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The Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of The Hadstock Society
held at 8 p.m. on Friday, 24th November, 1972, in the Village Hall.

Mr. R. Amsden took the Chair. Miss Croxson-Smith acted as Secretary.
34 people were present.

A summary of the notes taken at the meeting on 23rd October was read.

Mr. Amsden welcomed everyone to the meeting. The steering committee suggested that all meetings of the Society should be open to all and that non-resident landowners should be allowed to join. The committee also recommended the Civic Trust's draft constitution with registration with the Civic Trust and the Charities Commission.

Miss Croxson-Smith took the Chair.

Election of Chairman: Mr. R. Amsden was proposed by Mrs. Simons & seconded by Mrs. Bruno. As no-one else was prepared to stand, Mr. Amsden was declared elected and resumed the Chair.

Election of Secretary: Miss Croxson-Smith was proposed by Mrs. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Evans and elected.

Election of Treasurer: Mr. R. Nokes was proposed by Mr. J. Crawley, seconded by Mr. Abrey & elected.

Election of Members of the Executive Committee: The steering committee recommended about 8 members. Mrs. Simons, Mr. J. Crawley, Mr. J. Neale and Mr. R. Wood were proposed by Mr. A. Simons & seconded by Mr. G. Abrey; Mr. L. Davey was proposed by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. B. Marshall; Mr. G. Abrey was proposed by Mr. Crawley, seconded by Mrs. Evans; Mr. D. R. Stewart was proposed by Mrs. Bruno, seconded by Mr. R. Charles; Mrs. Freda Swann was proposed by Mrs. L. Davey, seconded by Mr. Crawley; Mr. Evans was proposed by Mrs. Amsden, seconded by Mrs. Stewart. All 9 nominated were elected to form the Committee.

Subscription: The steering committee recommended a minimum subscription of 10p. a year, which would not prevent anyone from joining, & hoped that some donations would be forthcoming to get the Society started. It was proposed by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Evans and carried by 22 votes to 4, that the minimum subscription should be 10p. and that collections should be taken at all meetings.

A proposition by Mr. Simons that old-age pensioners should pay 5p. was defeated (only 4 in favour). It would be necessary to raise some money by other means.

The Chairman asked for ideas for projects. The Parish Council had obtained a preservation order on the trees in the Rectory grounds: trees could be cut down by agreement. An order on individual trees means that any felled must be replaced.

A County Council official had offered to give a talk on tree planting for the future - 1973 is tree-planting year.

Mr. Evans said that Brig. Collins would come to talk about the new local government but if we could muster a good audience.

Mrs. Evans hoped we could hear something about the sort of development that would be suitable.

Mr. Stewart said this was difficult although there were certain principles. The Survey should include a questionnaire to everyone asking what they wanted in Hadstock.

Mr. Amsden quoted a newspaper article about urban houses in villages, over-restored cottages, & people who wanted the fields but not the farmer.

Mr. Marshall hoped that there would be a good majority in committee for controversial decisions and that major issues could be put to a general meeting.

Mr. Neale suggested that members should be enlisted to help with the Survey.

It was agreed that a Survey was urgently needed; in spite of the County Council's planning principles, Chelmsford was more interested in conservation of areas under threat of development & look what they had done elsewhere! The County planners would be glad if we would do our own plan & survey & were prepared to help with maps etc. The survey should include some history of the village & a set of photographs should go into the Archives.

The Chairman said that a footpath to Linton was urgently needed & as the cost of piping & covering the ditch would be prohibitive, Mr. John Crowley had offered to allow a temporary path just inside his fields. To prevent establishment of a permanent right of way, it might be necessary to close it once a year. There would be

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some problems such as a route round the Bungalow. A plan for a permanent path could be incorporated in the Survey to make the Council think again but meanwhile safety was an urgent consideration. A vote of thanks to Mr. Crawley was carried unanimously. It was proposed by Mr. Simons, seconded by Mrs. Bruno, & agreed that the committee should look into this and call on members to form a working party. Mrs. Dawson asked if it was necessary for the Council Sweeper lorry to empty rubbish on to the tree-planted area on the aerodrome. It was agreed that the Clerk to the Parish Council should be asked to write a letter of protest about this.

The meeting continued after a short break for refreshments. Mr. Stewart suggested that children could be asked to help with the Survey.

It was agreed that money-raising would have to be considered and that the Society must help other organisations with their events.

Mrs. Helen Davey asked if the Society could do anything about a bus shelter for the schoolchildren.

It was agreed that the Committee should consider this. Previously sites had been turned down for safety reasons but there might be other possibilities, such as further up the Barklow road.

The Chairman suggested that a footpath from the Rectory to the aerodrome might be considered later on. The committee would try to arrange a programme of meetings & working parties. Committee meetings would be announced on the noticeboard & members could attend: it might be possible to have an open session at the end.

In reply to a question, it was stated that it was too late now to restore the old common.

A committee meeting was arranged for 8 p.m. on Friday, 8th December, in the Village Hall.

R. C. Anderson
21 December 1973