventually used for parks, agriculture and for sale to residents.

Other Recyclables – carefully explained how plastic bottles, tins and cans were separated by weight/air blast and magnets and variously recovered/re-used by another specialist company, Pearce Recycling, locally. More disappointingly the massive amounts of paper, now of minimal sellable value, are apparently still taken abroad for processing and recycling to reusable paper but a new plant is being set up near Kings Lynn which may eventually change this in time (providing contracts can be amended!). I mentioned the Swedish etc. system, and also used in this country until the throwaway society hit us in the 1960s, of having a refundable deposit on all bottles and cans with fizzy drinks etc. which can be automated in the local supermarket so that money is returned each time a bottle/can is inserted in the equipment; not only reduces the amount of kerbside collection but also the general, and in this country some would say disgraceful, amount of street litter. I passed on the comment that the Campaign to Protect Rural England, CPRE, is currently lobbying the Government to re-introduce such a system here.

With landfill tax currently £80/tonne, and the increasing cost/scarcity of the rare metals used in batteries and electronic devices, there is every incentive to maximise the amount recycled.

I'm impressed by the enthusiasm shown by the lead Councillors/Officers, who I think appreciate the public's support at these meetings, though realise they must be under some threat from the current economies.

John Davis

7/2/11

# DRAFT

## The Harpenden Society Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2010

	2010 £	2009 £
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
Balance at 1st January 2010	12,862.47	12,742.45
Deficit (Surplus) for the year	-160.14	120.02
	<u>12,702.33</u>	<u>12,862.47</u>
Represented by:		
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Display boards, etc. at notional value	600.00	600.00
Depreciation	<u>120.00</u>	
	<u>480.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
HMRC re gift aid	1,410.71	
Cash on deposit at bank and in hand	<u>12,206.04</u>	<u>12,262.47</u>
	<u>13,616.75</u>	<u>12,262.47</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Subscriptions received in advance	549.00	
Sundry creditors	<u>845.42</u>	
	<u>1,394.42</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	12,222.33	12,262.47
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>12,702.33</u>	<u>12,862.47</u>

### Notes to the financial statements

- 1 In previous years the financial statements consisted of a receipts and payments account. Such an account by its very nature does not recognize subscriptions received in advance, nor expenses accrued but not paid at the accounting date, nor amounts properly due such as gift aid. This year an income and expenditure account has been prepared which seeks to remedy these shortcomings. No attempt has been made to restate the 2009 figures as it is considered no useful purpose would thereby be served.
- 2 Provision has been made for depreciation of fixed assets at the rate of 20% per annum in order to write them off over the anticipated period of their useful lives. Is this reasonable??
- 3 When these accounts are published it is intended to show only round pounds
- 4 Subscriptions and donations received have been merged as they are both of the same nature and in any event it is difficult to accurately determine the split e.g. individuals who elect to pay the couple rate.

**DRAFT**

**The Harpenden Society  
Income and Expenditure account  
for the year ended  
31st December 2010**

	2010 £	2009 £
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions and donations	2,974.91	3,303.91
Interest received	20.85	122.47
Gift aid refund - 2009 and 2010 (2008)	1,410.71	673.98
	<u>4,406.47</u>	<u>4,100.36</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Hall and room hire for meetings	698.75	724.00
Subscriptions to other societies	61.00	96.00
Printing	1,129.24	700.39
Advertising	336.78	
Upper Lea Valley Group	550.00	
Office expenses, postage, telephone etc.	264.13	205.55
Planning advice re Green Belt		1,208.00
The Harpenden plaque		170.80
Insurance	172.50	167.50
Harpenden in Bloom sponsorship	213.00	209.00
Bench	500.00	330.00
Lecturers' expenses	10.03	
Mulled wine and visit refreshments	22.71	105.10
Donations, gratuities and gifts	40.00	64.00
Display boards	38.47	
Secretarial assistance re old records	405.00	
AGM expenses net	5.00	
Depreciation	120.00	
	<u>4,566.61</u>	<u>3,980.34</u>
<b>Deficit (Surplus) for the year</b>	<u>-160.14</u>	<u>120.02</u>

