

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

### Minutes of the Tenth Meeting of the Committee held at Little Broomhall on 22nd May 1986

Present : Mr G. P. McMullen (Chairman)

Mrs R Ashton

Mr R Bensted-Smith

Mr R Board

Mr R H Courtier

Mrs A E Cox

Mrs R. R. McLaughlin

Mr R C Overton (Secretary)

Mr H J Parr (Treasurer)

Mrs L P Parr

Mrs O. G. Thornton

#### 1 Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from Mr Melhuish.

#### 2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 18th March 1986

It was noted that the minutes should have recorded the presence of Mr Board. Apart from that they were a true record and were signed accordingly by the Chairman.

#### 3 The Treasurer's Report

Mr Parr reported that the current balance stood at £279.83 (of which £131.52 was the net proceeds of the recent "Bring and Buy" – see No. 5 minute). The Secretary reported expenditure by him of £6.16 on stationery, stamps and copying and reimbursement was authorised.

#### 4 Membership of the Society

It was reported that thirteen new members had been enrolled on 18th April, bringing the total membership to 120 (counting couples in membership as two). However, the Treasurer said that twenty members (some of whom rated as two as above) had not yet renewed their subscriptions despite the letter sent to all members on 4th April. He read out the names, and various members of the Committee undertook to pursue respectively.

It was agreed that membership was still disappointingly low and efforts must be made to increase it. There was discussion on the possibility of using the Warbler as a direct means of promoting the

Society. Not all members were enthusiastic about this but Mrs Thornton agreed have a word with the Editor with a view to the insertion of a slip including a form of application which Mr Bensted-Smith would draft and have printed.

#### 5 Bring and Buy at Glebe End on 2nd May

As noted above the sale had realised £131.52. This was a very satisfactory result and in general the event was felt to have been a most agreeable occasion and a great success reflecting the hard work the ladies of the Committee had put into and the hospitality of the venue.

With regard to applying the proceeds to the purpose for which the sale had been organised, the Chairman said that at his instigation the Clerk to the Parish Council had already applied to the District Council for the Society to be permitted to sponsor two litter bins, though it was hoped that three could now be afforded. It was for the Society to propose suitable sites. After a number of suggestions, the following were agreed:

- (i) west end of Holland Way by "the stile" and the electricity sub-station;
- (ii) east end of Holland Way, opposite Holland House:
- (iii) somewhere near the entrance to the Village Hall.

The Chairman undertook to pursue

#### 6 Best Kept Village Competition

A number of points were discussed, viz:

- (1) The next village "spring clean" was June 2nd.
- (2) Mrs Thornton had been to see the headmistress of the school and posters were assured. The Committee authorised £5 to be spent on prizes.
- (3) Mr and Mrs Walker were going to look after the telephone box in Friday Street and Mrs Thornton would do the same for the one in Church Street. This left the box in Holland Way unaccounted for .
- (4) Mr Goring was repairing the map of the village for the church notice board.
- (5) There was to be a clean-up of the churchyard on 30th May, to be organised by Mr Haynes.
- (6) The Parish Council were arranging to have the fence around the playground repaired.
- (7) Three benches had now been erected on the cricket field. The Chairman would enquire about the fourth.
- (8) The cricket pavilion was going to be repaired.

(9) The Chairman would enquire via the Parish Council if it was possible to have anti-litter notices similar to those which had recently appeared on the subject of dogs.

## 7 Neighbourhood Watch

The Secretary explained the action which had been taken in consultation with the Chairman and with the agreement of the Police since the meeting on 18th April in the light of the favourable response at that meeting from the older part of the village. Co-ordinators had been appointed for Church Street, Friday Street, Bell Road, School Hill and the houses on the Green, Station Road and Kingsfold. Distribution of literature and enrolment of individual householders had proceeded in Friday Street, Bell Road and School Hill, but shortage of some leaflets had held things up in Church Street, Station Road and Kingsfold and was continuing to hold things up. So far as the other parts of the village were concerned, ie mainly the council estates, the response at the meeting had been minimal, no co-ordinators were yet forthcoming and the action so far taken had been limited to distributing the leaflet in all the houses with an invitation to anyone interested to contact the Secretary.

Mrs Parr said she would have liked to be kept more in the picture as some people in Church Street, seeing action in Friday Street, had asked her what was going on.

It was agreed that even after the scheme was a going concern (which was not yet altogether the case) there would be a continuing liaison role for the Society, and someone on the Committee should be designated to take on this responsibility. Mr Bensted-Smith offered to do this which was gratefully accepted. He would liaise with the Secretary over taking over.

## 8 Planning Matters

The Secretary explained the procedural difficulties which had revealed themselves in a recent planning application at Kingsfold where a member of the Society had made a personal representation to him. The Secretary had been to the planning office to look at the application but had been forbidden from taking off a tracing to show Mr Courtier. This seemed to cast doubt on whether there was any adequate machinery for the Society to comment on planning applications and whether this should not in fact be left to the Parish Council who did receive copies of all plans etc.

However, the Chairman undertook to keep an eye on planning applications through the list sent to him every month as a member of the Parish Council and to consult Mr Courtier as necessary with plans borrowed from the Parish Clerk, and reporting jointly to the Committee where meetings should normally be synchronised to occur shortly before the Parish Council meetings. It was agreed to proceed accordingly.

It was noted that the Parish Council had objected against the application WN11/86, the big retail

development proposed for Broadbridge Heath in addition to the new Tesco. It was agreed that the Society should object as well. Mr Courtier would write.

#### 9 Traffic Conditions in Warnham

The Committee considered Mr. Roger Purcell's draft reply to the County Surveyor's letter of 24th March, and also a letter from Mr Melhuish who had seen the draft and who suggested that the last two paragraphs be toned down a bit in the interests of diplomacy and in the hope of maintaining the dialogue and extracting one or two concessions from the County.

#### 10 Proposals for a Country Park

It was agreed that it would not be appropriate for the Society to make any comment at this stage. -

#### 11 Annual General Meeting

It was agreed that Friday, 24th October was a suitable date. The Secretary would try and book the village hall.

#### 12 Maintenance of Footpaths

The Chairman referred to the exercise in hand with the Parish Council and invited volunteers to assist.

#### 13 Attendance by members of the Society at Committee Meetings in an observer capacity

It was felt there would be some merit in this and a suitable opportunity should be sought to invite members accordingly.

#### 14 Courses in Typing at Crawley College

The Secretary drew members' attention to the above. These were short, ie 5–week daytime courses suitable for mature students. He thought that this might be helpful in connection with the appointment of his own successor in due course.

#### 15 Date of next meeting

This was fixed for Thursday 10th July, 8 pm, same venue.