

The Warnham Society

AGM and Autumn Meeting 2011

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England

CPRE promotes the beauty, tranquility and diversity of our countryside by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. The Warnham Society subscribes to CPRE.

As key players in our Town and Country Planning system, CPRE are currently in the news about government plans for a new draft "National Planning Policy Framework". CPRE warn this will destroy the planning protection of green fields from development, and they are fighting hard for changes.

This is a fast moving CPRE campaign so expect to hear the latest on the fight to protect our countryside!

by Nic Packwood

Chairman CPRE Horsham & District

The talk will be preceded by the AGM

Village Hall 8.00pm 20th October

Refreshments from 7:30pm

All welcome: Members free, Visitors £2 at the door

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**20th October 2011 at Warnham Village Hall at 8.00pm
(Please note that refreshments will be served from 7.30pm)**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

2. Approval of Minutes of 26th AGM of the Warnham Society

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

4. Committee's Report on Activities of the Society in 2010-11

5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Annual Accounts

The Report and Accounts will cover the year 1 Oct 2010 to 30 Sept 2011.

6. Hon. Auditor's Report

7. Election of Members of Committee (Maximum 12)

All members of the present committee have agreed to stand for the coming year, with the exception of George Brand who is retiring after many years on the committee, most recently as Treasurer. Further nominations to the committee will be welcomed.

Note that Officers, who comprise: Joint Chairmen, Treasurer, Minute Secretary, Correspondence Secretary and Membership Secretary, are appointed by the Committee at its first meeting after this AGM.

8. Election of Hon. Auditor

9. Any Other Business

10. Closure of AGM

The formal proceedings will be followed by the Autumn Meeting, comprising a talk by Nic Packwood on Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.

**John Hamer
Brian King**

Joint Chairmen, The Warnham Society.

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 20 October 2011

REPORT of the COMMITTEE for 2010-11

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR

Following the success of the Society's Jubilee Year in 2009-10 we have endeavoured to maintain the momentum in the past year. As announced at our Spring meeting, the Society now benefits from a dedicated website, www.warnhamsociety.org, which we believe will improve our ability to communicate with our members and the parish as a whole and will provide links to other village and related sites, such as that under development for the Parish Council. In addition, The Society now has a dedicated email address, mail@warnhamsociety.org, which will also enable us to communicate more efficiently and reduce postal costs. During the past year we have held four meetings: the Autumn Meeting and AGM in October 2010 and the Spring Meeting in June 2011 as well as visits to Hampton Court and the Brookhurst Wood waste treatment site. All of these have been well supported.

In addition, we have continued to support the Tilletts Lane butterfly project and, in anticipation of the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War in 2014, we have started to prepare biographies of those members of the village who lost their lives during the conflict. The Society is keen to support the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and we have attended an initial planning meeting.

In 2008 we suffered the loss of our postal facilities from the village. We believe this was a retrograde step for the village and we have offered our support to the Parish Council in seeking to secure their restoration.

We wish to thank all who have contributed to our achievements over the past year.

MEETINGS

There have been 9 committee meetings during the year. These meetings have been chaired alternately by the joint chairmen. We have also held two open meetings during the year as well as two further visits, as noted above.

Autumn Meeting and AGM; 29 October 2010

The formal business of the AGM is recorded in the minutes accompanying this report. Following the AGM, Mr Tom Cole gave an informative talk entitled 'Trees in Sussex and the Woodland Trust'.

Spring Meeting; 12 May 2011

This meeting took the form of a social gathering followed by an entertaining talk on 'The Wealden Iron Industry' by Jeremy Hodgkinson.

MEMBERSHIP

As ever, our members are the strength of our Society and provide the support and backing for our work. Our membership has remained roughly level at 88 and we will continue to seek to enlist new members during the coming year.

FINANCE

The Society's financial position is shown in the accompanying accounts. We are disappointed to note that our expenditure exceeded income by £174.52. While costs have risen generally this deficit can be largely attributed to the insurance premium that we pay to the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies (FoSAS). Because of the size of this premium (£155) in relation to our other expenditures and to our income and assets, we are considering the implications of discontinuing and the measures that we might take to mitigate resulting risks or exposure. During the coming year we

expect to reduce our administration costs by increased use of email, enabling us to contact some 60% of our members.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Society continues to be affiliated to GACC, CPRE and the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies.

We are pleased to support the planned improvements to the Village Hall and we are seeking to appoint a representative to the Management Committee to replace Quintin Knight, our former representative.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The Society continues to be concerned at the speed and size of vehicles using the surrounding roads and will continue to pursue measures to control and minimise the increasing impact of traffic flows throughout the parish. This will be of particular importance in the context of developments at the Brookhurst Wood waste treatment facility.

