

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting at the Village Hall at

8 pm on Friday 24 October 1986

1 To approve the Minutes of the Annual general Meeting held on 18th October and discuss any matters arising. The Minutes have been circulated .

2 To receive and approve the Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st October 1985 to - 30th September 1986 herewith.

3 To discuss the Committee's report on the year – herewith.

4. To approve an amended constitution - circulated.

5 To elect a new Committee – see note below.

6 Any other business.

NOTE

The constitution specifies a Committee of not more than 12 and not less than 8. There are currently 12 but two of these are not standing for re-election. Two fresh nominations have been forthcoming in response to the Secretary's letter of 25th September, Mr Roger Purcell of 7 School Hill and Mr Michael Smith of Brookhouse Farm, Kingsfold.

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting 24th October 1986 – report by the Committee on the past twelve months

Membership

In the course of the year the membership of the Society has increased from 93 to 120. This counts husbands and wives who are joint members as two, which is reasonable considering they both have voting rights. The number of households in membership is 72. The Committee remain very conscious of the need to increase membership substantially if the Society's voice is to carry weight in matters which affect the village and all members are earnestly requested to do what they can to encourage others to join. Enquiries about membership please, to the Secretary or Treasurer - see telephone numbers on last page of this report.

Neighbourhood Watch

In response to a request by the Parish Council, the Committee organised a public meeting on 18th April to explain and launch a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Warnham. The response at that meeting from the older part of the village (and from one or two outlying hamlets) was favourable and with the co-operation of the Police, volunteer "co-ordinators" were designated for Church Street (Mr and Mrs Winwood), Friday Street east end (Mr. Park), Friday Street west end (Mr Birchall), Bell Road (Mr. Dawson), School Hill and the houses around the Green (Mr. Arliss), Station Road (Mrs Turner) and Kingsfold (Mr. Weston). Most houses in these areas now display the "Neighbourhood Watch" sticker in the window which may be said to be the badge of membership. So far as the other parts of the village are concerned, ie mainly Holland Way, Tilletts Lane and the Lucas Road area, the response at the meeting was disappointing, no co-ordinators were forthcoming, and action has been limited to distributing the leaflet in all houses but to date no further interest has been shown. Enquiries about extending the scheme to these or other (eg outlying areas should be made to Dick Bensted-Smith.

So Warnham, or at least parts of it, now has Neighbourhood Watch but of course the extent to which it is effective will depend on the alertness of individual householders and on good two-way communications between household, co-ordinator and police. This is not a field where the Society can accept responsibility though it will no doubt continue to take an interest in the scheme.

Planning Matters

In accordance with the mandate given at the last annual General Meeting, the Society made representations at the appeal stage against the Field Place planning application ("Life Care Village") the hearing of which took place on 3rd/5th December. In addition to the written representations, Gerald McMullen and Robert Courtier both made verbal statements, something of an ordeal since both were subject to cross-examination. As members are aware, the outcome was that the appeal was turned down, but it is now understood that the appellants have taken the

unusual step of taking the matter to the High Court.

A watch has been kept on all planning applications throughout the year but the only one where the Society has seen fit to make adverse representations was the big retail development (WN 11/86) proposed for Broadbridge Heath in addition to the new Tesco.

As to the creation of a detailed structure plan for the village, it has not been possible to make any significant progress in the course of the year on this project which was always regarded as long-term.

The Parish Council has recently been pressing the Horsham District Council for the extension of the conservation area to include the cricket field, the approach to the village from the north and south and certain other areas not now covered. The Society welcomes this initiative by the Parish Council.

The newly-planted oak trees

The oak trees planted by the British Legion in the autumn of 1984 and for which the Society accepted responsibility during their tender infancy have almost all survived their second summer and are flourishing and the critical period may now be supposed to be over. Information regarding the few dead trees and missing covers was supplied to the Parish Council whose responsibility the replacement is believed to be, but the original coverage was probably sufficiently generous to permit a few casualties. Thanks are due to those members of the Society who accepted responsibility for individual trees during the critical period.

