Inaugural Meeting held at Blossoms Hotel Chester
April 11th at 7.45 PM 1961

A meeting to inaugurate a Society for the preservation of footpaths in the western part of Cheshire was held in the Blossoms Hotel, Chester on April 11th. Alderman Rev E J Lawson took the chair and there were present representatives of Parish Councils, and the Press, and members of the public.

The Chairman in his opening address stated that County Councils were obliged to prepare a Definitive Map of the rights of way in their Counties and though the date when this should have been done had passed, Cheshire had not yet prepared theirs. There was a need to complete the location of footpaths and then to preserve them by using them.

Mr A Embleton, President of the Rambler's Association spoke on the enjoyment to be obtained from the countryside and on the need to protect it from exploitation and vandalism. He endorsed the difficulty of keeping footpaths open without constant use.

Mr. J G Baker told the meeting that the Draft Map of footpaths had been produced and that hearings were now being held about disputed paths. It would be a couple of years before the Definitive Map could be issued.

During a discussion lasting fifteen minutes the Chairman stated that most Parish Councils were desirous of preserving their footpaths.

It was resolved to form an organisation for the preservation of public rights of way and it was proposed by Mr G D R Price and seconded by Mr G W Alderton that it should be called the "Mid Cheshire Footpath Society", and it was left to the Committee to draw up a draft constitution for submission to a general meeting to be held in about six months time.

It was agreed that the Society should cover those parts of Cheshire not covered by the Wirral and Peak District Footpath Societies, and one of the main tasks of the Society would be to walk the paths in the area as much as possible but that the Society would not organise rambles.

A committee was appointed to work out the organisation and programme

and to report to the proposed General Meeting, consisting of:—

M^r J G Baker: Representing the Liverpool Ramblers Association
and Convener of Committee

M^r A V^c G Walsh: Hon Membership Secretary & Treasurer CHF & HF

M^r J G Williams Representing the Cheshire Rambling Club

M^r T L Cottier

M^r K S Lyons

M^r G D R Price

M^r A Smith

M^r R W C Wood

21- was proposed by M^r J G Williams and seconded by M^r J Kirk that the subscription be 5/- for individuals and

10/- for family membership: husband, wife & children not gainfully employed

10/- for corporate members: clubs, other amenity societies, parish councils etc.

J G Baker