

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY
Annual General Meeting at the Village Hall
at 8 pm on Thursday 27th October 1988

AGENDA

1 To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd October 1987 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 1987 to 30th September 1988 - herewith.

3 To amend Clause 8 of the Constitution so as to rule out any officer serving for more than five years in any one term. The Clause as proposed for amendment (new words underlined) is set out in Note A below.

4 To elect a new Committee – see Note B.

5 To discuss the Committee's report on the year and any other business which members wish to raise. The report has been circulated.

Note A

"The Officers shall be appointed by the Committee and shall consist of a Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. In addition the Committee may appoint a Deputy Chairman, an Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Treasurer. No officer may serve for more than five years in any one term."

Note B

The Constitution specifies a Committee of not more than 12 and not less than 8. There are currently 12 (including one co-opted member) and no new nominations have been forthcoming in response to the Secretary's letter of 10th October.

WARNHAM SOCIETY

RECEIPT AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1988

		£	£
	Bank	397.17	
	Petty Cash	<u>13.76</u>	
			410.92
	Proceeds from Refreshments	26.15	
	Subscriptions	114.00	
	Donations	<u>33.00</u>	
			173.15
			<u>584.07</u>
	Postage & Stationery	50.62	
	Office	7.34	
	Refreshments	20.80	
	Music	27.39	
	Subscriptions	56.00	
	Use of Hall	24.00	
	Dinner Bins	174.80	
	Planning Lists	30.57	
	Bank Charges	<u>2.26</u>	
			393.78
			<u>£190.29</u>
	Bank	170.82	
	Petty Cash	19.47	
		<u>£190.29</u>	

NOT PREPARED SUBJECT TO AUDIT
30 SEPTEMBER 1988

J.M. WALKER
HONORARY TREASURER

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual general Meeting held in the Village Hall on 27th October 1988 at 8 pm

Present: About 45 members and others

Chairman: Mr R E Melhuish

1 Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all present. (The meeting had been preceded by an informal get-together at which refreshments had been served).

2 Minutes of the Annual general Meeting held on 22nd October 1987

All members had a copy of these minutes which were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

3 Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 30th September 1988

All members present had a copy of these accounts on which questions were invited but there were none. The Hon Treasurer, Mrs Jo Walker, explained that the accounts were still subject to formal audit. On a proposition of Mr John Williams, seconded by Mr Roy Boud, the accounts were approved.

4 Amendment of the Constitution

The proposal, of which due notice had been given, was to amend Clause 8 which deals with the appointment of officers. As explained to members in the letter dated 10th October it was a provision of the Society's original constitution that no officer should serve for more than three years but this was inadvertently omitted in the revision of 1986. The Committee considered that a time limit should be re-instated but that a five year maximum period was more appropriate. Also, as the Chairman explained, this longer limit would allow more time to find a replacement for the present Hon Secretary, Mr Richard Overton, who had now served for 3 1/2 years - though an early offer would still be very welcome.

On a proposition of Brigadier Maurice Hall, seconded by Mrs Olive Thornton, it was unanimously resolved to amend the constitution by the addition of the following words to Clause 8:-

"No officer may serve for more than five years in any one term."

5 Election of a new committee

The Chairman said that no new nominations had been received in response to the letter to members of 10th October. This was regrettable since new blood was always desirable, but fortunately all existing (twelve) members of the Committee were prepared to continue for another year. He went on to invite nominations from the body of the hall but there none. On a proposition of Mrs Dulcie Kup, seconded by Mr John Williams, these twelve were duly re-elected, there being no dissenters. Their names are as follows:

Mrs R Ashton, Mr R B Bensted-Smith, Mr P A Board, Mr R H Courtier, Sir James Dalrymple-Hay, Mr G. P. McMullen, Mr R E Melhuish, Mr R C Overton, Mr R H Purcell, Mr M V S Smith, Mrs O G Thornton and Mrs J M Walker.

6 Report by the Committee on the past twelve months

The Chairman said the report, which had been previously circulated to members, gave a good idea of the variety of the activities in which the Committee had participated during the year. Comment would be welcomed as it was Committee's wish to represent the views of the membership. The report was then discussed section by section, the following being the salient points raised:-

The Conservation Area

The Chairman said that he himself and Mr. Roger Purcell would be representing the Society on the joint working party with the Warnham Parish Council. If there were a Landscape Architect amongst the Society's membership, that third person would be welcome. He understood that the Parish Council would be nominating three people.

There was some discussion on the desirability of persuading the authorities to bury main electricity cables as had recently been done in West Chiltington, and the Chairman promised to pursue this further.

Traffic

The Chairman said that he had been asked by Mrs Jean Burnham on behalf of the District Planning Officer to put before the meeting the question of the future of Station Road and the railway crossing since a decision with regard to the possible permanent closure of the crossing now appeared to be imminent with the completion of the Horsham Northern Bypass, and the authorities had indicated that they would welcome local views before reaching a decision. Mrs Jean Burnham, confirming this, said she understood that West Sussex County Council wanted to keep the road open for through traffic but that British Rail (who owned it) wanted to close the crossing, so that the opinion of the village might have a bearing.