## **Harpenden Society**

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7.30pm

### **Present:**

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mr P Barrett (Secretary), Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Dr J Davis, Mr C Grey, Mrs B Ouston, Mr M Howe, Mr R Thomas, Mr A Allen

### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Mr I Fulton, Mrs R Horne, Mrs P Ayres, Mrs B Suitters, Mr K Nash, Mrs L Weekes

### **2. Minutes of committee meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

2.1 5.5.2 Should read '0% rise'.

### **3 Matters arising**

3.2 Dr Davis commented on the traffic caused by the traffic lights at the bottom of Park Rise.

### **4 Items for AOB**

4.1 Town clocks

4.2 Archives

### **5. Reports**

#### **5.1 Transport (Road and Rail)**

5.1.1. Mr Howe circulated a report prior to the meeting.

5.1.2. Dr Davis mentioned the ticket gates being installed to stop the issue of people not buying tickets. The gates would need staffing which would negate the savings made.

#### **5.2 Transport (Air)**

5.2.1. Dr Davis met with Mr MacArthur who is achieving success with the local press.

5.2.2. NATS had promised by the end of 2010 they would reconsult on diverting aircraft across Nomansland common. This is now on hold for 3 4 years before reconsidering this as part of a bigger picture.

#### **5.3 Plans**

Resetting of targets from 350 to 250 new build houses in the St Albans area. This would mean 70 dwellings in Harpenden. This information is available on the St Albans website. On Friday 28th Jan there will be a meeting of the plans group to finalise our response to SADC Core Strategy. Comments on the core strategy to be submitted by 7<sup>th</sup> February.

5.3.1 Application – 16<sup>th</sup> Wordsworth Road. Local residents are unhappy with the application and whether the policy had been complied with.

5.3.2 Mike Wakeley suggested that Harpenden Town Council took a stronger role in planning for the community under the Localism Bill.

#### **5.4 Commons & Greens**

5.4.1 Nothing to report.

#### **5.5 Town Council**

5.5.1 Finance meeting on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January. Mr Barrett to attend instead of Mr Nash.

#### **5.6 Environment**

5.6.1 Waste Management & Recycling meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January and Dr Davis attending.

## **5.7 Green Belt**

- 5.7.1 Mr Thomas commented that although the previous housing plans had been scrapped, Ms Heather Cheesborough indicated that the targets would still stand under 'Green Belt Management'. Mr Thomas met with Robert Donald and this has been retracted.

## **5.8 Batford**

- 5.8.1 Christmas light switch on a success.
- 5.8.2 Slide at Porters Park was installed in December
- 5.8.3 Police suppressed violent activity in December and the perpetrators are now in jail.
- 5.8.4 Batford corner coffee shop is now becoming a one-bedroom flat.
- 5.8.5 HTC Project Awards. 4 proposals have gone through to the next round.
- 5.8.6 Leacroft flats are now empty.
- 5.8.7 Harpenden Rovers changing facilities now comply with FA requirements. Mr Grey discussed the possibility of using the Batford facilities (building permission and FA approved pitch) and raising funds for a new pavilion.

## **5.9 Batford Springs Volunteer Group**

- 5.9.1 Nothing to report.

## **6 Newsletter**

- 6.1 Editor – new editor needed to collate articles and edit them. Mr Thomas has a contact who may be interested.
- 6.2 Request for articles for the next issue. Mr Bullimore asked for submissions for a regular column under particular subjects e.g Green Belt, air traffic, Batford.
- 6.3 Mr Grey suggested an article and requests for the Jubilee to be inserted into the newsletter. Mrs Stanton to write an article for the April / May newsletter.
- 6.4 Mr Barrett to submit information regarding the constitution for the February newsletter and an article about the Relocation for Plans North.

