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GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the Civic Trust
for the North West

8th A.G.M. 25.10.82.

Chairman: Mr. G. A. McCann, O.L.A. Jun. School, Hedgefield Road.

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

Minutes of the eighth Annual General Meeting
of the Gateacre Society, held on the 25th October
1982 at the Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane at 8 p.m.



PRESENT

Mr. G. A. McCann (Chairman)
Mr. T. Brakell (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs. S. Lewis (Secretary)
Miss E. Heyworth (Treasurer)

Committee: Mrs. Bee, Miss Borrowscale, Miss Doyle,
Miss Gnospelius, Mrs. McKenzie, Mrs. Roberts, Mr. Wheeler.

Members: Mrs. Couch, Mrs. Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Denton, Mr. Houghton,
Mr. Jaques, Mr. Purslow, Mrs. Quin, Mrs. Roberts, Mr. Roberts,
Mrs. Swettenham, Mr. Williams. Miss Beswick. (total 24).

At 8.10 p.m. the Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. Dawson,
Mr. Huddleton, Mr. Harding, Mr. McCauley, Mr. McKay, Mr. & Mrs.
Rees-Jones, Mr. Shepherd, Mrs. Stanley.
2. Minutes of the seventh Annual General Meeting held on the
28th October, 1980 (previously circulated) were agreed and signed.
Mr. John Roberts proposed and Mr. Brakell seconded their adoption.
3. Hon. Secretary's Report. This was read out to those present
and it was agreed that it be circulated to all members. The report
was received with applause and the Hon. Secretary was complimented
on it. There were no questions.
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report. The Society will be able to see from
the balance sheet available that we have assets amounting to £916.18
in our current and deposit bank accounts. I hope that the receipts
and payments are clear from the balance sheet, but there are one or
two items that I should like to elaborate on.

During the last year we have increased our membership considerably
mainly as a result of the publicity campaign for the Gateacre signs.
Many people have donated money for these signs so that we have been
able to pay for and have erected six signs around Gateacre. Total
donations were £383.60 which includes a generous legacy from the
late Frank Ledson, and £80 from Mr. Rees Jones, the building merchant
who is doing much to improve the yard in Sandfield Road. The annual
jumble sale was once again a successful venture, raising £169.60
for our funds, mainly due to the efforts of members who put a lot
of time and energy into the venture. Sales of books and publications
have increased, with many people buying articles at the recent
Gateacre School Exhibition, as well as at our regular meetings.
Money received from the sale of Christmas cards has also increased -
hopefully we will sell even more this year.

The cost of the Gateacre Signs, £322.36, was more than covered
by donations. The other large item of expenditure on the sheet
is printing and stationery. This item covers all the paperwork
and stencils used to produce our newsletter, as well as a number of
photocopies and items which were used at the exhibition to commemorate
the Comprehensive School's Silver Jubilee. These items will no
doubt be used at future exhibitions to advertise the work done by
the Gateacre Society. The refreshments expenditure covers the cost
of providing sherry and biscuits for the AGM last year. Amongst
the miscellaneous items is a £5 book token given to the treasurer
who retired last year, to thank him for all the work he did for
the society.

On balance, therefore, the Society enjoyed a successful financial
year. In particular I should like to thank everyone who responded

to the Signs Appeal, those who gave their support to the Jumble Sale and to all who continue to support the work of the Society. We have over £900 in bank, some of which we should like to spend on improving the local amenities in some way. We have one suggestion that a seat on the green would be a good idea, but we would welcome the members' views and suggestions as to how the money should be spent.

There were no questions.

5. Chairman's Remarks.

The Chairman said the Society's constitution had three objects:

1. To stimulate public interest in Gateacre. The money donated for the new Gateacre Signs had been well spent. Members should unite to show we have something to be proud of.
2. To benefit the locality. The Society had helped Mr. Rees Jones, a local builder, to stay in the area when the City planners wanted him to move away from Gateacre. He remains in the Village, employing local labour.
3. To preserve our important buildings. The developers had wanted to knock down Druids Cross, designed by Harvey Lonsdale Elmes, 1847, architect of St. George's Hall. The Gateacre Society together with the Woolton Society had worked hard to save this building and laurels should be shared by Mrs. Lewis and Miss Gnosspelius.

