

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Committee held at Little Broomhall on 20th November 1986

Present: Mr G. P. McMullen (Chairman)
Mrs R Ashton
Mr R B Bensted-Smith
Mr P A Board
Mrs A. E. Cox
Mr R H Courtier
Mrs R. R. McLaughlin
Mr. R. E. Melhuish
Mr R. C. Overton (Secretary)
Mr H J Parr*
Mr M Smith
Mrs O. G. Thornton
Mrs J. M. Walker

* Up to and including item 6

1 Introduction

Mr McMullen welcomed members to this the inaugural meeting of the Society's new year, especially Mr Smith and Mrs Walker (who had volunteered to take over as Treasurer). He was willing to continue as Chairman if desired. This was gratefully accepted and he and Mr. Overton (Secretary) were unanimously confirmed in their appointments.

2 Apologies for absence

An apology was received from Mr Purcell.

3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th October 1986

The minutes were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

4 The Annual General Meeting on 24th October 1986

The draft minutes, of which all members had had a copy, were agreed. The Chairman thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the evening. Mr Parr observed that the cheese and Wine had realised a profit of nearly £5 in voluntary donations. (It had not been possible to charge in the absence of a licence which there had not been time to apply for).

5 Hon Treasurer 's Report

Mr Parr reported a balance of £309.01 of which £132 was earmarked for the litter bins and the Secretary was owed £3 for copying and stationery.

In formally accepting Mr Parr's resignation as Hon Treasurer (see minutes of committee meeting of 18th September 1986) the Chairman thanked him for having served in this capacity from the outset and this was warmly endorsed by all members of the Committee.

6 Appointment of new Hon Treasurer

The Chairman formally proposed that Mrs Jo Walker be co-opted to the Committee and appointed Treasurer; this was seconded by Mr Bensted-Smith and agreed unanimously. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Committee to Mrs Walker for coming to the Society's rescue.

7 The oak trees

This was briefly discussed in view of the continuing commitment of the Society following the remarks made at the Annual General Meeting. Mr Parr kindly agreed to continue overseeing the care of the trees generally, which he had delegated to various members of the Society (see minutes of 16th Jan 1986).

It had never been clarified who was responsible for the replacement of dead trees, ie the Society or the Parish Council, and the Chairman undertook to raise this at the Parish Council. If as likely, it was to be the Society, would the Council pay for replacements?

8 Membership and the application form

It was agreed that every member of the Committee would try to recruit one new member in the course of the year.

It was agreed that the membership application form required revision. Mr Bensted-Smith suggested an A5 folder with the form on one page and information about the Society on the other; there would be a slip inside with current subscription rates. This was agreed and Mr Bensted-Smith kindly undertook to prepare a draft.

9 Planning Matters

(1) Mr Smith enquired the position with regard to a planning application which had been made about two years ago for an extension to "Cromwells" – provision of a banqueting suite etc. The Chairman undertook to enquire through the Parish Council.

(2) Mr Melhuish drew the Committee's attention to a recent planning appeal which set an important precedent. The effect was that there was no longer any presumption against the demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area.

(3) It was agreed that henceforward the Planning Sub-Committee (Messrs Courtier, Melhuish and Smith) would meet on a regular basis a few days before each committee meeting to review current planning applications affecting Warnham.

10 Traffic conditions in Warnham

The Clerk to the Parish Council's letter of 21st October to Mr Purcell was discussed. On the evidence of this letter, and of enquiries which the Chairman had made of the Parish Clerk, it did seem that it was the intention of the Parish Council to pursue vigorously with the County most of the points which the Society were anxious to make as set out in Mr. Purcell's letter of 29th September. However it was felt that the Society was entitled to be more closely informed as to progress than was implied in the last paragraph of the Clerk's letter which merely said that when firm proposals were received from the County they would be publicised.

It was noted that the County Surveyor had written to the Parish Council on 3rd November to state that a comprehensive report on Warnham was nearing completion. It was agreed to ask for a copy of this report when it was received by the Parish Council – the Chairman would keep an eye on this.

It was also noted that the brewery had written to the Parish Council to say that they were considering the possibility of creating additional car parking at the Sussex Oak.

11 Aircraft flying over the village

Mrs Shelagh Dutton, a member of the Society who lived in Bell Road. had written at the time of the AGM to say that she was concerned about the increasing number of aircraft flying over the village and suggesting a protest to the BAA.

The general feeling of the committee was that Mrs Dutton's point was not substantiated. However it was agreed that there would be merit in the Society making itself better informed on this subject and a good way of doing so would be to join the Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign. The Secretary would pursue and would also reply accordingly to Mrs Dutton.

12 "Superclean" Prize

It had been half expected that Mrs Mary Lockner would be at this meeting to present the cheque for £150, but it seemed that there had been a breakdown in communications. It was provisionally agreed that the money should be spent in due course on another sponsored litter bin, possibly to

be situated at Deerpark Gate. Meanwhile the Secretary would enquire what was happening about the two sponsored bins already on order, and the Chairman would enquire if the Parish Council would pay the £10 renewal fee in these cases.

13 Two adjoining allotments in Bell Road

Mrs McLaughlin raised the question again (see minutes of 10th July). The Chairman would have a look at these allotments.

14 Mrs Gresson's land

Now that Mrs Gregson had sadly died, developments could be expected and should be watched for by the Society.

15 Arrangements for cheques

The existing deposit account with Barclays Bank did not include a cheque facility, which did seem to be a necessity. The Secretary and the Treasurer would liaise over this.

16 Date of the next meeting

It was agreed to meeting again on Thursday, 22nd January 1987 at 8 pm – same venue.