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WARDLE SOCIETY.

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 1994.

Present: A.Lines, M.Pearson, S.Lear, M.Fitton, B.Clifton, E.Holt, J.Roberts, C.Lord, C.Darnbrough, I.Rhodes, A.Southerton, Cllrs.Wright and Dearnley. Community Policeman PC Hutchins and 3 residents.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

MATTERS ARISING.

1. Commemorative Wood. A very poor turnout of members to plant trees; the remainder were planted by the warden, Roger Kennedy. We need to establish how many trees are spare as the wood area is now full.

2. Village Green. Preliminary work has been done by Direct Services, and large trees planted by the Scouts. Volunteers are now needed for fencing and later shrub planting. Alex Marr (Groundwork Trust) will contact us regarding dates.

A sign for the Village Green has been made by Tom Seed.

3. Township Sub-committee Meeting, 17th. Feb: follow-up.

(a) Library Ramp. John Percival (CS Manager - Pennine), has a budget estimate of £600. He is also seeking agreement in principle from the landlord's agent, as planning permission is required. Funding could come from the Township Fund as a "one-off".

(b) Playgrounds Safety Report. A copy has been obtained from the Council. The main observations about the Clough Street and Wardle Road sites were that the equipment is old, but can be serviced and retained, but the playing surface needs to be replaced by impact-absorbing material. (Report available for inspection).

(c) Footpaths. (1) Groundwork Trust will improve the Wardle Road/Ashbrook Hey path. (2) Fly-tipping behind Shaftsbury Drive has been examined by Footpaths Officer. It has occurred but not caused a blockage, and the situation will be monitored. (letter 7/3/94).

4. Church Pew. Letter sent to Mr.Coles, thanking him for renovating the pew. A brass plaque will be ordered by S.Lear and fixed to the pew.

5. Gritting. Letter received from Mr.Fish, Contract Manager (Winter Maintenance) who is going to raise the matter of the inefficiency of the high-speed gritting vehicles at the next Contracts review meeting.

Mr.Fish will inspect the 3 sites for the grit bins to see if they meet the current criteria.

6. Environment Week. We shall contact NW. Rivers Authority for their assistance in cleaning the debris below the waterfall on Knowl Syke brook and at Wardle Fold on Wardle brook.

7. Heritage Days. M.Fitton will contact the Tannery (Isherwoods) to see if they would be willing to take part (10/11 Sept.).

Treasurer's Report.

		Balance at 3/3/94	574.99
		Received: Trees (28.0)	
		Tree A/C Int(0.69)	
		Refreshments(1.50)	<u>30.19</u>
			605.18
		Expenditure:Trees(70.50)	
		Sundries(2.13)	<u>72.63</u>
			<u>532.55</u>
N.R.B.S	Tree A/C	77.38	
	Soc. A/C	<u>429.02</u>	
		506.40	
Cash on hand	Trees	22.00	
	Society	<u>4.15</u>	
		<u>532.55</u>	

Membership as last month: 78.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

1. Agenda 21. This is concerned with environmental protection at local, national and global levels. At the last Pennine Township Sub-committee meeting it was decided that representatives from 3 local community groups should form an Environmental Forum to bring together local environment actions/information. At the meeting it was made plain that these groups are already carrying out this type of work. These groups are: Wardle Society, Littleborough Civic Society and Littleborough Action Group.

2. Planning application D30533, for a detached bungalow and garage in the R.H. field up from Wardle Fold off Bank Barn Lane. It was decided to oppose this application on the grounds that the land is greenbelt, presently used for sheep farming. Furthermore, the committee feels that we should adopt, in principle, the policy of opposing ANY development locally on existing greenbelt land. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

3. Police Matters.

(a) Report from PC Hutchins regarding successful prosecution of a local off-licence owner and assistants for selling alcohol to under-age customers (Total fine, £1625).

(b) Concern expressed by a member at the lack of police information during a noisy night-time police search and raid of a nearby house, resulting in elderly neighbours being frightened. PC Hutchins said that there was no opportunity to warn nearby residents, but will mention the problem to authority.

4. Old School Building. Rev. Neil Salt informs us that the Diocese are now handling the situation. A letter will be sent from the Society to the Secretary of the Manchester Diocese, asking for us to be kept informed, and stating that we feel that the building should be retained as having local historical value in a conservation area.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Date of the next meeting: THURSDAY 5th. MAY at 7.45p.m in the Library.