

Tel Horsham 53679

5 School Hill
Warnham
HORSHAM
West Sussex RH12 3QN
6th October 1989

Dear Member

The Warnham Society

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Village Hall at 8 pm on Friday, 27th October. A glass of wine (coffee also available) will be served before the meeting, ie from 7.30 pm. The business of the meeting is:

- (1) to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th October 1988 - herewith;
- (2) to receive audited statements of accounts which will be tabled;
- (3) to amend Clause 5 of the Constitution so as to make subscriptions due on 1st October yearly instead of 1st April as now;
- (4) to elect members of the Committee for the coming year; and
- (5) to discuss the Committee's report on the year - herewith — and any other business which members wish to raise.

With regard to (3) this is at the request of the Hon Treasurer, Mrs Jo Walker, for whom it will make life easier if the subscription year is identical with the Society's financial year.

Nominations are now invited for the new Committee and should reach me in writing not later than Wednesday 25th October each signed by a proposer and seconder. As you will see from the last paragraph of the Committee's report there are two vacancies and it is very desirable that these are filled.

Since there are items in the Committee's report which should be of general concern, this will be a public meeting and will be advertised by poster near the time.

Yours sincerely

R C Overton
Hon Secretary

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY
Annual General Meeting at the Village Hall
at 8 pm on Friday 27th October 1989

AGENDA

1 To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th October 1988 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 1988 to 30th September 1989 - herewith.

3 To amend Clause 5 of the Constitution so as to make annual subscriptions due on 1st October instead of 1st April. 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 "SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions shall be such reasonable sum as the Committee may determine from time to time but initially there shall be an annual subscription of £2, or £3 per couple, Senior Citizens to pay £1, or £1.50 per couple. Subscriptions shall be payable on becoming a member, and thereafter annually on 1st October. Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid six months after it is due."

Note B The Constitution specifies a Committee of not more than 12 and not less than 8. There are currently 11 and no new nominations have been forthcoming in response to the Secretary's letter of 6th October.

WARNHAM SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1989

		£	£
Balance b/f	Bank	170.82	
	Petty Cash	19.47	
		<hr/>	190.29
<u>Add Receipts</u>			
	Proceeds from Refreshments	16.60	
	Subscriptions	208.00	
	Donations	7.00	
		<hr/>	231.60
			<hr/>
			421.89
<u>Less Expenses</u>			
	Postage & Stationery	71.88	
	Gifts	25.00	
	Refreshments	7.18	
	Subscriptions	25.00	
	Hire of Hall	27.00	
	Planning Lists	38.88	
	Sundries	42.27	
		<hr/>	237.21
			<hr/>
			£184.68
			<hr/> <hr/>
<u>Funds carried forward</u>			
	Bank	169.31	
	Petty Cash	15.37	
		<hr/>	
		184.68	
		<hr/>	

ACCOUNT PREPARED SUBJECT TO AUDIT
31st October 1989

J.W. WALKER
HONORARY TREASURER

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting, 27th October 1989

Report by the Committee on the past 12 months

Membership of the Society

Membership remains steady at around 120 members (70 households).

Traffic

The Farthing Hill underpass was duly opened on 3rd November and the Horsham Northern Bypass a few days later. The latter immediately resulted in a dramatic reduction of traffic through Horsham. Opinions differ as to whether the effects have been beneficial or otherwise for Warnham, where commuter traffic in rush hours is still evident. Eighteen months ago the County Council promised a classified traffic count in the village to follow the opening of the Farthings Hill underpass. This count is now well overdue and we and the Parish Council will continue to press.

The latest version of the North Horsham District Local Plan notes that there are "on-street parking problems in Warnham particularly in Church Street and School Hill" and says that the Horsham District Council will seek to secure improvements in conjunction with the County Surveyor.

