

MINUTES of Committee meeting on Monday 24 January 1983
at no 3, Silver Street, at 7.30 pm. Mr Mercer in the chair

Apologies for absence from Mr. Campbell.

1. Minutes of meeting on 6 December 1982 approved.
2. Matters arising. (dealt with separately).

2(a) Social activities. The talks on history had resumed on 21 January, with some 20 participants paying £1 per head (Mr Hearing's fee was £17 per session). Mrs Brown would investigate possibilities for a general talk for everyone, with no charge to those attending.

3 Treasurer's report. Very few transactions had occurred since the last meeting, the only change being an increase of £1.15 in cash in hand. Mrs Wilkinson would very shortly be opening a N.S. Investment Account; there had been delays in the Glasgow office.

4 Planning Matters.

(a) The late Mr Diment's land. Since this matter was considered on 6 December, Henry Diment had died. There might, therefore, be a very different situation as regards the future of the land in question and the house and remaining land. A letter from Mr Litschi to the Planning Officer was read, and Mrs Litschi said the Planning Committee were making a site inspection on 25 January. The question of the house being "preserved" was being considered.

A member suggested that of the houses proposed to be erected on the site, the two or three on the Eastern boundary ought to be thatched, to tone in with Bellamy Cottage; it was generally felt, however, that while this would be an ideal, we could not reasonably ask the Council to insist on thatching.

It was decided to await further developments, possibly a fresh outline application.

(b) Puddledock Lane. The Secretary read a letter addressed to Dorset CC. (copied to the Borough Council)

welcoming the proposed making-up of this lane approx. between Seven Acres and Sunnyfields, but expressing the view of some members that an 18 ft carriageway with 5 ft verges was unnecessary and undesirable in view of ~~its~~ the rural character of the area and the possibility of little further development.

(c) The Mill The Chairman read a long letter which Mr Wallis, the owner, had sent to Miss P. Cunningham of Dorset CC about the financial situation regarding work on the mill. Structural repairs would cost around £34,000 and restoration/renewal of milling equipment nearly £25,000, plus VAT in each case; overall the cost was now estimated at £88,000 against an original estimate by his architect of about £60,000. The W.P.B.C. had given a grant of £2,700 (by waiving some of the normal conditions) and small sums might be forthcoming from other sources. Mr Wallis feared that some of the proposed work might have to be deferred for 2-3 years.

Mrs Libschi said that as the mill was not a Grade I listed building grants were less easy to obtain but she knew Dorset CC (through Miss Cunningham) were endeavouring to find as much financial assistance as possible.

The Committee felt that in the circumstances Mr Wallis might more usefully proceed with the work to secure living accommodation in the Mill, leaving the milling work until funds were available. They also agreed

that the Society should support Mr Wallis's representations to the County Council and other bodies, in view of the impact of the Mill on the village.

Mrs Presley said a "working party" would meet at the Mill on Sundays 30 Jan. and 6 Feb to assist in tidying up the surrounding land, etc.

(d) The Springhead. The Managing Director of Severnish Ltd had written to the Chairman assuring the Society that the Springhead would remain a village pub, with a carvery. Plans would be discussed with the Society; these were not ready for today's meeting, but the company had agreed to discuss them with a general meeting of the Society. This was welcomed, and steps will be taken accordingly.

5 Conservation Mr Shires circulated a note on this matter, with particular reference to action taken by the Society when the conservation area in the village was designated. He suggested re-submitting a "conservation area policy" to the local authority, as a guide to future development. Various views were expressed; Mrs Libschi felt that some of the items in the paper were already implemented by the Council, but there seemed no reason why the paper should not be sent to the Planning Officer.

Members should submit their views to Mr Shires, who

will bring a further report to a future meeting.

6. Other Business.

- (i) reference was made to general parking arrangements in the area of the Pond. Musfitchli reminded the Committee that double yellow lines are due to be painted on some parts of the roadway at some future date, among other things to facilitate bus usage. She was asked to ascertain how far such painting can be abandoned or deferred indefinitely.
- (ii) A.G.M. This was provisionally fixed for Tuesday 26 April, and the ladies would consider a potato-and-curry meal afterwards.

7. Next Meeting: 28 March at Millstream Cottage.

8. Thanks to Mrs Shires for hospitality.

[The meeting concluded at 9.55 pm]

W.A. Mercer

Chairman, 28.3.83