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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the Civic Trust
for the North West.

Chairman: Mr. T. Brakell, Linden Cottage, Halewood Road
Hon. Sec: Mrs. S.M. Lewis, Grange Lodge, Grange Lane

MINUTES of the fifth Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre
Society held on the 23rd October 1979 at Gateacre Institute,
Grange Lane at 8 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. T. Brakell (Chairman)
Mr. A. McCann (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. H. Winsor (Hon. Treasurer)
Mrs. S. Lewis (Hon. Secretary)
Miss A. Lythgoe (Asst. Secretary)

Committee: Mrs. Bee, Mr. L. Shepherd.

Members: Mrs. Stanley, Miss J. Gnosspelius, Mrs. Wilkes, Mrs. Andrews,
Mrs. Pendergast, Mr. F. Ledson, Mr. L. Wheeler, Mr. P. MacAulay,
Mrs. Quin, Mr. J.F. Williams, Mr. P.S. Coppell, Mrs. Bond,
Mr. H. Haddleton, Mrs. Davenport, Mrs. Lee, Mr. W. and Mr. J.
Whiteside, Mr. & Mrs. E.T. Denton, M/s G. Cringle, Mr. & Mrs. ?
(7 and 22 - Total 29).

At 8.05 p.m. the Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members present.

1. APOLOGIES for absence had been received from -

Councillor McVeigh, Councillor and Mrs. Rodick, Mr. M. Thornton M.P.,
Mr. A. Globe, Mr. and Mrs. J. Roberts, Mr. W. Collison, Mrs. Beecham,
Mr. P. Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Ellis, The Doctors Shatwell, Mrs. Oldham,
and Miss H. Coleman.

2. MINUTES of the Fourth Annual General Meeting held on the 1st November 1978
and previously circulated were agreed and signed.

3. HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT -

During the year 8 public meetings and 1 exhibition had been held -

- 6th Dec. Conservation in the Museum - Mr. Keith Priestman.
- 15th Jan. Dear Old Dirty Liverpool - Dr. Quentin Hughes.
- 21st Feb. Restoration of Antique Furniture - Mr. Ken. Hughes.
- 28th Mar. Detection in Local History - Miss Janet Gnosspelius.
- 25th Apl. Colour in our Gardens - Mr. Steve Perkins.
- 6th Jun. Calderstones Walk guided by Mr. Muir.
- 4th Jly. Conservation in the City - Mr. John Harrison.
- 26th Sep. 40 years of caring for Merseyside - Dr. J.A. Skovgaard.

The Exhibition to mark the 10th birthday of the Gateacre Village
Conservation Area attracted over 400 visitors, among whom were many
local school children and their teachers, Mr. E.S.P. Evans - the City
Planning Officer, Mr. S.A. Harris - the eminent local historian and
Dr. Quentin Hughes - Reader in Architecture, University of Liverpool.
32 new members joined the Society.

The Public Inquiry about 173 Grange Lane took place on February 6th.
resulting in the time of closing being altered to 11.30p.m. each
evening but no Sunday opening.

Hon. Secretary's report cont -

3 ton Weight Limit signs were erected in Belle Vale Road and Kings Drive in February after four years work by the Society. It was felt that Gateacre Brow should also have been protected and we said so, with the result that on the 18th October new signs warning H.G.Vs about the 'Weight Limit $\frac{1}{4}$ mile ahead' were placed at the top of the Brow. The Secretary also reported that with Miss Gnosspelius she had made a survey of the signs directing heavy vehicles along the ring road to and from Netherley and the Motorways, and that they had been invited to discuss their findings with Mr. Mitchell of the County Engineer's Department.

The control of General Traffic in the Village had also been of concern particularly the difficulty of crossing the roads at the traffic lights for elderly or infirm people - work on this was continuing.

More than 600 signatures had been obtained on the petition against the closure of the public footpath between Grange Lane and Cuckoo Lane at the W. end of Grange Weint - the planning application is to be considered by the Development and Building Control Sub-Committee 29th October.

The bronze bust of Queen Victoria had been restored by the Museum, she was now in the hands of the City Surveyor's Dept. waiting to be replaced on the Village Green.

Mrs. Lewis and Miss Gnosspelius had attended a Conference in April on Conservation Advisory Committees, this had been organised by the University of Nottingham's Dept. of Adult Education and the Civic Trust. A written Report was available for any members who wished to read it.

Lectures had been attended and comments made on the Structure Plan for Merseyside.

It was felt that the extension to the Felt Factory in Lower Sandfield had been sympathetically carried out. The Society had written to the Planning Office regarding landscaping the area in front of the factory, the area had now been grassed and trees planted.

The Gateacre Conservation Area Advisory Leaflets and Guidance Notes, which we helped to write, had been published in June.

Information about the history of the village had been provided to school children and students engaged on local history projects.

Christmas Cards had been produced for the first time last year, these were a success financially as was the Jumble Sale held in March.

Outside our area we had worked with the Merseyside Civic Society, to whom we are affiliated, in helping to save the Lyceum & Irvine Street.