## **7 Chairman's Items**

- 7.1 Meetings Organiser. Mr Bullimore to ask a contact for availability.  
Meetings, speakers and events need looking at again in terms of timings (e.g. the late November talk being so close to the December event).  
Summer event to be held in May. Mrs Stanton to look at possibilities.

## **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Conservation magazine copies.
- 8.2 Policing issues files.

## **9 Finance**

- 9.1 The finance report is to be available at the AGM. The details will be put onto the website to allow access to the public. Agreed that pre. AGM the Society Constitution with proposed changes be published and available for membership viewing in the Library & Town Council Offices.
- 9.2 Mr Allen arranging changes for Society in bank mandates with NatWest. Delays due to unsatisfactory service by NatWest.
- 9.3 £12,164 in the account. Gift Aid should total £900 each year for 2 years.

## **10 Events**

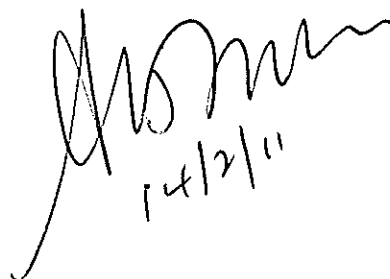
- 10.1 As Chairman's items. Mr Barrett to book the rooms for 2011-2012 events.
- 10.2 Agreed attendance at the Discovery Day once date is set. (note: since the meeting Helen Eadon has emailed the date of 11<sup>th</sup> June).

## **11 AOB**

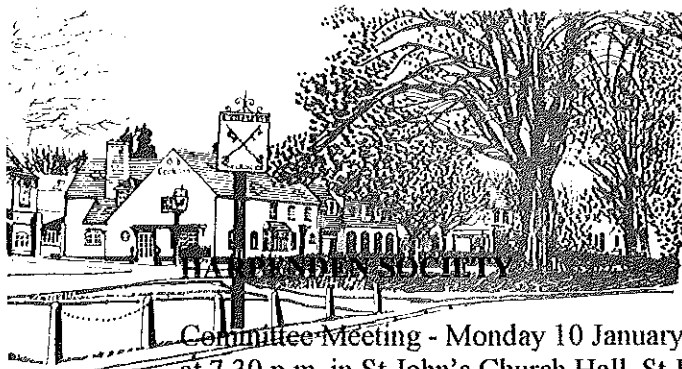
- 11.1 Archive material. New material surfaced (1960s and 1970s) and was organised by Dr Davis. Dr Davis submitted a summary of the material. Mr Bullimore suggested that some pieces be put forward for further issues of the newsletter.



- 11.2 Mr Bullimore put forward Porters Park for the Society awards. Zara Restaurant premises, Kinsbourne Green, withdrawn as nomination since it falls within Central Beds Council area.
- 11.3 There are 3 clocks in the town – M&Co., WH Smith and Southdown – none of which are in working order. Dr Davis asked that the Committee discuss the proposal put forward to repair the clocks which was unanimously agreed. Mr Barrett to write on to the Town Clerk in support of the repair of these clocks for consideration at the Finance Meeting on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January.  
Note: email sent to Town Clerk 10.1.11.
- 12. Membership**
- 12.1 Mrs Ouston gave the committee an update on the membership status  
26 did not renew - 16 new members
- 12.2 Mr Bullimore suggested that people moving to the area are given 1 year free membership which was approved as a sound idea to generate new members.
- 12.3 Mrs Ouston suggested that leaflets be given to estate agents for promotion.  
welcoming package. Mr Bullimore added that a free advert could be given to an estate agent where offering support in this venture for the Society.
- 12.4 Mr Allen stated that the renewal form be a separate piece of paper and direct debit payment be considered re: renewal to simplify matters – an item for the next newsletter.
- 12.5 Gift memberships to be discussed
- 12 Dates of next meetings:**  
14<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 AGM



