

Minutes of the SPS AGM held at the Mission Hall 7-30pm Thursday 19th April 2001. Joyce Litchi in the Chair. 49 members in attendance.

- 1) Apologies. Mrs. & Mrs V. Yarrant, Mrs. I. Scriverly, Mrs. Tebbitt
Mrs. & Mrs Riley
- 2) The minutes of the AGM held on 6th April 2000 (previously tabled) were approved.
- 3) Matters arising. No matters were raised.
- 4) Chairman's report.

In her introduction the Chairman commented on the continuing support from local residents for the Society's activities with 164 families in membership in this the 33rd year of its existence.

The Society had maintained excellent relations with both WBC and DCC and there were very important in ensuring that its views were given serious consideration when issues such as planning and the environment were under discussion. In addition the Society had contacted the local authorities about a variety of subjects, these included the concerns of members about flooding, footpaths, road repairs, traffic calming, and the silting of the pond.

The Society had maintained its affiliation to the Weymouth Civic Society, the Dorset Wildlife Trust and the CPRE and was represented on the Environmental Partnership Group. The importance of ~~maintain~~ these links was illustrated by the co-operation of the DWT in carrying out improvements to the banks of the pond. Moves are in progress to take advantage of the

£12.5 million lottery grant aid awarded to the Countywide Agency. This money is to assist communities to design and create green spaces in their localities. With this end in view the Society had contacted Mr. Seal through his agent to enquire if he would be willing to sell the field adjacent to the Springhead. Mr. Seal's reply is still awaited.

The Local Strategic Plan for Weymouth and Portland has been considered by the Society's Planning sub-committee and comments sent to the WPBC. The final version of the Plan will be considered by WPBC Environment Committee on 13th June and the Society will be represented at the meeting. In the run up to this meeting the Council officers have promised to keep the Society informed of any changes and we shall continue to be vigilant.

The usual range of social activities took place during the year. The 'Broom Toss' in August was very successful and our thanks are due to Mr. & Mrs. Emery and Mrs. Hale for allowing the use of their gardens and later Richard Backwell led the walks in May and July and he also gave an interesting talk ^{in March} about the activities of the Dorset Expeditionary Society. In December, the Christmas Laffer Morning proved very popular and the carol singing around the tree donated by the Society was well-attended. The social secretary, Maween Morris and her helpmate Julia Allen put in sterling work on these occasions for which we would like to thank them.

The Society's contribution to the Street Fayre had been the Tombola, organised this year by John Cuthbert. It had been extremely successful raising £851.15p. The Chairman writes to thank all those who had contributed and supported the event.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking

a number of members. Simon and Dorothy Cumber for maintaining the floral arrangements in the managers on the Messin Hall and the cart at the Springhead; the Committee members for their support during the year: Peter Jones, the retiring Vice-Chairman who will be continuing his work for the environment as a member of the CPRE; Maureen Morris who is taking a well-earned break from the duties of Social Secretary and Don Bridley who is stepping down as Secretary. He hoped to see all the retiring members at future events.

At the conclusion of his report, Ron Birch said he felt that the Chairman should be thanked for his efforts during the year after taking on the role at short notice at last year's AGM. His comments were warmly received and supported by the members.

5) Secretary's report.

The Secretary said that he had nothing to add to the comprehensive report given by the Chairman but wanted to thank her and previous Chairmen and the Committee for their support during his time as Secretary.

6) Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer gave a brief explanation of the accounts that had been circulated at the meeting. Unfortunately through an error by the National Savings people they had not been able to confirm the amount of interest on the Savings account and this would now appear on next year's accounts. The finances of the Society were in a very healthy state and the only major commitment was a promised sum of £500 to be paid to the Messin Hall Committee once refurbishment gets underway.

On the proposal of Terry Tabbet, seconded by

John Broyles the accounts were accepted unanimously.
The Treasurer then recommended that subscriptions should remain at the present rate. This proposal, seconded by Fredy Litschi was passed unanimously.

7) Election of Officers and the Committee.

The Secretary reported that he had received the following nominations:-

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| Chairman | - | Joyce Litschi. | - |
| Vice-Chairman | - | Michael Harris. | - |
| Secretary | - | John Sutherland | - |
| Treasurer | - | Simon Embler | - |
| Social Secretary | - | Julian Allen | - |
| Committee members | | | |
| | - | Tony Bayle | - |
| | | Olive Davies | - |
| | | David Emery | - |
| | | Vic Farvut | - |
| | | Ken Knight | - |
| | | Richard Meek | - |

On the proposal by John Reynolds, seconded by Martin Knight all the above-named were elected to serve.

8) AOB

a) Tony Bayle read out a list of events that had taken place during the Millennium year and said that members should 'put themselves on the back' for making it a successful year.

b) Norman Brown asked if the Society had made any response to Wensley Water about the plans to build a new processing plant. The Chairman said that at this stage there had been no communication with

Dorset Water as the information had only been received recently.

c) Eve Wilkinson was concerned that damage was being done to Sutton Rd. by the heavy lorries servicing the building site adjacent to the Evangelical Church. Roy Litchi believed the damage was caused by springs. The Chairman agreed to keep the problem under review.

d) Shirley Mead was asked if the Society could do something to improve the condition of the orchard next to the Mission Hall. The Chairman felt that this was the responsibility of the Mission Hall Committee. John Allen, speaking on behalf of the M.H.C., said the problem would be tackled after the refurbishment of the Hall, which necessitated some excavation in the orchard, was complete.

The meeting closed at 9-15pm, having been preceded by a talk by Roy Adam of the Society of Dorset Men on 'Village life in Dorset 70 years ago.'