

4) Chairman's report.

The Chairman announced that he would be standing down after serving for five years and that his successor would be Mike Pansley. He followed this by a brief résumé of the Society's activities during his period of office. In particular he drew the attention of the members to the following -

a) Planning and development matters. The Society had continued to play an important rôle in making its views known by attendance at and by letter and comment to public enquiries and examinations in public of the Town and the County Structure plans, the Dorchester road enquiry, Footpath preservation and individual planning applications. There was a regular line of communication established in particular with the Weymouth and Portland Planning Department. The considered the most satisfying outcome of the Society's endeavours to be the ^{final} refusal of planning permission to develop a large housing estate in the valley below the bridge.

b) Britain-in-Blow. Although a decision had been taken not to enter the competition for 1997 he felt that the efforts of the village in the past few years, when the summer-up protest had been secured on three occasions, was worthy of comment and in particular he paid tribute to the effort of Dorothy and Simon Embler who had spearheaded the village's attempt to win the top award.

c) Social events. The ongoing programme of talks, local teas, summer walk, Christmas events and Barn dance continued to be successful and generally well-supported.

d) Other activities. The Society had given active and practical support to the two Victorian Street Fayres that had been held during his chairmanship and had been particularly successful in raising large sums on

to Tombata still. Recently the Society gave a small grant to two best girls to help them complete their D of G Gold award. The expedition consisted of a wintered sail from Dakar to the Agoues. The two girls will speak to the Society on 22nd May about their experiences.

At the close of the report John Hockford proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his dedicated and successful work over the past five years. This was seconded by Ron Bird and duly approved. In addition Joyce Lutschi ~~for~~ on behalf of the Committee presented the Chairman with a small gift in appreciation of his work for the Society.

5/ Secretary's report. Road calming measures. An outline of the correspondence between the Society and W.P.B.C. officials and councillors was given and members were requested to keep up the pressure on an individual basis to ensure that the problems of Pleisters here and South Rd were not forgotten by those in office. Reference was also made to the proposal to set up a 'community meeting' at which members would have the opportunity to question officials and councillors about issues like traffic calming and planning policy.

6/ Treasurer's report.

Simon Embler presented the audited accounts for the year ending 31/3/97. There was £2243-51 in the National Savings A/c and £424-55 in the Bank in petty cash. On the motion of Ben Knight, duly seconded, the accounts were approved and subscriptions fixed at £2 per household or £1 for persons living alone.

7/ Committee membership.

The Society ^{agreed that} new nominations had been received and the present committee were prepared to serve again. It was agreed by acclamation that the present committee should continue in office.

8/ AOB.

a) Mrs. Wynne-Williams proposed that members should try to encourage neighbours to join the Society to ensure its long-term future. There was a general acceptance of this suggestion.

b) Mrs. Audrey McBreedy suggested that a name-plate should be provided for the River Gordon. The discussion that followed ~~was~~ illustrated that there was some doubt about the course of the river. Freddy Litchie informed that the Gordon did not flow down Selwyn St. and Sutter Rd (opposite the bus stop) but joined the stream at the bridge near Puddledock Lane. There was a general acceptance that a sign at the appropriate place would be of interest but no formal proposal was made.

The meeting closed at 8-05 pm.

Following the AGM, Mr. Horstyle Pope gave a fascinating account of his family's place in the history of Dorset including the branch of the family that had lived in Sutter Bogate until earlier this century. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Pope and this was warmly supported by the members.

A novelty 'Chinese' raffle organised by Peter Jones raised over £40 for the Society.

The evening's activities came to a close at 9-35 pm
Proposed by ~~John~~ ^{John} ~~Wynne-Williams~~ ^{Wynne-Williams} Chairman