

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

### Minutes of the 109th Meeting held at Sands on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2004 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr Bousfield, Mrs Dales, Mr Elliott, Mr Hull, Mr Jones, Mr King, Mrs Kollmer, Mr Purcell and Mrs Rees

Chairman of this meeting: Mr King

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Mr Brand and Mrs Thornton.
- 2. Agenda:** The Provisional Agenda prepared by Mrs Dales was approved.
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the 108th meeting were approved after the incorporation of minor amendments.
- 4. Matters Arising:** The Spring meeting of the 25th of March was judged a success, factors affecting this outcome included
  - the relevance of the subjects addressed
  - the attendance of Kingsfold residents
  - the enthusiastic participation of the audience, presenters and those who helped with logistics, including those not on the committee
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** In Mr Brand's absence Mrs Rees reported that the Society's funds stand at £486.34. Mrs Dales advised that a sum of £25.00 due to her would only be paid when, or if the speaker at the Autumn meeting cashes his honorarium cheque which she had written personally.
- 6. Membership:** In Mr Rogers's absence Mrs Rees reported that 39 couples and 16 individuals, 55 units, had paid their current year's subscriptions, leaving about 18 units yet to pay in spite of receiving a recent reminder.
- 7. Planning Matters:** Mr Purcell reported as follows
  - A. Gregsons: A planning application has been made to extend a two bedroom house to one of four bedrooms. The house is built on land donated to the village by the late Molly Gregson to help provide lower cost houses in Warnham. The committee recognised the applicant's family reasons for wanting to extend the house but agreed it infringed the intent of the original benefaction and that the society should enter an objection.
  - B. The Granary, Station Road: A proposal to extend this building was endorsed by the committee and commended for its design. The Society will write a letter of

support.

C. Various other planning applications were reviewed and it was agreed that none warranted the Society's intervention.

D. Warnham Lodge Farm. The second application has been refused, but an appeal by the applicant against the refusal of the first application has yet to be heard. Mrs Dales did not participate in the discussion.

### **Planning Correspondence:**

Mrs Dales reported that a letter from the agent of the Warnham Lodge Farm applicant (v.7d.above) had been read out at a recent HDC Planning Committee meeting. This letter alleged a lack of impartiality and consistency in Mrs Dales' participation within the Society and Parish Council. She rebutted these allegations during her two minutes allowance at the meeting pointing out that during Society and Council meetings she had withdrawn from discussions on the applications. Furthermore her correspondence role was two fold, firstly to convey the views of the Warnham Society Committee as Correspondence Secretary and secondly on behalf of Professor Dales and herself as private individuals.

To avoid possible future misunderstandings it was agreed that Mr King would write to HDC regarding items 7a and 7b within the required time frame.

**Planning Applications Monitoring:** Mr Rogers has asked to be removed from his temporary commitment to review PA's, Mrs Rees agreed to undertake this role with immediate effect.

**8. A24 Daux to Capel:** Mr Purcell reported that the perceived disadvantages of the "railway" route against the "blue" route of cost and environmental harm were now much reduced. However the County Councils are likely to recommend the blue route but they will need to demonstrate their evaluation of other options including the railway route. Given the near certainty of objections to any decisions, a Public Enquiry seems inevitable, at which the merits of the different routes would be examined in public by an inspector.

Mr Hull advised that unanimity among Kingsfold residents regarding a particular route is not assured. Some may regard the construction of the proposed link road as disadvantage. The westerly, or blue route, could find increasing favour. However, the AGM of the KRA is due shortly on which Mr Hull will report back at our next meeting.

Mrs Dales pointed out that the Liaison Group is a welcome single consultee for the Project Manager. However though the group may agree on many matters, its members remain free to express differences of view where they exist, as originally envisaged at the group's

inception.

**9. Warnham Traffic Management Scheme:** Mr Purcell reported as follows that

A. Agreement had been reached with the WSCC to modify the application of some 20mph speed limits and to examine the reconfiguration of parts of Bell Road to make it more convenient for pedestrians and to modify the speed of vehicles.

B. The speed limit proposals are due to be considered by WSCC at a meeting in September.

C. The Parish Council will work with the WSCC to determine how funding for preliminary design work can be obtained before section 106 funds from Warnham Court farm development are available.

Mrs Kollmer reported the increasing use of Church Street by very large vehicles and the ensuing traffic congestion.

#### **10. Parish Plan & Village Design Statement**

Mrs Dales reported that the Parish council has yet to arrange the first public meeting to launch the preparation of the Plan. For a plan to be valid it needs to show that it reflects village needs as expressed by village people in an inclusive, non-selective manner.

The Committee sees the achievement of the required participation as a significant challenge, which could be met in part by good initial publicity for the public meeting and needs being surveyed by a universal questionnaire.

In the absence of a Village Design statement Mr Purcell has prepared a holding statement, approved by the Parish council as input to the local development framework. Ultimately, a VDS could form part of the Parish Plan. Mr Purcell outlined the possible format and advantages.

The committee agreed that it is committed to participating in the process and preparing a Plan and a Statement.

**11. Warnham Website:** After discussion it was agreed that Mr Jones would prepare proposals for the Society's participation in the site for consideration at the next meeting. The site is being developed locally at the behest of the Parish council. The committee hoped the site would complement the Warbler and recognised the importance of the site information being up to date.

**12. Correspondence:** Mrs Dales reported that:

A. She would circulate the minutes of the FSSAS branch minutes and those of the

local CPRE branch.

B. She would be attending the next FSSAS meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> May and invited others interested to contact her to share transport.

C. She had received a document from SEERA on waste management, which she offered to anyone interested to read and comment on as appropriate.

**13. Any Other Business:**

A. With reference to the West Sussex waste plan it would appear that the emphasis is firmly on recycling and that incineration is at least 10 years away, if at all.

B. Mr Purcell reported that Warnham in association with five other villages has its own dedicated two-person police team. This was welcomed by the committee and the hope was expressed that the team could be welcomed to a Society public meeting.

**14. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2004 at Sands, 7.15 for 7.30pm, with Mrs Dale's kind agreement. Mr Bousfield agreed to chair the meeting and Mrs Dales agreed to circulate a provisional agenda. Mr King closed the meeting and thanked the committee for their contributions.