14/2/11



# The Harpenden Society

Committee Meeting - Monday 10 January 2011

at 7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Harpenden

## Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 29 November 2010
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Items for AOB
- 5 Update and discussion of reports
  - a) Transport – road and rail – see report
  - b) Transport – air
  - c) Plans
  - d) Commons and greens
  - e) Town Council
  - f) Environment
  - g) Green Belt
  - h) Batford
  - i) Batford Springs Volunteers
- 6 Newsletter – next edition – inclusion of changes to Constitution, proposed AGM Agenda
- 7 Chairman's items
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Finance – current state
- 10 Events
- 11 AOB:
  - (i) Gift Aid – update by Secretary
  - (ii) Membership Secretary – report on membership - 26 did not join - 16 new members.
- 12 Date of next meetings: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

I am looking to remove para. "4 – Items for AOB" from the Agenda since it serves no useful purpose. Para. 11 deals with AOB and any additional matters, not previously circulated to me, can be raised at this time. Your views are welcomed.

Secretary.

## HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting 10 January 2011

Report for Agenda item 5(a) Transport

### 1. Roads etc.

#### 1.1 Harpenden Urban Transport Plan

I responded to the Draft Plan on behalf of the Society based on the comments that I received from the last Committee Meeting. The letter/comments were sent both to Hertfordshire Highways and the Consultants (Steer Davis Gleave) in Leeds.

I have not any response, nor am I aware of the next stage in the process.

As part of my response I mentioned the demise of the Transportation Forum meetings and asked how the new Plan would be monitored in the future.

I will have copies of the letter at the meeting for information.

### 2. Rail

#### 2.1 Rail Bridge over Southdown Road : Skew Bridge

Still no reply from Network Rail to my letter of 10 November 2010.

#### 2.2 Harpenden Station

The work to install ticket gates at the station proceeds, but has been delayed by the recent weather. I understand that the gate between platform 4 and the western car park/bike parking area will be permanently locked. This means that users of either will have to walk through the car park entrance against the flow of traffic.

#### 2.3 Rail Fares

As well reported rail fares have been increased by an average of 5.8% which is in accordance with the formula of inflation + 1%. Those on the Thameslink route have risen by about 5.7%.

MCH

4.1.2011

## **Harpenden Society**

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 7.30pm

### **Present:**

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mr K Jennings, Mr A Allen, Mr P Barrett (Secretary), Ms C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mr K Nash, Mr O Randell, Mrs R Horne, Dr J Davis, Mr Turberville, Mr C Grey, Mrs B Ouston, Mrs P Ayres

### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Mr I Fulton, Mr M Howe, Mrs B Suitters, Mr R Thomas

### **2. Minutes of committee meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

- 2.1 Inclusion of para. 9.2 re: Gift Aid and completion of HMRC Variation Forms re: change of authorised signatories from Mrs P Ayres former treasurer to 2 signatories, the new treasurer and the secretary, to cover all eventualities.

Note: forms posted 29.11.10. accompanied by copy of relevant Society Minutes.

### **3 Matters arising**

- 3.2 Environmental Meeting to be attended by Dr Davis

### **4 Items for AOB**

- 4.1 Town Council – changes to planning meetings without public notification.  
4.2 Jubilee Celebrations 2012

### **5. Reports**

#### **5.1 Transport (Road and Rail)**

- 5.1.1. Mr Howe submitted a report.  
5.1.2. Dr Davis will respond to the proposal for traffic lights in the High Street next to the Harpenden Arms. Mr Steele suggested that Mr Howe comment on the point above.  
5.1.3. The information displayed in the public hall was seen and then discussed with Mrs Ayres and Mrs Horne. The concern is that the consultants are not from the area and did not know the roads in question for plans and cycle paths.  
5.1.4. Mr Allen discussed the crossing at Beeson End Lane with Mr Jennings and Mrs Horne.  
5.1.5. Mr Barrett spoke of his letter to the Herts County Council re: the Leyton Road Pedestrian Crossing Installation and the reply received. To be passed to Mr Howe for his info. and any action.  
5.1.6. A1081 Road/Park Hill traffic lights has led to an increase in congestion for traffic travelling south. Mr Barrett is to monitor and report to Mr Howe.

