

Monday September 18th 1961

A meeting of the Committee was held at Hadham Hall School on Monday Sept 18th.

The President was in the chair, nine members were present. Dr. Ferguson & Lord Gerard had sent their apologies. The treasurer was absent.

As this meeting had been called to inquire into our financial position Mr Rowles the Societies Auditor had been co-opted onto the committee for the evening.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed.

The Secretary then reported on the circumstances which led to the calling of this meeting, which is given here in full.

"You will all know the reason for calling this meeting. There are only a few shillings left in our banking account"

"You may or may not know that last year the Treasurer made an attempt on his life which nearly came off. Several members know of this, and I was told there were money problems.

and I assume other members knew of this also.

"This lapse was not talked about, and for my part I assumed that he was sick through over work and money problems. I was therefore glad when I knew that the Committee had agreed to let him remain as treasurer, I thought you had confidence in him and that our confidence would help him regain his health and I admired him for carrying on."

"I am afraid that I was mistaken. Early this year Mr Pullen collected some subscriptions (how much I do not know) I collected a number amounting to £2-5-0 and £1-10-0 which Hadham Hall school paid as half cost of hiring a film which we jointly hired."

"Later in the year we hired a coach for the outing to Peaback on which Mr Pullen collected the fares."

"About the beginning of June I began to have my doubts about the state of our finances, Biss Bros were sending the account through to me for hire of the coach which I thought had been paid. Later I had pressing letters from Ellis & Phillips for printing the Spring Programme in January. I tried to contact the Treasurer without much success so I left notes at his home requesting payment of these

accounts together with an account from Boardman for Books."

"At the end of June these accounts were still not paid and as I wished to hire another coach for Pampisford Hall I visited Miss Bros and apologised for the delay in settling this account and explained that the account should have been sent to the Treasurers. The manager told me that if they had known that Mr Pullen was hiring the coach they would not have accepted the booking. However I promised that I would get the account paid, and again visited Pullen who not being at home I left the accounts with his wife. This had the desired effect of getting these two accounts paid."

"Towards the end of August Mrs Pullen called to see me, and said that her husband had left her and that she feared he had taken over money too."

"I immediately went to see Mr Grauford as past Treasurer but he was on holiday so I went to see the President Mr Douglas and explained the position. The President visited the bank and examined the account, and found there was nothing

left. The President spoke to Mr Hick who volunteered to examine the accounts. Mr Hick spent a long time in trying to make an account up from the reports of balances from the A.G.M.

"When this statement is presented by Mr Hick you will observe that the moneys had all gone by the end of 1957. and that sums had been borrowed as early as 1955 two years after he had taken office."

The Secretary concluded by saying, "We have called this meeting to consider what action must be taken to pay outstanding debts, to meet future commitments to decide when & how to tell our members of this loss and how to recover the monies lost."

The President then called on Mr Hick to tell the meeting the results of his investigation. Mr Hick then reported how he had, obtained a copy of our bank account from the Bank, our savings account which should have shown a balance of about £100 had only 9^s 3^d left in it, and the ^{current} ~~deficit~~ account £1.17.4. The savings account appeared to have been correctly bundled up to the 2nd April 1955 when £34 was removed, another £6 was taken on April 21st and on May 1st £40 was paid in presumably to

balance the account. £16 was again removed on July 18th 1955 and repaid on Sept 23. Then in 1956 sums of £10 in Jan £10 in Feb £7 in March £15 in April and £2 in Feb 1957 were taken and these sums had not been repaid, besides this loss there was also the loss of interest to be taken into account.

During all these years the Treasurer had given his account at the A.G.M. stating the balance that should have been in the bank, in other words his statement to us at the A.G.M. had been entirely fictitious.

Regarding the current account Mr Hick said that at the A.G.M. of 1955 the balance as stated by the Treasurer was given as £7.16.10 this agreed with the bank statement and the £7.00 voted by this meeting was transferred to the savings account. In 1956 the balance was shown as 7⁹/₄^d 1957 the balance was reported as £6.5.10 while the statement still showed 7/4, this balance was the same in 1958 and 1959 but in 1959 the balance was stated to be £2.10.0 and in 1960 the balance was given as £2.8.6 and the Bank Statement showed £1.17.4. None of the transfers voted at the A.G.M's had been transferred

since the £7. in 1955.

Mr Hick estimated our loss to be in the region of £100.

Mr Rowles reported that the accounts had been presented to him for audit usually on the evening before the A.G.M. after a phone call from the Treasurer asking ~~him~~ to see him.

As far as the savings account was concerned Mr Rowles stated that he did not realize that we had one or that if it had been mentioned the Treasurer had stated that as far as he was concerned the savings account to him was a dead account.

The Committee then considered what action should be taken, it was agreed that nothing could be done to appoint a temporary Treasurer until the forthcoming A.G.M. The President said that he would be prepared to be responsible for any outstanding debts and for forthcoming expenditure. This offer was gratefully accepted. There being only one small account outstanding for the printing of the Summer programme. There was some money owing to Mr Fielding, and another amount to Mr Douglas which had been paid in respect of the hire of a film during the spring session. As far as forthcoming expenditure was concerned there would

be hostage on the Autumn programme, and hire of the Room at the High School.

It was proposed that Mr Pullen be asked for an explanation of his actions, and a letter was drafted in firm but polite language requesting him to explain the deficiency, and to return to us all the papers appertaining to the Society, as he no longer appeared to be performing his duties as treasurer. It was agreed that a date must be stressed by which time these papers must arrive and he was asked to do this within 10 days, and therefore another committee meeting was arranged for Monday 2nd October same time same place.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that nothing more should be done to fix a date for an Extraordinary Meeting, or for recovering the money lost until Mr Pullen had replied to our letter. This matter was then considered closed and the meeting then made final arrangements for the Autumn Programme.

The Society is deeply indebted to Mr & Mrs Douglas for once again allowing us the use of their home for these meetings and for the warm welcome

Spogly and hospitality with which it is accompanied.

Spogly
President.

Monday October 2nd 1961.

A Committee Meeting was held at Hadlum Hall School on Monday October 2nd 1961 at 7-45 P.M. There was a full attendance of the Committee with the exception of the Treasurer. The President was in the chair.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Arising from the Minutes the President said that he had received from Mr Pallen a parcel containing a lot of papers appertaining to the treasurership. Mr Douglas stated that he had only had a cursory look at these papers and that the Meeting would be given a chance during the evening to examine them in detail, and he hoped Mr Hick would then take them away to make a thorough examination in connection with the preparation of the accounts. The President also stated that this parcel had crossed in the post.



*Field trip to Ivinghoe Beacon. 14/6/58.
The infamous Treasurer Pullen is far left and
Lord Gerard far right.*