With regard to Station Road, after our last AGM Mr Roger Purcell duly wrote to West Sussex County Council to urge the closure of the railway crossing. The Warnham Parish Council made a similar representation but the Horsham District Council expressed the opposite view. In the event the County Council decided to keep the road open at least for the present but instead have brought in a 7% tonne weight restriction. Residents of Station Road report a considerable reduction of traffic following the opening of the bypass.

Planning Representations

In the course of the year the Society made representations against six planning applications, as follows:

WN 30/89 5 Church Street

This used to be the butcher's shop and the proposal is to divide it into two separate premises with 2 flats above. Our objection is that the proposals would be likely to increase traffic congestion and create more parking problems. A decision is awaited.

WN 26/89 8 Friday Street

This was a proposal for a single-storey extension, which in our view would destroy the symmetry of a charming pair of cottages, built about 1730. The application was refused but has gone to appeal.

Tickfold Farm, Kingsfold

This was a resubmission of a proposal to tip hardcore etc. from Horsham Town Centre over a very large area of farmland and woodland. The application was refused and though an appeal was entered it has been withdrawn.

WN 65/88 - Land adjoining "The Banks", Bailing Hill

This proposal for a single dwelling was in effect a resubmission of an application to which the Society had previously objected on the grounds it would mean building outside the "built-up area boundary" of the village, and our objection was simply restated. The application, like the first one, was refused but was granted on appeal. There is now a proposed consequential amendment to the North Horsham District Local Plan to alter the boundary in such a way as to take account of this decision.

WN 8/89 - Advertising signs near Newman's Cottage, Friday Street

This was a sign for "Three Magnificent Georgian style detached houses" for which planning approval exists and which in due course no doubt will be built on this corner between Newman's Cottage and the drive to Ends Place. We considered the proposed sign unnecessarily big and ostentatious. (As a matter of fact similar objection was made to the sign at Stanford's Orchard).

WN 55/89 – Industrial Units at Home Farm, Northlands

We have supported the Parish Council's contention that these would be an intrusion in this rural area.

North Horsham District Local Plan

This plan, the work of the Horsham District Council, which when finally approved will control development up to mid 1996, is now going through the final stages of public consultation as required by law, and a schedule of consequential amendments was published in August. So far as Warnham is concerned the only significant amendment is the alteration of the built-up area boundary in the Bailing Hill area referred to above, and a plan will be exhibited at the meeting.

A public local enquiry into the plan will commence on 7th November, the venue the Council Offices in North Street.

Field Place

The Horsham District Local Plan contains the following statement:- "A limited amount of development which would enable Field Place to be fully restored and maintained and kept in residential use is acceptable in principle" (though this is then followed by several qualifications). The Broadbridge Heath Parish Council, supported by Rudgwick Parish Council and other bodies who dislike the idea of development at Field Place, is mounting a strong objection to this statement and in fact is arguing for the deletion of the entire paragraph from the Plan, and this is something

which will be argued at the inquiry starting on 7th November. We have been invited to participate in a small working party to discuss tactics.

The original planning application for the Lifecare Village is still on appeal and what finally goes into the North Horsham District Local Plan on the subject of Field Place is likely to have a distinct bearing on its determination.

The Society opposed that planning application at the time, giving evidence at the planning inquiry in December 1986, and at a later stage in the context of the consultation document "Land for new housing - the next 10 years" we argued strongly against the inclusion of Field Place as a possible development site. We did not elect to reiterate these arguments in what we said about the North Horsham District Local Plan, feeling that we had already made our views sufficiently known, but now that our help is being sought by the Broadbridge Heath Parish Council it seems right not to withhold it. It is therefore the intention to participate in the working party referred to.

"The Sussex Oak"

The Sussex Oak closed on 17th April for refurbishment and conversion to restaurant use and reopened on 21st June. Unfortunately the pub sign was repositioned much too close to the oak tree planted by the children of the village and also the external lighting is objectionable. The Society, with others, made forcible objection to these defects and the result was a meeting on site with Whitbread's representatives on 17th July at which they agreed to move the sign, plant another oak and change the lighting. A planning application to effect these changes has since been submitted.

