

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting at the Village Hall
at 8 p.m. on Friday 19th October 1990.

AGENDA

- 1 To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th October 1989 and to discuss any matters arising. The minutes have been circulated.
- 2 To receive and approve the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 1st October 1990.
- 3 To receive nominations for, and to elect a new committee to serve for one year. The constitution specifies that the committee shall consist of not less than eight, and not more than twelve members.
- 4 To discuss the committee's report for the year and any other matters which members may care to raise in connection with the village and its environment.

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY 19th OCTOBER 1990.

Report by the Committee on the past 12 months.

1. The Past Year. The past year has been marked by a significant drop in the number of controversial planning applications affecting Warnham. This is largely due to the effect of high interest rates on the property market. House sales have been low and during the past 18 months developers have been reluctant to commit funds to building.

There have however been some applications for development about which the Society has made representations to the District Planning Officer.

2. Membership. We are pleased to report that during the year the membership of the society has increased – not dramatically, but indicating a growing realisation that the protection of the environment is something in which we may all play a part. Since the change in our subscription arrangements we still appear to have some unpaid subscriptions and we look forward to receiving any unpaid dues at the AGM. The rate is £3 per member or £4–50 per couple, for the 18 months to September 1991.

3. Relations with Other Groups. During the year members of the committee attended meetings of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies. This meets at different locations on a regular basis to discuss common problems and to compare notes on the means of protecting our villages.

Our relationship with the Warnham Parish Council continues on a basis of mutual trust and assistance and we are indebted to them for their cooperation in many fields during the year.

The Society maintains its membership of the Civic Trust.

In February the Warnham Society and the Historical Society combined for a very successful joint meeting. The two illustrated talks – one by the Secretary of the Historical Society and the other by your Chairman, were well received.

4. Planning. Your society was active during the public enquiry relating to the North Horsham Plan and was represented during the hearings. The chairman presented a proof of evidence setting out the society's objections to the four potential development sites in the village.

At the Field Place enquiry the society supported the active stand made by Dr Peter Brandon in opposition to the development proposals, and in relation to the strategic gap between Warnham and Horsham the society has made its views clear to the Horsham District Planning Officer.

Amongst other planning matters in which your society has been involved was the

successful objection to a proposal for a day-nursery in part of the Old School building. Apart from the detrimental effect on surrounding properties, it was felt that the traffic problem on that hill would be considerable.

The society has made recommendations to the Planning Authority in respect of the current application for three houses in the garden of Newmans Cottage. We have asked that any approval be conditional upon an improvement to the bottom of Byfleets Lane, with better visibility splays to Ends Place drive and a footpath and lay-by on that side of the road. We have also commented upon the need for the use of natural indigenous materials. We understand that the Parish Council has taken a similar view of this application.

A suggestion by the committee that a Victorian summer house in the garden of Warnham Court should be considered for listing as a building of historical and architectural interest was, unfortunately, turned down by the District Council.

5. Warnham Conservation Area. There was a meeting in April of the Joint Working Party (Parish Council and Warnham Society) regarding the village conservation area, when officers of the Horsham District Planning Office, Seaboard, British Telecom and the Water Board attended. Suggestions that had been put forward by the Joint Working Party for the improvement of the area were discussed and agreement was reached on implementing some of the proposals including the removal of some of the more offensive of the overhead cables and of certain poles. It was clear however that the prospect of a general "grounding" scheme for the overhead wires is far distant.

6. Traffic and Parking. The problem of traffic through Warnham continued to be addressed by the Society by correspondence with the County Council. Regrettably we have little tangible result to report. With regard to the parking problem suggestions for a future parking area behind the properties on the east side of Church Street were put to the Planning Officer during our walk around.

A suggestion by the Society that the Highway Authority should consider a ban on right turns from the A24 travelling south to Knob Hill has been the subject of a traffic survey by the West Sussex County Council. We will be discussing the result of this survey with the Parish Council in due course.

7. Spring Meeting. Our Spring Meeting in April was attended by some 50 members and friends when Dr Brian Short of the University of Sussex gave a talk on the effect of historical changes in agriculture on the communities in Sussex. It gave an insight into the background of villages such as ours and all had a most enjoyable evening.

8. Best Kept Village Contest. A Certificate of Merit was gained by Warnham in the Best Kept Village Contest. This was particularly commendable considering that over 50 villages took part, and from the assessment which was published in the Warbler it is difficult to

understand why we were not placed first! However, one has to admit that several spots in the village were not looking their best and the disused shop in Church Street hardly added to the Street scene !

9. The Street Scene. The Warnham Society has been influential in backing up the plea of residents to retain the traditional type of telephone box in Church Street. It is pleasing to see that it is now being completely renovated and NOT removed (as its "minder" – an active member of the Society – feared when finding it disemboweled one Saturday morning.) Thanks are also due to Mr and Mrs French for keeping the bush that guards it so beautifully clipped.

A much admired addition to the scene in Church Street is the hanging baskets, filled by Mr Harry Parr and valiantly watered by kind residents during the long hot summer days. Incredible as it may seem, we have to report that one of these lovely baskets has been stolen!

10. Competition for "The Garden and Street Scene". The Society awards a prize each October for the garden and frontage which, in the opinion of the judges, has done most to enhance the street scene in the preceding 12 months.

This year has been a trying one for gardeners with the drought and, at times, oppressive heat, and yet the standard once again has been commendably high.

