

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

MINUTES of the First Meeting of the Committee,
held at Little Broomhall on Thursday, 11th April 1985

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. R. H. Purcell

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mrs. McLaughlin and Mrs. Thornton.

2. Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee, held on 15th March

The minutes were confirmed and were signed by the then Chairman, Mr. Bensted-Smith. There were no matters arising.

3. Draft minutes of the public meeting held on 29th March

The draft was agreed with one or two amendments and insertions.

4. Membership of the Society

The Secretary had circulated a list which showed that the opening membership of the Society, i.e. those who had joined on 29th March but also including the members of the Steering Committee, who had joined before then, was 48 (counting husbands and wives as one). If husbands and wives in a family membership were counted separately the number was 78.

It was agreed that it would be a good idea to try to increase the membership by the inclusion of an application form with the next edition of The Warbler and Mr. Bensted-Smith undertook to contact Mr. Earl and to arrange if possible.

It was agreed that there was no need at present for a membership card.

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Mr. Parr reported that the current balance was £101.34 (£111 in subscriptions plus £1.59 profit from refreshments, less £11.25 for receipt books and cash book). The charge for the hire of the hall had still to be paid. He had opened a bank deposit account. The Secretary reported purchase of a minute book at a cost of £9 and was reimbursed.

It was agreed that the Treasurer should have authority to spend up to £10 between meetings of the committee (expenditure to be notified at the next meeting). Any expenditure surplus to this would require the authority of the Chairman.

6. Future Organisation

Under this head the following were discussed:-

(a) The Best-Kept Village competition and the associated problem of litter

The Chairman said that Mrs. Thornton had offered to head a small sub-committee or working party. Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Parr offered to help her.

Mr. Courtier pointed out that, apart from paper litter, there was less manageable debris - such as large chunks of concrete and the like, and there was also loss of visual amenity by vehicles intruding on to areas of amenity open space, e.g. alongside The Green, and he hoped that the sub-committee would have assistance in taking action on this kind of thing.

Mr. McMullen said that Mr. Lomas of the Horsham District Council's Engineers Department was helpful and he could approach him on any particular problem if asked to do so by Mrs. Thornton.

(b) Attendance at Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed that it was desirable that one or two members of the committee should attend each Parish Council meeting (in addition to Mr. McMullen who was a member) and that the next three meetings should be covered as follows:

15th April	Mrs. Cox and Mrs. White
28th May	Mr. Courtier and Mr. Overton
15th July	Mr. Williams

(c) Planning applications

It was felt that it would be desirable to form from the membership of the Society a small sub-committee or working party expert in the various aspects of planning. After some discussion Mr. Courtier agreed, at the Chairman's invitation, to make some enquiries within the membership with a view to the setting up of such a body, having a membership of about five, and to report back at the next meeting. Mr. McMullen offered to serve on such a body.

(d) Care of the oak trees newly planted by the British Legion

The Chairman undertook to form a 'working party' direct from the membership of the

Society to deal with the watering of the trees as necessary. The Secretary passed him Mr. Hall's letter dated 1st April.

It was considered that the above was enough to be going on with.

7. Proposed development at Field Place

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Prichard-Jones addressed to the Chairman advising that a revised "Life Care" scheme of 82 units had been submitted for planning approval.

It was unanimously resolved to resist the planning application principally on the ground that development here would be the thin end of the wedge. The Secretary was requested to write representations to the Horsham District Council in consultation with Mr. McMullen and Mr. Purcell.

8. Liaison With Rowhook Society.

The Secretary read a letter from their Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Brenda Dick. Mrs. Dick pointed out that more than one third of Rowhook village lay within Warnham Parish and said that she intended to encourage someone from this part to join the Warnham Society to facilitate liaison between the two societies. It was agreed after discussion that the Secretary should invite Mrs. Dick and/or the Rowhook member (if one joined) to attend the next meeting of the Committee in order to discuss the whole question of liaison.

9. Affiliation with Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies

It was agreed to affiliate and to pay the initial annual fee of £10.

Mrs. Cox said that Capt. Villiers had suggested that the Society should be affiliated to the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, but it was decided to take no action on this for the present.

10. The Domesday Survey on Barns (organised by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings)

The Chairman said that he had just received a letter from Capt. Villiers (who was a member of the Society) written in his capacity as Chairman of the Warnham Historical Society, asking for the Society's co-operation in the above. The Chairman would consider.

11. The Horsham Northern Bypass

Mr. Roger Purcell addressed the committee on the subject of the traffic implications for Warnham of the Horsham Northern Bypass, illustrating his remarks by reference to two plans which showed the danger that east-west (i.e. Crawley-Guildford) traffic using the bypass might prefer a shortcut

through Warnham, and also showing the way in which some traffic from Billingshurst on the A264 and heading north for Leatherhead and London currently diverts through Warnham from Broadbridge Heath in preference to the orthodox route up the A24. From Warnham's point of view it would have been better if the bypass had taken a more northerly route or if it could be deferred until the A24 was dualled to Capel, but it was now too late to effect either change. However there were a number of ways in which traffic through Warnham could be controlled and a comprehensive review of Warnham's traffic problems was warranted. Measures which could be considered included:

- limiting the capacity and speed of travel on Strood Lane
- when the new bypass is built , linking Robin Hood Lane into the old A24 and omit the connection into the roundabout at the northern end of the existing Horsham Bypass
- closing the section of Broadbridge Heath Road between Guildford Road and Billingshurst Road to make Broadbridge Heath less attractive to north-south traffic
- prohibiting the right turn off the A24 into Knob Hill to deter southbound traffic cutting through Warnham.

A submission to the Highway Authority highlighting the traffic problems of Warnham seemed in order, and Mr. Purcell undertook to write a report which might serve as the basis for this.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Purcell for his valuable contribution.

12. Date of the next meeting

This was fixed for 8 pm. on Thursday, 23rd May, same venue.