The internal refurbishment was happily not too drastic and the pub has probably retained as much of its old character as is consistent with its change of emphasis from drinking to eating.

Spring Meeting

About 45 members and others attended the Society's "Spring Meeting" held in the village hall on the evening of 27th April. The speaker was Dr Peter Brandon, the Chairman of the Sussex Branch of the Society for the Protection of Rural England, who spoke on the subject – "The Sussex Landscape in Peril?" and concentrated on what he regards as the insidious threat of creeping urbanisation. Dr Brandon was critical of current town planning in Horsham and also of some aspects of the government's environmental policy and his talk received rather a mixed reception, one member writing to express the view afterwards that it was "far too political" in view of the imminence of the County Council elections.

Gatwick Airport

The Society maintains its membership of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign and once again the Committee sent two representatives to attend its Annual General Meeting, which was held on 12th January. Mr Ian Ockenden accompanied the party and was able to have his say about pollution from aircraft emissions over the flight path. More recently, in June, the spectre of a

second runway reared its ugly head again in the national press but fears were calmed by a Government statement to the contrary.

Best Kept Village Competition

Though the judges had some complimentary things to say, Warnham did not keep up its winning streak this year, a disappointment for Mrs Olive Thornton and her many helpers (some outside the Society) who have done so much to improve the appearance of the village. ("No signs of litter" was one of the favourable comments made.) Not for the first time the children's play area adjacent to the cricket field was a weak spot, also the state of the notice board at the village hall.

Incidentally the red telephone kiosks (their condition noted with approval by the judges) seem to have been reprieved by British Telecom as a result of Mrs Thornton's efforts. The community painting of the kiosks organised by the Society back in June 1988 and supervised by Mr Courtier and Mrs Thornton probably helped.

Warnham's second prize last year donated by "The Men of the Trees" was a cheque for £20 presented to the Parish Council, plus 150 crocus and daffodil bulbs - planted on the edge of The Green.

Conservation Area Working Party

This is the small working party formed between the Warnham Parish Council and the Society to put forward ideas to the local planning authority (the Horsham District Council) for the enhancement of the area with a view to their inclusion in the authority's "Policy for Enhancement". This is the policy statement which authorities are required by law to prepare for conservation areas in consultation with parish councils and amenity societies. A number of suggestions, most of them small in scope and practicable in the short term, have been formulated in the course of the year and are currently being considered by the Parish Council. Broader matters of policy with longer term aims have also been raised informally and it is hoped to produce a discussion paper in due course. Needless to say all suggestions from the village are welcome and may be made either at this meeting or, outside, to Mr Reg Melhuish or Mr Mick Hodgson.

Stanford Orchard

Building started in the early summer on this sheltered scheme of 33 dwellings – two one-bedroom and 19 two-bedroom flats and 12 two-bedroom terraced houses – and the externals are now substantially complete. Each dwelling will be sold on a 99 year lease, the minimum age for purchasers (and occupiers) being 55 for the houses and 60 for the flats. A housing association (the Retirement Lease Housing Association) has been appointed to manage Stanford Orchard and there is to be a resident manager.

It is a matter of concern that the buildings show significant differences in architectural treatment from the drawings in the planning application and made available for inspection by the public.

Ends Place

The demolition of the old Edwardian mansion was completed during the winter. One of the interesting arguments offered to justify its demolition was that all the principal rooms faced north, the original owner and builder, a stockbroker practising in India, having a phobia against sunshine). One mansion is to be replaced by another, but this time by one in multiple ownership; planning approval was granted last autumn for a similarly sized building containing 18 two-bedroom flats. This was against the strong advice of the County Council who maintained that Ends Place was a rural situation where development, particularly residential development, was inappropriate. It is in fact about half a mile outside the "built-up area boundary" of Warnham which raises a question mark as to the precise significance of that boundary. (The Society took the same view as the County Council and made representations accordingly.)