The judges were unanimous in awarding the prize (a £25 garden voucher) to Mrs Roma Skelton of 16 Lucas Road. Well done, Roma !

11. 1991 Street Fayre. The society has been asked to take part in the village "Street Fayre" to be held on Saturday 29th June 1991, and members of the committee are actively involved in the organising of it. The purpose is to raise funds for the St Margaret's church restoration appeal – a cause that we enthusiastically support.

We shall be running a stall on the day, and take this opportunity to say that any help in this respect will be greatly appreciated.

12. The Future. The society is anxious to receive not only new members, but offers to serve on the committee by any who feel that they wish to take a more active part in matters affecting our community and who feel that they have something to contribute.

We were fortunate last year in gaining the services of one new committee member, but some members have served since the Society was formed in 1985. We therefore look forward to receiving nominations prior to the AGM.

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY
Minutes of the Annual General meeting of the Society
held in The Village Hall, Warnham, on 19th October 1990

Present: about 28 members.

Chairman: Mr R. E. Melhuish.

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION. The chairman welcomed all present and informed the meeting that there would be an informal get-together after the meeting, at which wine would be served.
- 2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Were received from Brigadier and Mrs Hall, Mr R. Marshall, Mrs E Cox, Canon Taylor, Mr and Mrs D. Dutton, Mr J. Williams and Mrs Parr.
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS A.G.M. All members had a copy of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th October 1989. Approval of these minutes was proposed by Mrs R. Ashton, seconded by Mrs J. Burnham and were signed by the chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.
- 4.0 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS. (accounts for the half-year ending 31st March 1990): The Hon. Treasurer advised the meeting that, because of the alteration in the accounting date from 1st October to 1st April, accounts would be presented to cover the half-year period ending 31st March 1990. However, at the next AGM accounts would be presented for an 18 month period. This was approved by the meeting.
 - 4.1 The Hon Treasurer informed the meeting that there was a balance of £100 in the bank. 17 subscriptions were outstanding.
- 5.0 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE. Mr Richard Overton and Mr Michael Smith announced that they would not be standing for re-election to the committee. The proposal by Mrs J. Burnham that the remainder of the committee be elected for 1991 was seconded by Mrs D Kup and was carried nem com. A new committee member, Mr G. Brand, proposed by Mrs B. Melhuish and seconded by Mr G. Read, was elected.
 - 5.1 The chairman thanked the outgoing members for their help and support over the years. Mr Overton who had been Secretary of the Society for several years received an ovation from the members.

- 6.0 REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE PAST YEAR. The report which had been circulated to members was presented to the meeting by the Hon Secretary. The following points were made during discussion:
- 6.1 It was felt that joint meetings with the WARNHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY were a good thing and should be encouraged.
- 6.2 WARNHAM CONSERVATION AREA : Mrs Burnham, Horsham District Councillor for Warnham, informed the meeting that real progress was being made on the various recommendations following the site meeting held during the year between Warnham Parish Council/ Warnham Society/ Horsham District Planning Officer / British Telecom/ Seeboard and the Water Board on the subject of improvements to the street scene in the conservation area.
- 6.3 Concern was expressed concerning the continuing PARKING PROBLEMS IN CHURCH STREET. It was understood that lay-bys were proposed along the side of the village green and as an extension of the Farm Close lay-by. The latter was not thought to be a good idea.
- 6.4 Discussion also took place regarding the EMPTY SHOP IN CHURCH STREET, next to the antique shop, and the DANGEROUS JUNCTION with the A24 at the top of School Hill.
- 7.0 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION. The meeting was informed that the Parish Council had appointed Mr Miller as Litter Warden for the village. He would be commencing his duties shortly.
- 8.0 THE GARDEN AND STREET SCENE. The meeting was advised that the winner of this year's "Garden and Street Scene" competition, organised by the Society was Mrs Norma Skelton of 16 Lucas Road. A letter had been received from her thanking the Society for the prize.
- 9.0 THE "STREETE FAYRE" 1991. The Society has agreed to run a Bottle Tombola as its contribution to this village event in aid of the St Margaret's Church Roof Fund.
- 10.0 CHURCH ROOF. The difficult question of a suitable - material for the new roof was raised by the chairman who agreed to have a discussion with Mr Graham Haynes, the surveyor who is advising the church on this matter.
- 11.0 BULB PLANTING. Following the joint Parish Council / Warnham Society recommendations

on improvements to the conservation area, the Parish Council are to purchase bulbs, and a request had been made for Society members to help in the planting. Several members at the meeting offered their help.

- 12.0 SATELLITE DISHES. The question of these unsightly additions to buildings in the village was raised. Mrs. J. Burnham said that she was to attend a meeting shortly at which this problem was to be discussed.
- 13.0 BOTTLE BANK. There had been a division of opinion as to whether a village bottle-bank was a good thing, but the meeting was told that, as the District Council was unable to find a contractor to undertake the work, the proposal was no longer considered feasible.
- 14.0 FENCE TO CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND. The condition of this fence was raised, and the meeting was informed that the Parish Council are to replace it.
- 15.0 SHELLEY FESTIVAL. The Shelley Society are arranging a Shelley Festival in August 1992 and Warnham Society has been asked to see if they can contribute in any way to this event.
- 16.0 CONCLUSION. The chairman thanked those present for attending the meeting at which so many matters of local interest had been discussed. The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.