

## WARDLE CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th. March 1996

Present: M. Pearson; S. Lear; J. Rickards; J. Roberts; A. Lines; I. Rhodes; A. Southerton; Mr. Tim Woods (R.M.B.C.); P.C. Keith Hutchins; J. Bracegirdle; C. Barlow.  
Councillors A. Dearnley and B. Wright arrived later due to council meeting.

Apologies: H. Kenyon and B. Clifton

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved

### Matters Arising

#### 1. Footpaths

Mr. Tim Wood, Footpaths Officer, Technical Services, R.M.B.C., attended and gave an outline of the footpaths in Rochdale, covering 400 miles throughout the borough.

In 1994 a borough-wide Footpaths Review was carried out; in the Wardle area alone 108 blockages (50% thought to be deliberate) and 30 missing Footpath signs (16% of the boro' total) were identified. Most are still awaiting clearance or replacement. Funding for footpaths accounts for less than 1% of the Highways Budget. Bids for funding are also made to the Countryside Commission.

The current map in use is that of 1986 (the 1986 G.M.C MAP is not used). A new map is being prepared by the council, not yet legally accepted, which will be on computer in order for "blow ups" of specific areas to be made, and a database for complaints.

A Footpaths Consultative Group is to be set up by the council with input from 5 user groups, in order to improve access by ramblers, cyclists, horseriders and off-road vehicle drivers.

Specific footpath problems were discussed and reported to Mr. Woods. These included P.F. Moorgate and P.F. Pemmin via East Top Farm and barn to Shore, which are thought to be blocked. Legal enforcement is not practical: results in £10 fine only: Council prefers to write to landowner and threaten council removal and subsequent billing unless owner removes blockage forthwith: usually works.

The Society can help to keep footpaths open by the following:-

- a) report footpath blockages/loss of signs
- b) walk footpaths with map provided by council.

\*At our next meeting we shall discuss the proposed walking of the Pemmin/East Hill to Shore route.\*

c) possible application to the Pennine Township Fund for funding to replace missing signs under an ACCESS INITIATIVE. The Committee agreed to make application for the June 96 deadline.

#### 2. St. James' Church building.

a) Letter received by Cllr. Dearnley from Diocese Secretary relating to problems arising from removal of slates from this listed building and response by council and cllr. Dearnley. Suggests arranging meeting in near future for all parties concerned.

*Architectural* b) Heritage Group Meeting by councillors to be held 8/3/96.  
Cllr. Dearnley will report to our next meeting.\*

#### 3) Water Treatment House Planning application.

No response from N.W.W.A. Ltd. to request for amendments to Planning Dept., so was not included on agenda for recent Pennine Planning meeting.

### Secretary's Report.

Civic Trust briefing papers received;

- a) Summer Fundraising Event to be discussed at our next meeting. \*Last year a "coffeethon" was held: 50% of profits go to the Soc. of Civic Societies. The event to be held round about the 13th. July 1996.
- b) National Springclean 12 to 23 April: to be discussed at our next meeting\*

Treasurer's Report 7.3.96

Girobank deposit account (Tree fund)		175.35
(Society)		124.67
		300.02
Girobank current account		229.45
Cash on hand		17.52
		<u>546.99</u>
Balance at 4.1.96		542.75
Received: Coffee money	1.40	
Membership	4.00	
Photocopying	2.00	
Trees	5.00	12.40
		<u>555.15</u>
Expenditure: Stamps	2.28	
Telephone	50	
Milk	29	
Envelopes	1.30	
Card & gift	3.79	8.16
		<u>546.99</u>

Membership: 55

Annual renewal of registration fee for Civic Trust now due. Cost has risen slightly to £21.90 (based on number of members). Committee approved payment.

Any Other Business.

*Branches, Christian Fellowship*

1) "Ark Bus" (Methodist mission to Youth): siting of bus in Wardle Square again generating problems of rowdiness by large groups of local youth remaining after the departure of the bus. Complaints by local residents resulted in a meeting being organised by Cllr. Wright for parties concerned, at Littleborough Police Station on 4th. March. Attended by chairman Jane Rickards and 3 committee members of Wardle Civic Society, Cllrs Rodney Stott and Beryl Wright, residents of Cornbrook Close, Community Police, Howard Smith and 5 other members of the Methodist Mission. After discussion it was agreed that the bus would no longer be sited in Wardle Square or Cornbrook Close but would return to its old site on Birch Road, away from residential buildings.

2) Polling Day for local Councillors will be Thursday 2nd. May. The library will not be available for our meeting on that day. The meeting for May will take place the following week, on Thursday the 9th. May. 1996.

3) Work to clear the blocked footpath giving access to the recreation ground between 11/13 Alpine Drive will commence this coming weekend.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

The date of our next meeting will be Thursday 4th. April 1996 at 7.30pm.