The access to the flats will be along the existing lane from Byfleets Lane, the public footpath to be re-routed parallel and to the south. Part of the grounds are to become a public park with some wildlife habitat to be retained. This is a major landscaping obligation for the developer which if carried out sensitively could go a long way to restore the loss of amenity to the village caused by the recent intensive clearance of the ex-Gregson estate with its severe effect on the landscape. That effect notwithstanding, the rights of way over the estate are still walkable and in the course of the winter one or two forgotten ones were opened up and re-signposted by the Rights of Way Section of West Sussex County Council. There are however one or two sections of ploughed up footpath which the farmer, Mr T Luckin, remains unwilling to reinstate. The nearest to home is Right-of-Way No. 1446 where it goes diagonally across the field from Ends Place Drive (stile) to Byfleets Lane (signpost). Walkers and their dogs would do well to stick to the signposted footpaths since it is evidently (and justifiably) the farmer's intention not to countenance trespass and also there are certain to be sheep in some of these fields before very long.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Warnham Society launched Neighbourhood Watch in the village 3 1/2 years ago at the request of the Parish Council and with the encouragement of the Horsham Police. There are 8 "Co-ordinators" who keep an eye on things in their particular vicinity. Most of the village is covered in this way (as well as the 3 outlying hamlets of Kingsfold, Station Road and Northlands Road) the exception being the Holland Way, Lucas Road, Tilletts Lane area where the scheme never got off the ground.

The Police have recently explained to Co-ordinators their proposals for reinvigorating and reorganising Neighbourhood Watch. What they are proposing is to set up 15 different "Areas" around Horsham each with an "Area Co-ordinator" who would be the liaison between the Police and the public on matters connected with Neighbourhood Watch. This contrasts with the present arrangements where there are about 230 co-ordinators each with direct access to the police - which they say have proved to be unworkable. The area into which Warnham falls under this

proposed reorganisation consists of Rowhook, Rusper, Colgate, Broadbridge Heath and of course Warnham itself (including Kingsfold).

These seem to your committee to be very optimistic, indeed unrealistic, proposals since it is hard to imagine anyone tackling the job of Area Coordinator for such a large and apparently arbitrarily defined area. Furthermore there is no obvious democratic way of making such an appointment. If the proposal were to have such a link person for each village it might have a better chance of success, but even if the Police were to show signs of being prepared to modify their plans to that extent it would seem more appropriate for the Parish Council rather than the Warnham Society to negotiate revised arrangements.

In the present likely hiatus, the right course of action on spotting crime or where suspicion arises would appear to be the time-honoured one of dialling 999.

"Granny's Lane"

The Society duly applied to the Horsham District Council for the restoration of this name to that stretch of Byfleets Lane (as it is now termed) which runs from Old Denne to the Broadbridge Heath Road near Field Place. The Council has agreed to the change subject to various procedures which have to be followed and are now in hand.

Relations with other Bodies

Useful and cordial relations have been maintained with the Warnham Parish Council and various members of the Committee have attended nearly all the meetings of that Council.

Mr Reg Melhuish was invited to speak at a special 'Songs of Praise' service in the Church on 10th September and to say something about the church in the physical context of the village. His address was published in the October Warbler.

We have been approached by the Warnham Historical Society with a view to a joint meeting in February next year and have responded affirmatively and with pleasure. It may be possible to give further information on the 27th.

Mr Reg Melhuish and Mrs Olive Thornton attended an informal planning meeting at Haywards Heath on 23rd March organised by the Sussex Federation of Amenity Societies.

'The Garden and Street Scene'

At the last Annual General Meeting the Committee announced its intention to offer a prize, to be awarded in October, for the garden and frontage which has done most to enhance the street scene in the preceding 12 months. This prize, a garden token for £25, has now been awarded to Miss Joan Barton of No 2 Tillets Lane (Lane End). A suitable article will appear in the November issue of the Warbler.

