

## A Proposed "Warnham Society"

Minutes of a meeting of the Steering Committee held at Glebe End, Warnham on Friday 7th December [ed. 1984], at 8.00 p.m.

Present: R. Bensted-Smith  
M Hall  
Mrs E. Cox  
Mrs O Thornton  
Mrs R. McLaughlin  
Mrs J. McMullen  
G. McMullen

1. The Meeting agreed that Mr Bensted-Smith take the chair.
2. The Chairman opened the meeting by reading a letter from Mrs Parr who was unable to be present. He introduced a discussion paper by Brig. Hall.
3. A discussion followed on the purposes of the proposed society.
4. It was agreed that the proposed name of the society should be "The Warnham Society".
5. The committee drafted a Constitution based on that used by Rudgwick Preservation Society, but several amendments were made. A final draft was agreed as a Proposed Constitution for "The Warnham Society". A copy is annexed to these minutes.
6. It was agreed that the members of the Steering Committee should pay their subscriptions in advance to provide funds for printing etc.
7. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Chairman of the Parish Council to inform him of the proposed Society.
8. It was agreed that the First Public Meeting of the Society be arranged for the spring of 1985.
9. It was agreed that the editor of the Warbler be approached to ask that the proposed formation of the Society might be publicised.
10. It was agreed that a small poster be prepared to advertise the first meeting.
11. It was agreed that a further meeting of the Steering Committee be held in January, 1985.

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Steering Committee held at Little Broomhall, Warnham on Wednesday January 9, 1985 at 8.00 pm.

Present: R. Bensted-Smith Chairman  
Mrs E. Cox  
Brigadier M. Hall  
G. P. McMullen  
Mrs J. M. McMullen  
Mrs L. Parr  
Mrs O. Thornton

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs R. McLaughlin
2. Minutes of the last meeting on December 7, 1984 were confirmed.
3. Various minor amendments to the draft constitution were discussed and agreed and are incorporated in the revised draft attached to these minutes.
4. The Chairman tabled a draft letter to the Chairman of Warnham Parish Council. This was discussed and it was agreed that it should be sent on the following day.
5. It was agreed that the first Public meeting be held in Warnham Village Hall on March 29, 1985 at 8.00pm. The Steering Committee were asked to be there by 7.00pm.
6. It was agreed that coffee at 10p per cup should be available. The Chairman would invite Mrs Ruth Ward to the guest speaker. The agenda was discussed but finalisation of it was held over to the next Steering Committee meeting.
7. The Steering Committee discussed nomination for the Committee of the Society to be put before the public meeting on March 29.
8. Mr Bensted-Smith agreed to be nominated as Chairman but indicated he would not wish to serve a full term.

The following were agreed as possible candidates for nomination:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>To be approached by</u>
Deputy Chairman	Mr Freeman	Mrs Thornton
Secretary	Mrs White	Mrs Thornton
	Mrs Tewkesbury	Mrs Thornton
	Mrs Merryweather	Brig. Hall
Treasurer	Mrs Painter	Mrs Thornton

Mr Parr                      Mrs Parr

Mr John Williams      Brig. Hall

Assistant Treasurer   Mrs R. McLaughlin\*

other Committee Members   Mr Tony Watts

G. P. McMullen\*

Mrs Thornton\*

Mrs Parr\*

\* These Steering Committee members agreed to be nominated.

8. The Chairman would write an item for inclusion in the Warnham Warbler. The wording of a poster to be put through door and in shop windows to publicise the first public meeting was agreed. Mr McMullen agreed to obtain a map of the parish from the Parish Clerk for printing on the back of the poster.

9. The next meeting of the Steering Committee would be on Tuesday February 5 at Little Broomhall.

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#### THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

MINUTES of a meeting of the Steering Committee held at Little Broomhall on Tuesday, 5th February 1985 at 8 pm.

Present:      R. Bensted-Smith (Chairman)  
                  Brig. M. Hall  
                  G.P. McMullen  
                  Mrs. J. M. McMullen  
                  Mrs. R. McLaughlin  
                  Mr G.L. Parr  
                  Mrs O. Thornton

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. P. White, Mr. R. Overton and Mr. H. Parr as new members of the Steering Committee.