Best Kept Village Competition

Any disappointment which may have been felt at Warnham receiving no more than another certificate of merit in this event was more than made up for by our victory for the second year running in the "Superclean" competition. This is the competition, judged simultaneously with the BKVC, for which West Sussex County Council offer a prize of £150 for the most litter-free village in the county. This repeat performance is a remarkable achievement and particularly satisfying to the Society, which at its inception took on responsibility for the organisation of the village's efforts in the BKVC. Credit and thanks are due to Olive Thornton for spear-heading the effort, and also of course to the many (not all members of the Society) who have helped in various ways, not forgetting Miss Milford and the children of Warnham Primary School for the excellent anti-litter posters. Of course the biggest prize for all this is the enjoyment for all of living in a cleaner Village.

It is hoped that the prize money will be presented at this AGM by Councillor Mrs Mary Lockner, the chairman of West Sussex County Council's Coast and Countryside Committee. Incidentally last year's money was spent on four benches round the cricket field, three of which are installed and the fourth expected shortly.

The Society has decided to demonstrate its involvement in this competition and in the anti-litter campaign generally by sponsoring two litter bins which will bear our name. These are to be

provided by the Horsham District Council at the Society's expense and should be in position shortly at either end of Holland Way. They were financed by a "Bring and Buy" at Glebe End, Church Street on 2nd May (the "coffee morning" referred to in the accounts) organised by the ladies of the Committee.

Traffic in Warnham

The initial approach to West Sussex County Council on the central issue - the desirability of reducing or at least containing the large amount of through traffic – was made by letter to the County Engineer and Surveyor on 17th December and the pressure has been steadily maintained in correspondence since then. We have emphasised our contention that the completion of the Horsham Northern Bypass will make things worse unless "traffic management" measures are taken meanwhile to deter through traffic. eg: prohibiting the right turn from the A24 at Knob Hill for all traffic except buses, with a complementary measure at Warnham Road, Broadbridge Heath to make the through movement less attractive. Force was added to the argument by a traffic survey conducted by members of the Committee which quantified and analysed the traffic passing through the village between 7. 50 am and 9 am on 25th November and which showed that about half of this traffic did not stop in the village.

Understandably in view of the constraints under which he operates it has proved difficult to convince the County Surveyor that immediate radical action is justified. Priority for this type of work is afforded to those areas with poor accident records and fortunately we have had no major accidents in the village. The most that the County Surveyor has been prepared to concede is that our suggestions for traffic management will be looked at when the Horsham Northern Bypass is in operation. There have however been other minor gains, e.g. a promise to review current direction signing, and also to give attention to condition of verges at locations indicated by the Society. It begins to look as if the best way of making progress is to accept a recent offer of a meeting with Council officers but it is now understood that the Parish Council have themselves been in touch with the County on some of these or related issues and since it is desirable that Warnham should speak with one voice, an exploratory letter has been written to the Parish Council (29th September) and it is not proposed to make further representations at County Hall until the Society has the Parish Council's reply to that letter.

In the letter of 29th September the Society has also responded to the Parish Council's invitation (September Warbler) to comment on the vexed question of double yellow lines for Church Street. Your Committee is not in favour of double yellow lines down the whole of one side of Church Street, this for a variety of reasons but principally because it would encourage speeding – which incidentally is another important topic we would wish to raise at County Hall with one or two practical suggestions. However the Committee does consider, and has so informed the Parish Council, that double yellow lines are necessary on safety grounds (a) at the junction of Bell Road and Church Street and (b) at the junction of Hollands Way and Church Street and in the latter case

on both sides of the road. It is believed that the Parish Council now go along with this and are recommending accordingly to the County Engineer and Surveyor.

In all those matters the Society is greatly indebted to Mr Roger Purcell who is not a member of the Committee but whose expertise has been at the Committee's disposal and who has conducted the correspondence with the County Engineer and Surveyor and with the Parish Council, on the Society's behalf.

