

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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17 OCT 1980



Chairman: Mr. T. Brakell, Linden Cottage, Halewood Road

Tel: 428 - 3105

Hon. Sec: Mrs. S. Lewis, Grange Lodge, Grange Lane

Tel: 428 - 3671

MINUTES of the sixth Annual General Meeting of The Gateacre Society, held on the 28th October 1980 at The Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane at 8 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. T. Brakell (Chairman)

Mr. A. McCann (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs. S. Lewis (Secretary)

Miss A. Lythgoe (Asst. Secretary)

Committee:

Mr. A. Globe, Miss J. Gnosspelius, Mrs. J. McKenzie, The Rev. D. Roberts, Mr. L. Shepherd, Mr. L. Wheeler.

Members:

Mr. & Mrs. Bushell, Mr. & Mrs. Carruthers, Mr. Dawson, Constable Dearden, Mr. & Mrs. Denton, Mr. Harding, Mr. Haddleton, Mr. Purslow, Rev. J. Roberts, Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mr. ? (total 10 & 15 - 25).

At 8.05 the Chairman welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES for absence had been received from -

Mrs. Bee, Mr. Clayton, Miss Lomas, Mr. Thornton M.P.

2. MINUTES of the fifth Annual General Meeting held on the 23rd October 1979 and previously circulated were agreed and signed.

3. HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT - (this report on the year's work was read at the meeting and afterwards circulated (in full) to all members - a résumé follows):-

During the year seven Meetings have been held in Gateacre Chapel Hall.

On the 28th June a small party was shown round the reconstruction work in progress at Speke Hall by the Architect in charge - Mrs. Carol Thickens.

The third Gateacre Walk took place on the 30th August, conducted by Mr. J. Dewsnap and Miss J. Gnosspelius.

The annual Jumble Sale was held on the 31st May in the Chapel Hall raising £113.31

On the 7th October the Society was host to the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor James S. Ross when he paid an official visit to Gateacre arranged by Mrs. E. Scarland of the Civic Trust for the North West.

The Technical Services Sub-Committee has been busy with many local problems - the conversion of the Riding School, the proposed demolition of Halewood House, the proper maintenance of the Black Bull and adjoining properties, also the Prudential Building - Architect W. Aubrey Thomas. Other privately owned 'listed' buildings have given cause for concern too - where the difficulties of conveying our reason for objecting to e.g. mock Tudor doors and picture windows in Georgian or early Victorian cottages has not yet been overcome.

Heavy traffic through the village has perhaps been less, but too many

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT Cont.

drivers still continue to ignore the 3 ton weight limit signs in spite of the warning notices at the top of the Brow.

As always we have tried to ensure that our trees are protected and that residents are aware of the existence of Tree Preservation Orders.

We obtained over 2,200 signatures on a petition to have the 'Netherley' and 'Woolton' signs removed from the village, this together with a reasoned argument proved effective and we are now trying to convince the City Engineer that we need signs saying 'GATEACRE'.

In April Queen Victoria arrived back on the village green after being refurbished - the City Estates Surveyor also replaced the missing '7' from the date of her Jubilee - 1887.

Outside our area we have lent a hand with other matters of Conservation - the salvage of building materials, the setting up of a Liverpool Buildings Fund, No. 1 Upper Parliament Street and the Albert Dock.

The Local History Unit has been active as always, visiting Bodenham near Hereford and Brinderwen near Oswestry and corresponding with Mr. Rodick in Devonshire and Mr. Hamilton-Fletcher in London in the quest for more information about Little Woolton's past.

We were fortunate in obtaining information about Gateacre Grange, which enabled us to add the name of the distinguished Architect Sir Ernest George to the list of Architects responsible for our buildings.

We recently purchased from the British Library a photo-copy of a Rental dated 1549 covering Much Woolton and Little Woolton (part of their large collection of Norris deeds), when translated this should add much to our knowledge of who owned/rented how much land, and possibly where it was situated at that time.

We are indebted to Mr. James A. Carter, the author of the History of Tarbock, for two of his own drawings of houses in Little Woolton now, alas, demolished.

Four Newsletters were delivered to members during the year and Newsletters from other Liverpool amenity societies are regularly received. The Committee has met on 8 occasions. A mini-history of The Gateacre Institute, a booklet on Gateacre Walk III and Christmas Cards have been produced.

Membership stands at 228 and is increasing. Subscriptions, which are due from to-day, remain the same except that members living outside the hand delivery area are now asked to pay £1 extra for postage.

Finally, my personal thanks to the retiring Chairman, to Miss Lythgoe and to Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd for all their encouragement, help and many kindnesses.

4. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT -

The Hon. Treasurer - Mr. Harry Winsor was unable to attend the meeting but copies of the Receipts and Payments Account for the year were circulated to members. This showed a Credit Balance of £345.73 - an increase of £148.37 over last year.

Mr. Brakell said he thought the account of the year's work was impressive and most encouraging. The Society was growing - both in membership and standing. When he first became Chairman in 1976 we were just two years old and still very much finding our way and learning what the work of an amenity society should be. He felt that now we had a much clearer idea of the sort of problems we were likely to encounter and had gained considerable experience in how to grapple with them.

He said there were now seven amenity societies in Liverpool, all members of the Civic Trust for the North West, and he would like to take this opportunity of thanking the talented Liverpool representative of this organisation, Mrs. Scarland, for arranging the recent meeting of all these societies with the Lord Mayor at the Building Centre in Hope Street which had been so useful and successful.

Mr. Brakell then thanked the Officers and Committee for their work and support, and said that although next year he would no longer be Chairman he would continue to work for the Society's aims. He also thanked those who had helped by addressing envelopes, distributing newsletters, organising tea and biscuits at our meetings and all who had helped in numerous ways to make the Society work.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS -

There were no nominations for Officers from the floor.

Chairman - Mr. A. McCann was proposed by Mr. Brakell, seconded by Mr. Winsor and elected Chairman nem.con.

Vice-Chairman - Mr. T. Brakell was proposed by Mrs. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Winsor and elected Vice-Chairman nem.con.

Hon. Treasurer - Mr. H. Winsor was proposed by the Rev. Daphne Roberts, seconded by Miss Gnosspelius and elected Hon. Treasurer nem. con.

Hon. Secretary - Mrs. S. Lewis was proposed by Miss Gnosspelius, seconded by Mr. Shepherd and elected Hon. Secretary nem. con.

Asst. Hon. Secretary - Miss A. Lythgoe was proposed by Miss Gnosspelius, seconded by Mrs. Lewis and voted Asst. Hon. Secretary nem. con.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE -

Due to the resignation of Mrs. P. Beecham there was a vacancy on the Committee, there were no nominations from the floor and Mr. R. Carruthers was proposed by Mr. Brakell, seconded by Mrs. Lewis and elected on to the Committee nem. con.

All the other members, being willing to continue in office, were elected en bloc on to the Committee. This was proposed by Mr. Brakell and seconded by Mrs. Lewis.

At this point in the meeting Mr. McCann took the Chair. He thanked the retiring Chairman, Mr. Brakell for his work for the Society and said he was glad to know that as Vice-Chairman he would still be available to help with unexpected problems and to lend his 'presence' when required.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS -

Mr. Carruthers expressed concern about the front elevation of No. 4 Gateacre Brow where the stucco had started to fall away about two years ago. The Secretary said that she had been to see the owner and suggested that Mr. Harrison, the Conservation Officer in the City Planning Office, should be asked for his advice.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS Cont.

Mr. Carruthers also asked if anything could be done about the boundary wall of Gateacre Grange, boys climbing the wall had dislodged one of the coping stones. This was noted and would be pursued.

Mr. Shepherd said he had been asked if there was any information about No. 36 Gateacre Brow, the house had been empty for so long it was deteriorating and the hedges were overgrown and unsightly. The Secretary said that it had been sold and planning permission obtained for an extension at the rear - she would try to obtain further information.

Mr. Harding drew attention to the danger of traffic parking opposite to the Smithy Tuckshop on the corner of Woolton Road and Cuckoo Lane. Mr. Denton said the problem had mainly arisen since the building of the two new houses 'Rockfield' and 'St. Martins' had started. Constable Dearden said he would keep an eye on this problem.

Mr. Carruthers suggested incorporating 'Village - drive slowly' in the proposed 'GATEACRE' sign to stop vehicles approaching the traffic lights at high speed.

In answer to a question about radar on Gateacre Brow, Constable Dearden said this would not be practicable. The Vice-Chairman thought perhaps this method might be used to control the speed of vehicles down Gateacre Park Drive.

The suggestion of another Christmas card was raised. Mr. Haddleton felt that as a loss had been made the previous year this was not a good idea. The Chairman said that the 'Chapel' cards would sell eventually, meanwhile we would keep them in stock. He said they were not primarily intended to be a money making operation but rather a public relations exercise. It was agreed that a new card should be produced this year to sell at 10p.

Constable Dearden made an appeal for volunteers for the Victim Support Scheme to be started shortly, offering help and comfort for elderly people if they were victims of e.g. mugging.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.25 p.m.