

MINUTES

of meeting of Committee on 12 January 1994 at 7.30 pm at
Sutton Lodge. Sir A. Beagler in the chair. Apologies from Mrs. Zebbutt.

1. Minutes of meeting on 11 November 1993 read, approved and signed.

2. Matters arising.

(a) Britain-in-Blossom. It was decided to enter the 1994
competition, and to ask the sub-committee of 1993 to organise
details. The committee also decided (a) that Marion Knight

be asked to take photographs of the village during the coming months, to form an album for the judging (Society to pay for film and development), (b) that climbing roses be planted outside the Suttin Hoop, if the Blanch authorities agree and (c) a letter be sent to all villagers encouraging support for the entry.

(b) Tree-planting. A tree has been planted at Suttin Rd / Preston Rd junction, with a plaque, and the account for it paid.

(c) Name plates. Will House. The Chairman referred in detail to a section in "Landscape of Thos Hardy" by Deerys Kay-Nobiusan (1985) which seemed to prove that the present Will was not necessarily the one which Thomas Hardy talked about as "Overcombe"; he may well have in mind the well which was once on the Waterworks site, and probably alluded to features from both wells. After considerable discussion it was agreed that there should be two separate stone plaques, one for the Will House and the other saying "In Thomas Hardy's 'Trumpet Major' this village was 'Overcombe', the siting of the second one to be determined.

(d) Seat on the Road. Wexsex Water have indicated verbally (Mr Staples) that this seat is not overlooked.

(e) Village Fair. The Fair Committee are holding an Open Village Meeting early in March. It was decided that as the Society is to run the tombola, ~~it~~ should receive $\frac{1}{3}$ of the profit from it.

(f) The A.G.M. Simon Cullen said progress should soon be made in the production of a play. It was agreed that the timetable be 7.30-AGM, 8-coffee, 8.30 play (lasting not more than an hour).

(g) The Chairman has acquired a wheel - a small working party will meet to fix it.

(h) Willow trees. It was decided to contact Martin Gallivan (Deputy Engineer) about treatment to the trees within a month or so.

3 Chairman's Report

Mr Bugler said he knew of a small group, under Lynne Penman, which did a 45-60 minute "songs from the Shows" type of entertainment. This will be borne in mind for a future occasion.

4 Secretary's Report

(i) Open Day at Cold House. The Society was invited to send members to this open day on 27 November. Notification was circulated round the Village and about 18 people went at various times.

(ii) Water Treatment Works. Details of an open day for inspection of the artifacts etc obtained in the dig and for viewing the site were circulated in a Newsletter. Many people visited the site (on 5 Dec) when representatives of the Archaeological Society gave information and figures.

(iii) Flooding in the Village. There was considerable flooding in the village (and elsewhere around) on 30 December. Reference was made to articles in the Echo about an apparent gap in the legislation as to authority over small streams etc, as distinct from major rivers; members also noted that the stream at the fork junction had been cleared by individuals but the vegetation etc had still not been collected by the Council. The Borough Engineer will be informed of our support for the Council's efforts to secure funds for long-term alleviation, but in the short-term stream and pond clearance should be improved.

(iv) Weeds by the Pond. Clearance had been delayed as woodpeckers were nesting. Mr Brown undertook to organise a working party shortly.

5 Financial Report. Simon Brubler reported that income was £380.18 since the last meeting and expenditure £155.46. The balance on 12.1.94 included the £200 which had just been paid (on loan) to the Village Fair Committee - bank £223.57, petty cash £1.15, total £224.72. The Committee agreed that arrangements be made to withdraw a further £200 from the N.S. Account.

6 Planning Matters

(a) No objection to limited development at Demelen, Puddledock Lane (extension of bedroom) and the Old Coach House (car-pnt).

(b) Chief Planning Officer to be informed of our concern about the effect on visual amenity of proposed development by 3 Stroudley Crescent - an area of high amenity.

(c) The Society is now on the list of the Council's "consultees" with regard to football discussions, etc.

7 Social Activities.

- (i) Mr R. White has agreed to talk to the Society on war-time matters; he wished, however, to have a reasonable question and answer evening. The week of 7 March was suggested. In view of the financial situation, it was agreed that a raffle be held at this meeting.
- (ii) At the next meeting consideration will be given to a visit drive to another fund-raising function, and a possible visit to Eldridge Lope's Brewery.
- (iii) The Chairman said that the local W.I. hoped to have a walk early next year on the waterworks dig etc; and it might be possible for the Society to be involved.

8 Next meeting: 8 February at Little Acorns.

9 Thanks to Mr + Mrs Bugler for hospitality.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

A. P. Dwyer
Chairman
8/2/964.