Warnham Nature Reserve

The reserve opened on 1st April but by far the larger and more interesting part on the far side of

the Millpond, is not yet freely open to the public. This is the subject of current negotiations with the Lucas Trust who retain rights over conifer plantations in this area. In the meantime the Resident Warden is permitted to take guided tours over there which have been conducted twice daily on Sundays throughout the summer. The reserve closed on 1st October for the winter. Before it reopens in the Spring extensive dredging operations will have been carried out on The Millpond which is silting up.

The Committee

The Committee has met five times since the last Annual General Meeting, under the Chairmanship of Mr Reg Melhuish. Members may like to be reminded of the names of the present committee members which, with their addresses, are as follows:

Mrs R Ashton	5 Station Road	66723
R B Bensted-Smith	Forge House, The Street, Slinfold	790061
P A Board	Brackendale, Chapel Road, Bolney	952 881892
R H Courtier	11 Friday Street	65053
Sir James Dalrymple-Hay	The Red House, Warnham	62000
G P McMullen	Little Broomhall	64922
R E Melhuish	Ramblers, Friday Street	65605
R C Overton	5 School Hill	53679
R H Purcell	7 School Hill	67505
M V S Smith	Brookhouse Farm, Kingsfold	9679 257
Mrs O G Thornton	44 Church Street	63365
Mrs J M Walker	35 Friday Street	53289

Mr Board is not offering himself for re-election and Mr Purcell will be out of the country for most of the coming year, which in effect creates two vacancies.

It is pleasing to be able to report that Sir James Dalrymple-Hay has volunteered to take over as Hon Secretary in the Spring, when Richard Overton will have completed his "statutory" maximum of five years.

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Village Hall on 27th October 1989

Present: About 46 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 27th October 1988

All members had a copy of these minutes which with one small amendment were agreed to be a true record, and were signed by the Chairman. The amendment related to the mention of "Sweets Lane" in the penultimate paragraph of page 3 which should have read "Sweep Lane". There were no matters arising.

3 Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 30th September 1989

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. The accounts were approved.

Mrs Walker expressed the thanks of the Society to the Warnham Parish Council for taking over the cost of emptying the sponsored litter bins, which had considerably eased the financial position.

4 Amendment of the Constitution

The proposal, of which due notice had been given, was to amend Clause 3 which deals with subscriptions and to do so in such a way as to make annual subscriptions due on 1st October instead of 1st April. Explaining the reason for the change Mrs Walker said that making the subscription year identical with the Society's financial year would greatly simplify her work. On a proposition of Mrs Rosemary Ashton, seconded by Mr Robert Courtier, Clause 5 was amended accordingly, there being no dissentients.

Mr Bill Bousfield asked what interim arrangements were proposed and Mrs Walker said that, whilst these had not been discussed in detail in committee, she thought that it would be necessary to charge members half a year's subscription on the 1st April 1990.

The Secretary invited the meeting to express a view on the elimination of the special rates for

"Senior Citizens" which might be considered to be an unnecessary complication having regard to the modest rate of the standard subscription. The matter was one within the power of the Committee (and had not yet been discussed) but the views of members would be welcome at the outset. The general feeling was that this simplification would be quite reasonable provided that special consideration could be given to anyone known to have difficulty in paying the standard rate. There was some discussion also on the present differential between the rate for single people and couples (£2 and £3 respectively) the outcome of which was that this was considered to be about right.

5 Election of a new Committee

No nominations had been received in response to the Secretary's letter of 6th October, but eleven out of the twelve existing members were prepared to continue for another year (though one of the eleven - Mr. Roger Purcell – would be out of the country for much of the year). The chairman urged members to make a nomination or nominations from the floor stressing the desirability as a general policy of introducing new blood. Mr John Williams, seconded by Mrs Olive Thornton, proposed Mr Geoff Read who said that he would be willing to serve and he was duly elected. On a proposition of Mrs Jean Burnham, seconded by Mr John Parks, the existing eleven members of the Committee were re-elected en bloc. Their names (with Mr Read's included) are as follows:

Mrs R Ashton, Mr R B Bensted-Smith, 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 G J Read, Mr M V S Smith, Mrs O G Thornton and Mrs J M Walker.

