

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

### Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting of the Committee held at Little Broomhall on 18th September 1986

Present :     Mr. G. P. McMullen (Chairman)  
              Mrs R Ashton  
              Mr R Board  
              Mr R H Courtier  
              Mrs A. E. Cox  
              Mrs R. R. McLaughlin  
              Mr R Melhuish  
              Mr R C Overton (Secretary)  
              Mr H J Parr  
              Mrs L. P. Parr  
              Mrs O. G. Thornton

#### 1 Apologies for absence

An apology was received from Mr Bensted-Smith.

#### 2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 10th July

The minutes were agreed to be a true record. With regard to item 6, Neighbourhood Watch, the Secretary said that Mr Bensted-Smith had asked him to explain that because of pressure of work it was not possible for him to pursue actively his liaison role at present . It was agreed that as a temporary measure this could be shared to some extent amongst other members of the Committee. Mr Courtier offered to liaise with Mr Park, the Co-ordinator of Friday Street, Mrs Cox would liaise with Mr and Mrs Winwood (Church Street), Mrs Ashton with Mrs Turner in Station Road and Mr. Overton with Mr Arliss (School Hill and houses around the Green) and also with Mr Weston at Kingsfold.

On item 10, the allotments in Bell Road, the Chairman had missed the last meeting of the Parish Council but would make sure this was not overlooked.

#### 3 The Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the balance in hand was £297.02 of which £137.36 was allocated to the litter bins, thus leaving £159.66 for general purposes.

#### 4 Membership

The Treasurer reported that there were still eight couples who had not paid the subscription due on 1st April despite several reminders, the last of them from the Treasurer enclosing an addressed reply envelope. Three alternatives were discussed: — (1) terminate the memberships now (2) put a slip in with the letter going out to all members for the AGM saying that membership would lapse if no payment was made, or (3) make a similar statement in the Treasurer's report to the AGM but mentioning no names. After the expression of some contrary views, it was agreed to proceed as at (2).

#### 5 Traffic in Warnham

Mr Roger Purcell was present for this item and took part in the discussion. The County Surveyor had written (23rd July) to offer the Society the meeting it had requested. However the Warnham Parish Council had also been taking an active interest in this subject and had been in contact with County Hall.

The Parish Council were known to have some views with which it might be difficult for the Society to go along, eg double yellow lines down the greater part of Church Street, but the Committee agreed that a joint approach would be better than going it alone if sufficient common ground could be found.

The committee then discussed several specific aspects of the problem and notably the question of yellow lines in Church Street. Adopting a suggestion made by Mr Courtier the Committee agreed that double yellow lines were justified and necessary on both sides of the road at the dangerously narrow section between Hollands Way and the entrance to the Red House. Similarly at the junction with Bell Road – east side only. No majority could be found on the Committee for extending double yellow lines further than this. Other possibilities favourably mentioned were the de-classification of Church Street (on a suggestion of Mrs Cox) and getting "The Sussex Oak" to provide more car parking and/or to advertise the availability to the general public out of pub hours of the car parking which it had.

It was left that the Chairman and Mr. Purcell would concoct a letter to the Parish Council with the aim of exploring the possibility of a joint approach to the County Council on the above and associated matters.

#### 6 Field Place

It was noted with relief that the DoE had refused the planning appeal. Thanks were expressed to the Chairman and to Mr Courtier for their contributions at the appeal hearing.

## 7 Possible extension of the conservation area in Warnham

This had been discussed at an open meeting of the Parish Council on 1st September, the point being that significant areas including the cricket field were currently excluded, but it was understood that no firm conclusions had been reached. This was a subject on which it might be appropriate for the Warnham Society to express a view. Mr Courtier as chairman of the Planning Sub-committee would give some thought.

## 8 Best Kept Village Competition

The results of both competitions (BKVC and the 'Super clean' competition were still awaited. Not all the detailed comments on Warnham made by the judges, and published by Mrs Thornton in The Warbler, were felt to be relevant. Mrs Thornton would be making certain points to the judges.

## 9 Registration with the Civic Trust

The Secretary said that the Civic Trust had now agreed to accept a modified version of the Society's constitution including provisions as to declaration of interest and winding up. He had agreed a form of words with them on both aspects and the resultant draft constitution was now submitted to the Committee. In addition to covering the two points required by the Civic Trust, the new version gave the Committee power to increase subscriptions and also provided that membership would lapse if a subscription was unpaid three months after it was due, and there were one or two other minor "tidying up" amendments. The Committee approved the draft except that in the matter of the lapsing of subscriptions six months was substituted for three months.

## 10 Annual General Meeting Friday 24th October

This was discussed under the following heads: -

- (1) Report on the year. The Secretary volunteered to produce along the lines of last year, the report, which would be circulated at the meeting. Mr Melhuish gave him a contribution to put in from the Planning Sub-committee.
- (2) Statements of accounts for year to 30. 9.86. Treasurer would produce along lines of last year.
- (3) Election of Committee. Arrangements for nominations would be along the lines of last year, invitations to nominate being issued in the letter going out to all members (see 7 below). With two exceptions all members of the present committee were willing to stand for re-election and were deemed nominated en bloc, the two exceptions being Mr and Mrs Parr. Mr Parr agreed however to continue as Treasurer until (and including) the first Committee meeting after the AGM.

(4) New constitution. This would be an item on the agenda, due notice being given in the letter to members.

(5) Minutes of the last meeting (18th October 1985). These would be sent out with the letter to members.

(6) Informal session to follow meeting. It was agreed that this should be on the same lines as last year, ie a cheese and wine session; if possible on a payment basis but time was short for the Treasurer to apply for a licence.

(7) Letter to members. Secretary would draft along lines of last year. Offers of help with distribution were gratefully accepted.

(8) The Press. They should be invited – Secretary would deal.

#### 11 Millers' Shop in Church Street

Under "Any other Business" Mrs Parr raised the subject of the new shopfront which she considered most unsightly particularly on the side aspect. She was supported by Mrs fox, and with one or two reservations and varying degrees of conviction by the other members of the Committee. It was not known whether planning approval had been obtained. From various remarks which had been let fall in the shop it seemed possible that Mr and Mrs Miller were not enthusiastic themselves about the new shopfront but might have had it wished on them by LONDIS (the chain of which the shop was part). If this were the case the Society's intervention might not be unwelcome and it might be possible to exert some influence to have the shopfront modified. It was left that in the first instance Mrs Thornton would have a Word with Mr. Miller.

#### 12 Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Thursday 16th October, 8 pm, same venue, in order to tie up the loose ends on the Annual General Meeting.