1 . Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. E. Cox

2. Minutes of the last meeting on 9th January were confirmed.
3. The Chairman circulated a draft of the poster advertising the meeting on 29th March 1985. This was approved.
4. It was confirmed that the Village Hall booking had been made
5. The Chairman announced that Mr. R. Overton and Mr. H. Parr had agreed to be nominated for election to the committee and to be appointed as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively in due course.
6. The following were agreed as nominations, in addition to the two above, for election to the Committee:

R. Bensted-Smith  
G. P. McMullen  
Mrs. E. Cox  
Mrs. R. McLaughlin  
Mrs. L. Parr  
Mrs. O. Thornton  
Mrs. P. White

It was agreed that two further nominations at the first Public Meeting would be accepted if these were forthcoming

7. It was agreed that the members of the Steering Committee pay their first subscriptions in advance and these were received by the Hon. Treasurer-designate.
8. It was agreed that a bank account be opened on the formation of the Society.
9. It was agreed that the Hon. Secretary-designate would assume those responsibilities at the conclusion of this meeting.
10. Details of membership would be taken by the Hon. Treasurer at the first Public Meeting and a membership form would include requests for details of occupation and any special interests.
11. The meeting discussed the agenda for the first Public Meeting.
12. The Hon. Secretary would also serve as Hon. Press Officer.
13. For the purposes of distributing posters for the first Public Meeting, the following areas were allocated:

Mrs. McLaughlin	Bell Road and Station Road
Mrs. J. McMullen and G.P. McMullen	Bailing Hill, Strood Lane, Granny's Lane, Goose Green, Robin Hood Lane
Mrs. P. White	Farthings Hill, A24 to Westons
Mrs. O. Thornton	Church Street, Tilletts Lane

D. Bensted-Smith	Friday Street and Tuggles Plat
Mrs. Parr and Mrs. Cox	Council Estate and Hollands Way, except Tilletts Lane
Brig. M. Hall	Mayes Lane, Northlands Road, A29
Mr. R. Overton	School Hill, Knob Hill, Kingsfold

14. The Steering Committee would meet again on Thursday, 7th March at 8 pm at Little Broomhall.

Chairman

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### THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

#### MINUTES of a meeting of the Steering Committee held at

Little Broomhall on Thursday, 7th March 1985 at 8 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. R. Bensted-Smith (Chairman)  
Mrs. E. Cox  
Mr. R. Courtier  
Brig. M. Hall  
Mr. G. P. McMullen  
Mrs. J. M. McMullen  
Mr. R. Overton (Hon. Secretary)  
Mr. H. Parr ( Hon. Treasurer)  
Mrs. L. Parr  
Mrs. O. Thornton  
Mrs. P. White

#### 1. Apologies for absence

An apology was received from Mrs. R. McLaughlin.

#### 2. Minutes of the last meeting , held on 5th February

The minutes were confirmed. There were no matters arising

#### 3. The Chairmanship

Mr. Bensted-smith said that, much to his regret, pressure of work was making it impossible for him

to continue with his stop-gap chairmanship until after the public meeting, as he had offered. A successor would therefore need to be found either at or before that meeting. He was willing to continue to serve as a member of the committee.

It was agreed that it was essential to go into the public meeting with a chairman willing to carry on afterwards if necessary, even though there was a chance that the meeting might produce a suitable candidate. After considerable discussion it was left that Mr. Bensted-Smith and Brigadier Hall would pursue one or two possibilities and report back to a meeting of the steering committee to be called urgently for the purpose.

#### 4. Committee nominations

Mr. Robert Courtier was appointed to the committee, thus bringing the number to twelve. Two further nominations were to be sought at the public meeting (see Minute 6, last meeting).

#### 5. Publicity

The Chairman tabled the draft poster, which would be distributed about ten days before the public meeting. The poster was agreed to meet the case well, though the Chairman thought he could make one or two improvements to it.

#### 6. The Public Meeting fixed for 29th March 1985

A draft agenda tabled by the Chairman was agreed. The Treasurer tabled a draft application form for membership, for completion at the meeting or afterwards. This was agreed subject to two amendments: (1) under "Special Interests" one or two examples should be given; (2) the form should indicate the amount of the subscription payable (£3 for a family, £2 for an individual ).