6 Report by the Committee on the last twelve months

All members had a copy of this report, on which comments and questions were invited. The following sections of the report were discussed:

North Horsham District Local Plan

The Chairman took the opportunity to put in perspective the development proposals for the four sites which were currently causing some alarm in the village, and to state something of the historical background. These sites were (1) land at Tuggles Plat (2) land at Andrews Farm (3) land at Farm Close and (4) land between Bell Road and School Hill. Development of all these sites would be excluded if the built-up area boundary of the village was adhered to as now drawn, but quite properly (under the consultation procedure relating to the Plan) that was the subject of representations made some months ago by the various owners of the land concerned but of which the village had only recently become aware. The outcome of this and other controversial matters would be determined at the local enquiry beginning on 7th November. The Society had made representations against the development of these

four sites, and there was still time for individuals to do the same and such could be expected to carry weight.

In answer to a question from Mr Stephen Garrish, the Chairman said that he hoped it would be possible for the Society to reinforce the written representations by giving verbal evidence at the enquiry itself.

Mrs Jean Burnham thanked the Chairman for putting the facts so clearly. People should be aware (a) that the Horsham District Council was not favourably disposed to the development of these four sites – witness their exclusion from the "built-up area boundary" and (b) that the development of Stanford Orchard had helped to discharge Warnham's responsibility in the matter of new houses and thus to reduce pressure on other land.

Mr Mick Hodgson said that the Warnham Parish Council had made representations (1) against the development of these four sites (2) against the development of Field Place (3) for the upgrading of the land between Horsham and Warnham from "local gap" to "strategic gap" status and (4) urging the dualing of the A24 as far as Capel. He would welcome individual support on any of these but particularly the strategic gap issue since Warnham seemed to be particularly vulnerable to creeping development from Horsham.

With regard to Field Place, the meeting unanimously supported the line taken in the report, ie to participate with Broadbridge Heath Parish Council and others in pressing for the deletion from the Plan of the paragraph giving special favourable consideration to residential development at Field Place.

Conservation Area Working Party

The Chairman said that the co-operation of the Parish Council on this subject had been very much appreciated by the Society, and Mr Mick Hodgson said that for its part the Parish Council valued the Society's expertise. He went on to say that the Council itself was broadly in favour of the suggestions so far made by the working party to date and had some additional ones to offer. Some funds could be made available to effect particular improvements.

Traffic in Warnham

There was a general feeling expressed that though the Farthings Hill Underpass and the Horsham Northern Bypass had probably reduced the volume of traffic passing through Warnham, the speed of much of that traffic was still unacceptably fast. Several members, eg Mr John Parks, Mr Bill Bousfield, Mrs Olive Thornton, made the point that there were practical possibilities which had not been sufficiently explored particularly since it seemed (see above paragraph) that some money might be available via the Parish Council.

The Committee

The Chairman thanked Mr Richard Overton for his work as Secretary since the Society was

formed in the beginning of 1985, and offered best wishes to Sir James Dalrymple-Hay who would be taking over in the New Year.

7 Any other business

Mrs Olive Thornton raised the subject of satellite receiving dishes which were beginning to proliferate and asked if there was any control. Mrs Jean Burnham said that planning approval was required but that the planning authority had not yet formulated a policy on this and would indeed welcome suggestions.

One possibility, subject to practicability, would be to insist on one dish being made to serve a group of houses. The Chairman said that it might be possible for the Parish Council and the Society to get together to make a proposal.

8 Conclusion

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance at what he felt had been a useful and entertaining meeting.