Maintenance of Footpaths

At the Society's spring meeting in April, Mrs Stanford on behalf of the Parish Council asked certain members of the Society who were known to be walkers if they would provide information as to the state of various paths. It is understood that this was part of a comprehensive survey by the Parish Council of the local rights of way network. Three members of the Committee - Rosemary Ashton, Harry Parr and Richard Overton – responded to the request and it is possible that other members of the Society did so too. Presumably where the survey has shown deficiencies to exist - e.g. paths overgrown, broken stiles etc — the necessary remedial action will be taken in due course.

The old Harben Estate Laundry at "Naboths", Northlands Road

"Naboths" has recently changed hands and in September the Society ascertained that the items of equipment constituting the old laundry have been offered to the Chalk Pits Museum at Amberley and will be displayed in due course. This news will be of interest to those who remember the laundry and the part it played in the life of the village.

BBC Domesday Project

In the Autumn of 1985 about a million people (schoolchildren, WI members and various other groups) provided data for the above project for which the country was divided into 25,000 blocks, each four kilometres by three in area. The Warnham Society was invited to "survey" one of these, a block just south of Oakwood Hill, ie to furnish details of the various land cover in the block and to do an "amenity count". Richard Overton took this on. The final product nationally, a new electronic "Domesday Book" in video—disc form, should be complete very shortly, and full details have been promised in the Radio Times.

Relations with other bodies

The Society attaches great importance to having good relations with the Warnham Parish Council. Members of the Committee have attended meetings of that Council as and when possible throughout the year.

Satisfactory liaison has been maintained with West Sussex County Council (principally on traffic matters) and with Horsham District Council. The Society is affiliated to the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies.

In November the Civic Trust invited the Society to register with it. The Civic Trust is the premier

national body for the encouragement of amenity societies and about 1,000 such bodies are so registered. It has considerable prestige and influence, and there are practical advantages too in registering with it, e.g. to information and advice. As members are aware, registration necessitates the amendment of our constitution but it is hoped to complete this formality at the present meeting and to register with the Trust immediately afterwards. There is no fee.

Publicity

The Society has used the hospitality of The Warbler's columns on a regular basis throughout the year for publishing news of its own activities, plus one or two items of general interest which might otherwise have gone unnoticed.

The Committee and its Chairman

The Committee has met eight times since the last Annual General Meeting. One of its early actions was to appoint Mr Gerald McMullen as its chairman. Members may like to be reminded of the names of the present committee members which, with their addresses, are as follows: -

Rosemary Ashton	5 Station Road	Tel 66723
Dick Bensted-Smith	5 Friday Street	63199
Patrick Board	53 Friday Street	67648
Robert Courtier	11 Friday Street	65053
Elizabeth Cox	Glebe End, Church Street	61711
Rosemary McLaughlin	Park View, Bell Road	65018
Gerald McMullen	Little Brookhall, Goose Green	64922
Reginald Melhuish	Ramblers, Friday Street	65605
Richard Overton*	5 School Hill	53679
Harry Parr	Court Cottage, Church Street	62309
Lorna Parr	"	"
Olive Thornton	44 Church Street	65565

(* Hon Secretary)

Of the above, Mr and Mrs Parr are not standing for re-election. Since Harry Parr is our Hon Treasurer this raises the question of a successor and as to this a verbal report will be made at the meeting.

WARNHAM SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1986

29.3.85 - 30.9.85

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions	156.00	135.00
Donation	10.00	-
Coffee Open Evening, less Expenses	-	1.59
Coffee Morning, less Expenses	131.52	-
Bank Deposit Interest	4.86	1.45
Sundry Income	9.23	-
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	311.61	138.04

PAYMENTS

Hire of Village Hall	12.00	8.20
Postage and Stationery	33.37	24.64
Poster Prizes	10.00	5.00
Sussex Amenity Society Subscription	10.00	10.00
Sussex Federation Subscription	-	4.00
A.G.M. Expenses (net)	13.27	6.50
Audit Fee	5.00	-
Sundry Expenses	5.79	-
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	89.43	58.34
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Excess of Receipts over Payments	222.18	79.70
<u>Add:</u> Funds Brought Forward:		
Bank - Deposit Account	64.51	
Cash in Hand	15.19	

	79.70	-
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Funds Carried Forward:		
Bank - Deposit Account	270.82	64.51
Cash in Hand	31.06	15.19
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	301.88	79.70
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I have prepared the above Receipts and Payments Account from the books and records produced to me by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H.J. Parr, and confirm that the account is in accordance therewith.

