

MINUTES

of the 1993 AGM held on Wednesday 7 April at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room. Mr Tony Supter in the chair and 63 members present. Several apologies were received from absent members.

Mrs M Hince, South-west Area Wagoner of 'Britain-in-Sloow', was to have spoken about the competition for 1993, but she had unfortunately fractured a leg a few days earlier and was incapacitated. At short notice Mr Mike Smith and his wife Sarah gave a fascinating slide-show about recent travels in Turkey. This was received with great thanks.

The new owner of Northdown Farm ~~farm~~, Mr William Bond, was introduced by the Chairman, who paid tribute to the care with which the Saunders family had run the farm for very many years; and expressed gratitude that the farm would continue to be run avivementally. Mr Bond, stressing his desire to co-operate, said change was inevitable as he took over. It was unaccustomed for him to farm Northdown with cows, as he had a large farm at S. Stoke; a greatly increased stock would increase problems of slurry, transport etc. and the dairy buildings needed replacement. Beef and sheep would not pay, apart from his having over 1000 sheep elsewhere. So the alternative was arable, which meant a lot of ploughing - although in the mid-1880's even more of the farm land here was arable. A mixture of corn and grass was good for bird and floral life - e.g. pinewoods are known to return after 3-5 years. The present yard is almost redundant. A new entry-road is being constructed from opposite White Horse garage.

In view of future development, Mr Bond produced plans showing conversion of the old barn into two dwellings and the erection of a third. Guidelines published by planning and listed-buildings authorities would be followed, and the matter is continuing to be discussed with the Chief Planning Officer of W.P.C.

Questions about ploughing-up of footpaths were asked and answered.

Mr Bond referred to three serious cases of sheep-worrying when his flock was in the field behind Kent's yard, but he had not taken the action open to him. There was one error when barbed-wire had been put across a stile but this was corrected, and all inconsistencies would be completed shortly. Dealing with mud, Mr Bond said this was an inevitability in wet weather in the country!

The Chairman thanked Mr Bond for coming to the meeting. He thought that the plans referred to were not unreasonable but they would, when available, be carefully considered. Proposed developments at the farm were discussed with the C.P.O. and others last year.

Coffee + biscuits were served prior to the A.G.M. proper.

1. Minutes of A.G.M. of 1992 were read, approved and signed
2. Matters arising: On the motion of Mrs Hirstle it was agreed that the Cribbrell family be heartily congratulated on the excellence of the work on the Mill House, now virtually complete.
3. Chairman's report.
Mr Bayler referred to the Society's 25th anniversary bann dance which was the main feature of our jubilee year. Recently the Chief Planning Officer of W.P.S.C. had commented that our Society is regarded as a role model for judging similar groups; the Chairman said much of this is due to the experience of the past Chairman and the professionalism of the Secretary.
The Chairman referred to:
 - (a) the acquisition of the old farm wagon bearing the name of G. Saunders;
 - (b) the great co-operation which has resulted in the ducks being back on the pond - Society, pub, villagers have all played their part - and Steve Baddy was the "man of the year" in this. (applause). Several assistant duck wardens are also available;
 - (c) traffic calming - representations to the Council about measures in Sutton Road / Plaistons Lane were made to the Council who

- promised to keep the matter in mind when funds are available;
- (d) problems over caravans sited at Waterside Camp without permission have been discussed, and there is to be a hearing of an appeal about a footpath diversion there;
 - (e) difficulties over a suggestion that a site for a children's playing field in the village be acquired are continuing to be discussed;
 - (f) new street name-plates (provided at the Society's expense) at Puddledock Lane, and successful representations that the new houses there should not be named as Crownleek Close;
 - (g) various planning matters, including our detailed comments on the Council's pre-deposit consultation document, and the granting by D.O.E. of an appeal by the Sect. to build a new farm-house off Puddledock Lane. Constant vigilance was essential to prevent the green wedge between Puddock + Suttin Toppets being developed;
 - (h) Social matters - grateful thanks to Don Birch for all his work over the years; he has now given up. The summer walk organised by Richard Backwell, the visits to the Waterworks and Dorset County Museums, and the barn dance were all most successful. Bad weather "rained-off" Dorset Cream Teas in August. The possibility of a Village Fair being held in 1994 was under consideration.
 - (i) Britain-in-Bloom. A good response has been received so far to our letter to all villagers. Everyone is urged to make our entry into the competition this year a grand one.

The Chairman's report was received with thanks. We badly relied on the willingness of Messrs Water to become involved in relevant environmental and similar projects.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mrs Sue Woden-Wilkinson presented the audited accounts for the past year. Bank balance was £573.58; cash in hand £29.92; and the N.S. Investment A/C balance £2067.57. Receipts were £1574.72 and expenditure £1113.12.

The accounts were approved, with thanks to the Treasurer. The Chairman thanked her sterling work for a number of years.

It was agreed that the subscription rates be the same as last year's.

5. Secretary's Report.

Mr. Knight said that attendance of executive members at meetings was very good - two members had attended all 10, and three either 9 or 8.

This year's Dorset Beach clean-up is on 2 May and details are in the Society's notice-frame.

6. Election of Committee

Mrs Wilhieson and Mrs Howbotham are not seeking re-election; thanks were expressed to Liz Howbotham for all her assistance in connection with catering. On the motion of Mrs Steplen it was agreed that the other members, plus Mrs Dee Jebbott, be elected for the present year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

A. R. Bayley
Chairman
12/4/94