The Society is becoming known by local schools as the source of knowledge of local history. The Director of Education and the Chief Inspector had bought our publications but we need to educate the Lord Mayor.

1983 will be a year of consolidation. We hope to solve the problem of the land at York Cottages - perhaps with money from the Inner Area Partnership.

The Chairman thanked the Committee, the Vice-Chairman who is always ready to leap into the breach, the Treasurer and especially the Hon. Secretary for her boundless energy. He also thanked the Gateacre Institute and friends at the Gateacre Chapel, especially Mr. Lionel Shepherd.

6. Election of Officers. There were no nominations from the floor.

Chairman - Mr. G. A. McCann proposed by Mrs. Lewis, seconded by Miss Heyworth.

Vice-Chairman - Mr. T. Brakell proposed by Miss Gnosspelius, seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Hon. Secretary - Mrs. S. Lewis proposed by Miss Gnosspelius, seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Hon. Treasurer - Miss E. Heyworth proposed by Miss Gnosspelius, seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Assistant Hon. Secretary - Miss A. Lythgoe proposed by Miss seconded by Mr. Roberts.

All were elected nem. con.

7. Election of Committee.

A nomination was received for Miss Beswick, proposed by Mrs. Lewis, seconded by the Rev. Daphne Roberts and elected nem. con.

A nomination was received for Miss Borrowscale, proposed by Mr. Brakell, seconded by Mrs. Lewis and elected nem. con.

The other members of the Committee, being willing to continue to serve the Society in this way, were re-elected en bloc, this being proposed by Mr. Houghton and seconded by Miss Cohen.

8. Any other business.

Mr. Norman Jaques asked about our relationship with local government representatives - how did we decide what was our

business and what was ours ? The Chairman said that it was really a question of what were amenity matters. Our Councillors were, on the whole co-operative and we also appreciate co-operation from officials.

Mr. Purslow wondered if we could do anything about getting the trees overhanging Gateacre Brow cut back. The Secretary said these trees were in private gardens which made this problem difficult. Much tree work was needed in the Village, but the Dept. of Recreation and Open Spaces seemed to be perpetually short of money.

The Rev. John Roberts expressed thanks to the Committee for the great enthusiasm put into their work, and he mentioned the excellent exhibition at Gateacre Comprehensive School which too few members had seen. He also suggested that perhaps the Society might feel it a good idea to make a small Christmas gift to the most efficient road sweeper, who had done such a good job in the Village for the last 12 months or so and deserves encouragement. Mr. Shepherd agreed to find out the name of the road sweeper.

The disused Railway Line was mentioned, it is still causing a considerable amount of nuisance. What is the score on making it an amenity as opposed to an annoyance ? The Chairman said that the County Planning Officer was proposing a further meeting before anything was done. He added that the problem of noisy motorbikes can be dealt with by the Environmental Health Officer.

Mrs. Bee said that in this connection, Mrs. Doman had asked us to publicise the Noise Abatement Department at Brougham Terrace tel: 263 - 5511; the Chairman asked members to pass this information around.

Miss Boswick asked about Life Membership subscriptions - the Chairman replied that this cost £20.

Mr. Purslow suggested using some of our money for a seat on the Green. The Secretary said there would be a danger of vandalism, and a better site might be the Rees Jones corner of Lower Sandfield.

The Vice Chairman spoke of the generosity of the Chapel in allowing us the use of the Chapel Hall, but went on to say that now we should pay a proper fee. It was agreed that this be discussed with the Chapel Committee and put on a more business-like basis.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

NOTE: We apologise for a mistake on the first page of these Minutes but the stencil was on the duplicator before it was noticed - Miss Borrowscale is down as a Committee member when in fact she was not elected to the Committee until later in the proceedings.

S.M.L.