PLANNING

We continue to monitor and review planning applications within the parish. The Society comments where it is felt by the Committee that an application does not accord with policy or would adversely affect the character or amenity of the parish. Although outside the parish boundary, we will continue to monitor proposals for development of land adjacent to the Warnham brickworks site and at Brookhurst Wood because of their potential traffic impact on roads in the parish.

In the planning context, the Committee is aware of the need to ensure that conflicts of interest do not occur, especially as members of the Committee may also be Parish Councillors.

NATURE CONSERVATION PROJECT

Warnham is fortunate to provide habitats for a number of rare butterfly species. We are pleased to note that the establishment of a nature reserve in two fields adjacent to Tilletts Lane has received enthusiastic support from a number of our members. We regard this as an important development, particularly as an educational facility.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are pleased to note that Steve Lancaster has joined the committee during the year.

We also note with regret that Quintin Knight resigned from the committee earlier in the year due to a move from the area and that George Brand has decided to retire after a long period of service, most recently as our Treasurer. On your behalf, we would like to thank both George and Quintin for their contributions to the Society and to wish them well.

Our ability to support the projects outlined above depends on your active participation and the committee now urgently requires additional members. If you are interested in joining the committee we will be pleased to answer any questions or to receive your nomination this evening.

Please accept our thanks for your support and continue to help us to remain an active and thriving Society into the future.

**The Committee
The Warnham Society**

October 2011

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS 1ST OCTOBER 2010 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Balance brought forward
From Accounts at 30th September 2010

Cash	£	0.00	
At Bank		£1032.41	<u>£1032.41</u>

Income

Subscriptions	£278.00
Surplus from refreshments	£ 24.81
Donations	£ 24.00
Book Sales	£ 17.50

Total **£344.31**

Excess of Expenditure
Over Income **£174.52**

£518.83

Expenditure

Hire of village hall(AGM)	£ 52.50
Hire of village hall (spring)	£ 52.50
Admin costs	£ 69.24
FoSAS subscription	£ 25.00
FoSAS Insurance	£155.00
GACC Subscription	£ 10.00
CPRE Subscription	£ 34.00
Speakers Fee	£ 44.40
Butterfly Project Donation	£ 20.00
Village Fete Donation	£ 15.00
Flower Club Donation	£ 10.00
Website Set Up	£ 31.19

Total **£518.83**

Funds carried forward £1032.41
Less overspend for Year £ 174.52

Cash	£	1.00
At Bank		£856.89

£857.89

£857.89

Signed *A. George Brand* Date *30/9/2011*
A. George Brand (Hon. Treasurer)

Signed *R.J. Boud* Date *21/10/11*
R.J. Boud A.C.I.B. (Hon. Auditor)

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting held in the Village Hall, Thursday 20th October 2011

35 members of the Society and the guest speaker, Mr Nic. Packwood of the Campaign to Protect Rural England were welcomed by Mr King who chaired the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence: Lady Dalrymple-Hay & Mrs B. Jarvis.

2. The Minutes of the 26th AGM were approved: proposed by Janet Lee, seconded by Sue Lee.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: None.

4. Committee's Report on Activities of the Society in 2010-2011: Copies of the Report were provided to members at the meeting. Mr King highlighted our support for the Parish Council in seeking the restoration of postal facilities to the village. He thanked Mr Lancaster for setting up the Society's website. Mr Lancaster described the project being undertaken by the Society to commemorate Warnham's men and women who served in the Great War for the centenary of its outbreak in 2014. Mr King noted Mr Knight's resignation from the Committee on leaving the area and that Mr Brand has decided to stand down after a long period of service.

5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Annual Accounts: Mr Brand reported a loss of £ 175 which would be unsustainable over time. He noted several price increases and identified the cost of insurance cover at £ 155 as the single largest cost item. Mr King stated that the Committee was determined to address this shortfall and to find a way to bring our costs in line with income. In response to questions Mr Elliott advised that it was unlikely that insurance cover could be obtained much more cheaply. The issue is the need for insurance. Mr Elliott presented Mr Brand with a gift and card from the Society in recognition of his service to the Society. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mrs Jones, seconded by Mrs Stockley.

6. Mr Boud was thanked for auditing the accounts.

7. Election of Members of the Committee: Apart from Mr Brand, the current members have agreed to stand, they were elected en bloc on a proposal by Mr Purcell, seconded by Mrs Lee. Mr King sought volunteers to join the Committee, Mrs Debenham-Taylor and Sue Lee agreed to sit on the next meeting.

8. Election of the Honorary Auditor: Mr Boud agreed to stand and was duly elected on a proposal by Mr Brand, seconded by Mr McLaughlin.

9. Any Other Business: None

10. Closure of the AGM: Mr King closed the AGM and handed over to Mr Lancaster who introduced Mr Nic Packwood of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England who highlighted its role, with others, in seeking to amend the government's draft " National Planning Policy Framework ". A vote of thanks was given by Mr Lancaster.