

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting of the Committee held at Little Broomhall on 10th July 1986

Present: Mr G. P. McMullen (Chairman)
Mrs R Ashton
Mr R Bensted-Smith
Mrs R. R. McLaughlin
Mr. R. Melhuish
Mr R C Overton (Secretary)
Mr H J Parr (Treasurer)
Mrs L P Parr
Mrs O G. Thornton

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr Courtier, Mrs Cox and Mr Board.

2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd May 1986

Mr. Purcell's letter of 23rd July to the County Surveyor on the subject of traffic conditions in Warnham and asking for a meeting, was tabled.

3 The Treasurer's Report

Mr Parr reported that funds in hand totalled £283.73.

4 Membership

The Treasurer reported that of the twenty defaulters mentioned at the last meeting and subsequently urged to settle up, five had now done so and a further three had promised to pay shortly.

It was agreed that the time had now come to write to all still in default and this the Treasurer would do.

5 Best Kept Village Competition

Mrs Thornton reported on the situation to date; there had been one visit by the judges and another was expected shortly.

The Chairman said that the Horsham District Council had acknowledged the Society's firm order

for two sponsored litter bins, the cost of which would be £112 initially and £20 a year thereafter. The bins would be ordered by the Council as soon as they had accumulated a sufficient number of requests but it was evident that this would all take some time, perhaps two or three months.

6 Neighbourhood Watch

The Secretary said that leaflets had now been distributed to all Co-ordinators and he had handed over the liaison role to Mr Bensted-Smith as agreed at the last meeting. There was discussion about extending the scheme to areas where it was not now operative, eg Tuggles Plat, Gardeners Close and Tilletts Lane. One or two suggestions for possible Co-ordinators for these were mooted, and Mr. Bensted-Smith would pursue. There was criticism about the lack of decent notices advertising the scheme (such as were displayed in Worthing) and the Chairman said he would raise this at the Parish Council as it seemed to be their responsibility.

Mrs Thornton said that she had been approached by British Telecom and asked to participate in their "Watch the Box" scheme the outcome of which was that three individuals were now acting as "scouts" for BT in regard to the three telephone boxes in Warnham - Mrs. Miskin for the box in Holland Way , Mrs Stanford for that in Friday Street and Mrs Thornton herself for the box in Church Street. The Committee expressed their gratitude to these ladies and asked that a suitable entry be put in the Warbler.

7 Planning Matters

The Chairman took the Committee through the relevant minute of the Parish Council meeting of 19th May and of the agenda for 14th July and a number of interesting planning applications were noted but nothing to which Objection need be made.

It was understood that Mr Jones, Director of Planning and Development for Horsham District Council, was to attend the Parish Council on 1st September and would have something to say about possible amendments to the Horsham District Plan.

8 Annual General Meeting – Friday 24th September

The Secretary said that he had booked the village hall. It was agreed to leave the discussion of detailed arrangements till the next meeting.

The Secretary mentioned that one item for the meeting would be the approval of the minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 18th October 1985. The draft of these minutes had already been approved by the Committee but he was concerned that the section dealing with the setting up of the Planning Sub-committee and the very positive role envisaged for it by Mr Courtier at that time might read a little grandiosely in view of the fact that nothing much seemed to have been done

subsequently under this head. He suggested that it might be tactful to modify the minute a bit on this aspect, but the feeling of the Committee was that it should stand but Mr Courtier should be invited to advise whether anything could and should be done between now and 24th October to put a different complexion on things. Also would it be appropriate to invite Mr Jones, Director of Planning, to talk at the AGM? Mr Melhuish undertook to see Mr Courtier on these points.

9 Registration with The Civic Trust

The Secretary reported that the Civic Trust were now saying that the Society's constitution failed to meet the Trust's requirements for membership in various respects additional to the one originally mentioned (declaration of interest by candidates for office, etc.) and they wanted the Society to adopt the Trust's model constitution. The correspondence was continuing but the Secretary wanted guidance on how firm a line he should take since his personal view was that the suggestion was unwarrantable. Mr Melhuish expressed the view that since the Civic Trust was the only national body for helping amenity societies it would be a mistake to forfeit membership if this could be avoided. Apart from the requirements of the Civic Trust amendment of the constitution was necessary in the matter of subscriptions to give the Committee the power to put these up from time to time. One thing was very evident – all this must be tidied up in one go and not piecemeal .

10 Two adjoining allotments Bell Road

Mrs McLaughlin raised this under "Any other Business". One allotment was in use, the other had not been worked for over a year. One was understood to belong to Mr Lucas and the other to the Harben estate. The Chairman said he would raise at the Parish Council.

11 The old Harben estate laundry at "Naboths." Northlands Road

Mrs Thornton said that the items of equipment constituting this old laundry, which were of considerable historical and human interest, appeared to be at some risk now that Naboths was changing hands. She had spoken to the Chalk Pits Museum who were interested but who would like a letter from the Society. It was agreed that the Secretary would write.

12 Date of next meeting

This was fixed for Thursday 18th September, 8 pm, same venue.