#### **5.2 Transport (Air)**

- 5.2.1. Town Clerk writing to NATS expressing disappointment for the rearrangement of flight paths across Harpenden and their postponement. This would have led to a reduction of flights across the town.

#### **5.3 Plans**

- 5.3.1 Unauthorised street furniture & A Boards. Mr Steele contacting a St Albans group for disabled who have similar concerns about these matters.  
5.3.2 SADC Planning Enforcement. Mr Barrett spoke in some depth to Paula Wylde (Head of Dept.), about residential properties being used for commercial purposes. Due to limited staff resources these matters would not be pursued unless more serious in nature. Mr Steele raising with the Town Council to explore the possibility of the TC undertaking some of this work.  
5.3.3 Relocation of Plans North. Secretary circulated a copy of a letter sent to the SADC Chief Executive objecting to any such proposals of a change of venue from Harpenden Public Halls to the St Albans Council Offices. Main reasons are cost

saving and the installation of a webcam facility. Town Clerk has offered the use of Park Hall at no cost.

- 5.3.4 Mr Nash – the webcam facility can be made available at meetings but there are cost and management implications that need considering.
- 5.3.5 New Zara Restaurant, Kinsbourne Green. Mr Barrett sent an email to the Central Beds Council – Mr Bailey (Planning Officer) – raising issues about planning permission, terms, conditions, and restrictions in particular to external lighting at the premises which appeared “tackie”. A prompt response and initial planning approved subject to compliance with certain conditions which are now being pursued by the authority.
- 5.3.6 Change to the scheduled Harpenden Town Council Planning meeting. No public notice and Mr Arnold missed a meeting pertinent to him. Place on the agenda for discussion with the Town Clerk at the next meeting (7<sup>th</sup> February).

#### **5.4 Commons & Greens**

- 5.4.1 Funghi Walk on 3<sup>rd</sup> November was a very enjoyable day
- 5.4.2 Environment Committee Meeting. Mr Nash commented on the increase of allotment costs (£40 per plot). The Committee asked for other comparative costs to be sent for discussion.
- 5.4.3 Proposal for extension for the horse walk (Walkers Road / A1081) to come out at the top of Crabtree Lane area. To be carried out for 1 year and then reviewed.
- 5.4.4 Town Council increase in fees & charges to fairgrounds and skip hire.

#### **5.5 Town Council**

- 5.5.1 Policy & Resources  
Discussion about merit awards with a diverse collection of opinions. A working party will consider nominations which come from the Council, not the public.
- 5.5.2 Town Council Budget 2011/12 – target is 0%.
- 5.5.3 Town Council Minutes – the Town Clerk advises on his actions.  
TC proposed storage structures on the Common behind the Cricket Pavilion – statutory permission sought from the Secretary of State  
Harpenden Memorial Hospital – TC sent a letter re: the re-use and investment in the Red House. Awaiting a reply.  
Local Development Framework including recent reviews– TC seeking changes in policy of which the Society is entering no views.  
Parking at the Baa Lamb car parks to be managed by NCP. Enforcement of limits rather than charges.

#### **5.6 Environment**

- 5.6.1 Meeting regarding wasteful food in the area. Dr Davis wrote a short personal note back regarding best before dates and energy.