#### 7. Meeting with Mrs. Ward, Hon. Secretary of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies

The Chairman said that he and the Secretary were going to visit Mrs. Ward on the evening of Tuesday, 12th March, and he hoped they might be accompanied by some other member or members of the committee. Mrs. Thornton volunteered.

#### 8. Date of next meeting

This was arranged for Thursday, 14th March, again at Little Broomhall, hopefully to welcome a new Chairman and to introduce him/her to the committee.

Chairman

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

### MINUTES of a meeting of the Steering Committee held at Little Broomhall on Thursday, 14th March, 1985

PRESENT: Mr. R. B. Bensted-Smith (Chairman)  
Mrs. A. E. Cox  
Mr R.H. Courtier  
Brig. M. C. Hall  
Mrs. R. R. McLaughlin  
Mr. G. P. McMullen  
Mrs. J. M. McMullen  
Mr. R. C. Overton (Secretary)  
Mr. H. J. Parr (Treasurer)  
Mrs. L. P. Parr  
Mrs P. N. White  
Mr. C. J. Williams

#### 1. Apologies for absence

An apology was received from Mrs. Thornton

#### 2. The Chairmanship

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Williams who had very kindly agreed to chair the public meeting on 29th March and, in principle, to be the first chairman of the new committee. Some discussion followed on the aims of the Society (pretty well set out in the Constitution) and on the things it was likely to get involved in early, eg oak trees, best kept village, traffic, preservation of footpaths. In respect of the last two, Mr. Williams thought it would be important to allay early any fears that the Society would be trying to do the Parish Council's job and this was vigorously endorsed. On matters of interest to the Society but coming within the purview of the Parish Council, it would be for the Society to make representations to the Council.

#### 3. Visit to Mrs. Ward, Hon. Secretary of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies

The Secretary reported briefly on this visit which had been made by the Chairman, Mrs. McMullen and himself on 12th March and which had been encouraging. Mrs. Ward had said she assumed the Society would be concerning itself exclusively with matters concerning conservation and the environment, had stressed co-operation as opposed to confrontation (important not to be seen as a

"No" society), and had suggested that the principal role might be to keep a watchful eye on all planning applications. She explained that the Federation had about 100 villages in membership; – an affiliation fee of 10 per annum was payable. There was a quarterly newsletter. It was evident from her remarks that the Federation carried weight with planning authorities, etc. and could be of real assistance to its members.

#### 4. The public meeting on Friday, 29th March at 8 p.m.

In the course of discussion the following points were agreed: –

(1) It was thought that about 50 people present would justify going ahead with the inauguration of the Society – it would be for the Chairman to judge. Inauguration should be by formal proposition (item on the agenda immediately after Mrs. Ward's talk) followed by a vote. If more than half those present were in favour that would suffice.

(2) After the formation of the Society and the election of the committee, there should be an opportunity for questions (and suggestions) of a specific nature to be put to the committee, which individual members would cope with as seemed appropriate (Any questions of a general nature would probably have been answered by Mrs. Ward). If there was a question on the theme - "What can the Warnham Society do which the parish council can't" Mr. McMullen would deal.

(3) It would be undesirable to give the impression that the proposed committee had selected themselves to run the show indefinitely. Therefore the first annual general meeting, affording an opportunity of fresh elections, should be held as early as practicable, probably in September or October, and if possible the date should be fixed on the 29th March

(NOTE: The constitution provides that the AGM be held in April, but there is nothing to stop an extraordinary general meeting being held meanwhile.)

(4) Mr. Parr would arrange for the copying of the membership application form and also for a form of receipt which could be used at the meeting. Mr. Bensted-Smith, Brigadier Hall and Mr. Courtier offered to assist on the night with the collection of money, which was gratefully accepted.

(5) The Secretary would invite the local press to be present

(6) The Secretary would produce an agenda for the meeting taking account of points (1) to (3) above.

#### 5. Date of next meeting (i.e. first meeting of the new committee)

This was fixed for Thursday, 11th April, 8 p.m. same venue.

Chairman