Mr Roger Purcell expressed the view that closure would be to the advantage of the Village,

greatly reducing through traffic and outweighing the loss in accessibility; in fact he foresaw no advantage to Warnham in the opening of the Bypass unless Station Road were closed to through traffic. Mrs Burnham said that she was concerned about the affect of the opening of the proposed Business Park at Langhurst unless Station Road were closed since this would result in greatly increased use by users of the park, and Mr Purcell suggested that the same applied to proposed residential developments in North Horsham. Mr and Mrs Tewkesbury suggested there would be an additional advantage in closure from the reduction of accidents at the dangerous junction with the A24. Mrs Rosemary Ashton, herself a resident of Station Road, said that she believed most of the residents were in favour of closure, though a few elderly residents liked to see the traffic go past. British Rail had written to each resident to invite individual replies. Mr Tewkesbury suggested that whether the crossing were permanently closed or not, British Rail would be obliged to maintain the eastern section for as long as the station remained because it gave access to the station car park.

On the strength of the arguments expressed and the general feeling of the meeting it was agreed that it would be appropriate to write to the authorities to say that the Warnham Society was solidly in favour of the closure of Station Road to through traffic.

Footpaths

Mrs Penny Bennett said that she was due to report the following day to Mr Marshall, West Sussex County Council's Rights of Way officer, on the subject of obstructions to local footpaths and bridleways and she hoped that anyone who had any complaints on this score would contact her immediately. With regard to bridleways, Mr Bill Bousfield said that it would be worth contacting local stables to find out if they had any complaints, and Mr Roy Boud, supported by Mrs Brenda Melhuish, said that the section of Bridleway No. 1433 running down from the junction with 1427 to Ends Place House was pretty well impassable to man or beast and asked whether something could be done. Mrs Jean Burnham said that Mr Marshall was helpful but his section was understaffed.

Gatwick Airport

There was considerable interest and a lively discussion on the subject of overflying on Warnham and much interest shown in the "Gatwick Airport Noiseline" leaflets which were distributed at the meeting. Mr Bill Bousfield considered that the predominant requirement was for quieter aircraft, but Mr Roger Purcell observed that aircraft, noisy or quiet, had no business to be over Warnham at all, which led to discussion of pilot's difficulties and the pre-eminent consideration of passenger safety, but the feeling was that, difficulties or no, it was for the villages affected to "fight their own corner" which meant supporting the efforts in this direction of the Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign, and making free use of the Gatwick Airport Noiseline.

Best Kept Village Competition

All present warmly congratulated Mrs Olive Thornton on Warnham's success in the competition by winning second prize in the large Village Section. Mrs Thornton said she was anxious about the threatened substitution of the present telephone boxes by new-style boxes, an appeal to English Heritage to apply for the listing of the box in Church Street having proved unsuccessful. The only chance now was to appeal to British Telecom. Everyone present was in favour of this approach and action was promised accordingly. The idea of an annual prize for the garden which had done most that year to enhance the street scene was well received by the meeting.

"Granny's Lane"

The proposal to press for the restoration of this old name for that stretch of Byfleets Lane which runs from Old Denne to the Broadbridge Heath Road near Field Place, was well received. Mr Bill Bousfield mentioned Sweep Lane as another possible candidate and Mr Roger Purcell referred to the case of "Threestile Lane" where only an objection from a householder (who was also a member of the Society) had prevented a similar representation being made.

7 Any other business – Youth in the village at a loose end

Mr Denis Dutton asked whether anything could be done to stop youngsters collecting at the War Memorial, next to the church, since their behaviour and language was giving considerable offence. Canon John Taylor agreed that the chosen venue was certainly inappropriate, there had been damage to the church wall and to the church itself as a result, and he for one would be relieved if they would take themselves off. But the youths had told him that they had been moved on from several other places, and there was in fact a very real difficulty in finding somewhere else for them to go. He himself, helped by PC Harper, was trying various positive ways of channelling the energies of youth at a loose end in Warnham with some success here and there but what was needed above all was somewhere where they could meet without causing offence, but in this respect all his suggestions had been met with objections. He had had one offer of a caravan, but the problem was where to put it. The cricket club had objected to having it anywhere on the outskirts of the field, and he was no about to enquire about the possibility of part of the Glebe field being used for this purpose. He considered that the Warnham Society should interest itself in this very real problem. Mr Bill Bousfield mentioned that prior to the Vicar's arrival he and one or two others had tried to organise something on a regular basis in the Parish Room, but this had not taken off.

8 Conclusion

The Chairman again thanked all present for coming along, and for participating in what he felt had been a successful meeting. He reiterated that the Committee (or any of its members) would always be pleased to hear from any member of the Society who had a point to make. It was the intention to hold another Spring Meeting and if any members had suggestions to make about the form this might take, this would be welcome. The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.