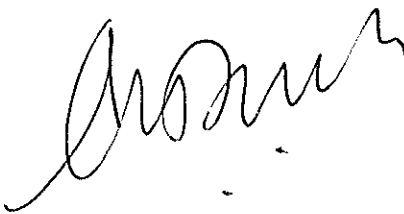
#### **5.7 Green Belt**

- 5.7.1 October Society address by new Head of Planning, Heather Cheesbrough. It was timed fortuitously with a new framework being put together – not yet completed - and the Association was very grateful to Brian Turberville for so arranging. Mr Thomas hopes that it will respect the former undertaking made to the residents of Harpenden that the Green Belt would remain sacrosanct. Report read to the committee.
- 5.7.1 Mr Steele suggested the Harpenden Green Belt Association be merged with the Harpenden Society should governmental policy regarding green belt land not being built on receive approval. It was agreed the two groups remain separate.

#### **5.8 Batford**

- 5.8.1 Police Ward Committee Meeting. Crime in Batford is generally down with a couple of exceptions.
- 5.8.2 Litter Pick. The amount of litter has been reduced.
- 5.8.3 BCAG newsletter out on 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- 5.8.4 The slide has been installed.
- 5.8.5 Attendance at the Jubilee meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>

- 5.8.6 Sell off of garages (e.g. Noke Shot) for use for affordable housing. Mr Grey is pushing for a conclusion after opinions were requested.
- 5.8.7 Christmas lights switch on. 4.30 -6.30pm on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December. Free soup, mulled wine and various other meals available.
- 5.9 Upper Lea Valley Group**
- 5.9.1 Change of name to Batford Springs Volunteers being proposed at the ULVG AGM in March.
- 5.9.2 Land transfer to the Town Council on a lease basis is proceeding at pace and hoped to be completed in this financial year. St Albans DC wish to include Marquis Lane playing fields and the route to the ford within the land package. The incorporation of this land is a sound suggestion. However, the HQ is not included Mr Randell said this may become an issue. Management will come under the Environment Committee.
- 5.9.3 Grant awarded from the lottery (£10,000) for the signs. The signs are at template stage, being approved in terms of content and erection should start in the New Year.
- 5.9.4 The BSV is trying to progress the conservation work with experts and build the management plan in terms of conservation.
- 6 Newsletter**
- 6.1 Currently being printed and expected Thursday (2<sup>nd</sup>) for distribution.
- 6.2 Mr Turberville forwarded notes for the newsletter and possible speakers.
- 7 Chairman's Items**
- 7.1 Society Awards. Mrs Weekes is to step down from assessing award nominations. Dr Davis nominated as replacement which was agreed. Mrs Horne sought confirmation of the changed name of the award. At the 2010 AGM reported as the Certificate of Merit - unanimously agreed.
- 7.2 Vacancies - Newsletter.
- 8 Correspondence**
- 8.1 The Secretary Represented the Society on 11.11.10 Armistice Day & 14.11.10 the Harpenden Remembrance Day Parade.
- 8.2 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Nickey Line on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2010.
- 8.3 Herts County Council Waste Development Framework
- 8.4 Secretary arranging suitable Committee meeting dates for use of the St John's Hall for 2011/12.
- 8.5 Treasurer's AGM reports. The Achievements and Activities Report 2010 will be compiled by the Secretary - amendments and updates will be sought end December.
- 9 Finance**
- 9.1 Mr Allen prepared and circulated a report on the Society state of finances.
- 9.2 Reported that the income was down from last year and the year before.
- 9.3 The figures do not currently include a claim having been made for Gift Aid
- 9.4 He asked for prompt submission of expenses.
- 10 Events**
- 10.1 Society Xmas Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> December. Mr Turberville has organised refreshments.
- 10.2 Discovery Day on the Common - to be held in June next year.
- 10.3 Mrs Ouston sought advice about the arrangements for receiving the payment of membership annual subscriptions on 9<sup>th</sup> December, as well as dealing with gift aid declarations. Mr Allen and Mrs Horne offered to help.
- 11 AOB**
- None
- 12 Dates of next meetings:**
- 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011
- 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011



10/1/11