Andrew Frank

A.N.L. FRANK

5th October 1986

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General held in the Village Hall on 24th October 1986

Present: About 45 members

Chairman: Mr G. P. McMullen

1 Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all members present and to then for turning out on such a dirty night.

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th October 1985

All members present had a copy of these minutes. Mrs Mary Bond pointed out that the Council for the Protection of Rural England was wrongly described as the Council for the Preservation of Rural England in paragraph 5 of the minutes. Subject to the appropriate amendment the minutes were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

3 Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 30th September 1986

All members present had a copy of these accounts. The Chairman drew members' attention to the fact that though the account showed a balance of £301.88, £137.36 of this was earmarked for the two litter bins on order from the Horsham District Council.

On a proposition of Mr John Williams, seconded by Mrs Jean Burnham, the accounts were approved and there was no discussion arising.

4 Report by the Committee on the past twelve months

The Chairman invited comments on the report. Brigadier Maurice Hall referred to the paragraph on the newly-planted oak trees which stated that the critical period might now be supposed to be over and which he inferred to mean that the Society was relinquishing the responsibility it had accepted for the trees. He thought this would be premature and that some attention might be necessary for about five years so that the continued watchfulness of the Society would be welcome. The Chairman undertook that this would not be lacking.

Referring to the paragraph on maintenance of footpaths, Dr. Jeremy Drake enquired where the responsibility lay for putting right the deficiencies brought to light by the recent survey in which members of the Society had participated. The Chairman said it lay with the County Council which Mrs Jean Burnham confirmed on behalf of that Council though pointing out that this would take time since the various owners had to be contacted. The Chairman assured members that the Society would maintain its interest in the maintenance of footpaths.

The report was adopted after thanks to the Secretary for the detailed information given. The point was made, however, that it might have provoked more discussion if it had been circulated before the meeting.

5 The Amended Constitution

The letter of 25th September to members had explained that this was necessary in order to comply with certain requirements of the Civic Trust and the opportunity had been taken to make a couple of changes relating to subscriptions. On a proposition of Dr Jeremy Drake, seconded by Mr John Williams, the new constitution was unanimously adopted.

6 Election of a new Committee

The agenda explained the position relating to nominations. Ten out of the twelve existing members were willing to stand for re-election and had been duly nominated, the two exceptions being Mr and Mrs Harry Parr. Two fresh nominations had been forthcoming in response to the Secretary's letter of 25th September - Mr Roger Purcell and Mr Michael Smith. There were therefore twelve nominees for twelve vacancies, this being the maximum number of elected members which the constitution permitted. On a show of hands, these twelve nominees were unanimously elected. Their names are as follows:

Mrs R Ashton, Mr R B Bensted-Smith, Mr P A Board, Mr R H Courtier, Mrs A E Cox, Mrs R. R. McLaughlin, Mr G. P. McMullen, Mr R. E. Melhuish, Mr R C Overton, Mr R H Purcell, Mr M. Smith and Mrs O G. Thornton.

The Chairman thanked Harry Parr and Lorna Parr for the valuable contributions they had made to the Society since its inception. Since Harry was the Hon Treasurer a replacement would be necessary and had not yet been found . A volunteer would be welcome and he invited anyone who might be prepared to take this on to see him after the meeting or later.

7 Any other business - Warnham Mill Pond

Mrs Jean Burnham said that members of the Society would be interested to know that Horsham District Council had decided to purchase the Mill Pond as part of the new country park. This news was welcomed by all members present.

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The formal business of the evening thus being concluded there followed an informal and agreeable wine and cheese session during which two photographic exhibitions were on view – (1) presented by Mr Robert Courtier under the title "Environment Improvements" to illustrate some local eyesores but some good things too, and (2) some photographs taken by Mrs Olive Thornton of the old laundry at Naboths and its contents, which it was now known were definitely going to be taken over by the Chalk Pits Museum.