Membership had increased by 40% and is now 209. Malcolm Thornton M.P. is one of our newer members - who will be able to help us in the event of our needing to make representations to the Secretary of State. Two other recent members are Councillor Alan Rodick of Salcombe in Devon. who has never visited Gateacre, but whose great grandfather was born at 'Browside' on Gateacre Brow over 150 years ago, and whose family is commemorated by a bust of his gt.gt. grandfather and monument in the Chapel and the name of a street in Woolton; the other new member is Mr. Hamilton-Fletcher, an Architect living in Richmond, Surrey - his family connections with Gateacre go back about 600/^{years}we think, although they have not resided here for over 100 years

Four Newsletters have been circulated to members, local libraries, other amenity societies, the Civic Trust, the Civic Trust for the North West and the Press; notices of five meetings have also gone to members.

Subscriptions - these remain the same as last year and are due from today.

Finally, we record our thanks to all those members who have helped to keep the Society running smoothly - those who make our deliveries, members who have contributed to Newsletters, the ladies who have provided us with refreshments at our meetings, the Gateacre Chapel Committee for allowing us to meet in their hall and the Gateacre Institute for offering a nice warm room for our A.G.M. I also record my very sincere thanks to Miss Gnosspelius, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts and Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd for their time and assistance without which the Summer Exhibition would not have been possible.

4. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT -

The Balance Sheet was circulated to members present. Unfortunately, due to pressure of work Mr. Harracks, Manager of the Midland Bank, had been unable to audit the accounts in time for the meeting - this would be done as soon as possible.

Mr. Winsor reported that we had started the year with £113.77 and the balance now stood at £197.36. Miss Gnosspelius welcomed the donation of £50 towards the rebuilding of the Chapel wall.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS -

Mr. Brakell said the year had been an eventful and encouraging one, membership was increasing most satisfactorily and this would add strength to the Society at times when it became necessary to make our views known. The larger our membership the bigger 'voice' we would have and the more likely it would be that the various departments of the local authority would listen to us.

He was pleased that so many had come to the A.G.M. but felt that more support was needed at our general meetings as we had had some excellent speakers. He thanked the Committee for their work during the year and this was seconded by Mrs. Davenport.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS -

There were no nominations from the floor and as all the Officers indicated that they were willing to serve for a further 12 months they were duly elected nem. con.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE -

There were two resignations from the Committee - Mr. Birkhead and Mr. Olsen. All the other members, being willing to continue were elected. There were three new nominations - Miss Janet Gnosspelius, proposed by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Beecham; Miss Hannah Coleman, proposed by Mrs. Bee and seconded by Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Leslie Wheeler, proposed by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Brakell. These members were declared elected to the Committee nem. con.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS -

The amount of traffic going through the village and the difficulties encountered in trying to cross the various roads on foot seemed uppermost in members' minds. The Chairman thought that as the King's Drive

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS cont -

link-up had now been abandoned it was difficult to see how the amount of traffic could be reduced. He welcomed the ban on vehicles over 3 tons through the village, also the survey which had been undertaken on direction signs for H.G.Vs and felt that when these were correctly positioned and drivers had become accustomed to the new routing a difference would be noticed in Gateacre.

Mrs. Denton felt there had been an increase in the number of heavy vehicles along Cuckoo Lane - it was thought that this may be due to drivers coming upon the new weight limit signs and may improve as they became aware they were unwelcome in the area.

Miss Gnosspelius drew members attention to an Inquiry on Lorries, People and the Environment mentioned in the current Civic Trust News. It was agreed that evidence would be submitted on how the Society's area was affected by this problem.

Mrs. Bee complained that the pedestrian phase in the traffic light sequence in the centre of the village was erratic, sometimes only allowing 2 or 3 seconds in which to cross the road, she thought the control mechanism may be faulty. Mr. Shepherd said that he had checked this some months ago with a stop watch and at that time the 'safe' period had been constant, he agreed to carry out a further investigation.

Miss Gnosspelius suggested that a Pelikan crossing might be helpful, but it was explained that the Secretary had suggested this to the City Engineer 12 months ago and the idea had been turned down after a traffic count on the 13th and 14th September 1978.

Mrs. Davenport, who has a handicapped daughter, complained that the time allowed for crossing Woolton Road at the Pelikan crossing at the top of Gateacre Park Drive was insufficient. The Secretary said she would take this up with the County Engineer, also the problem of the lights being obscured by trees.

Mr. J.F. Williams asked about the planning application for closing the public footpath. Mrs. Lewis said that she expected this to be refused at the Sub-Committee meeting on the 29th October as both the Planning Department and the City Engineer would object, but that the applicants might then appeal to the D.o.E. which would mean a Public Inquiry.

A member asked why the meeting was being held in the Gateacre Institute instead of the Chapel Hall. The Secretary said that we had been invited to hold the meeting there, free of charge, by the Chairman and Secretary and she then gave an outline history of the Institute.

9. There being no further business the meeting was then closed.