

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 140th Committee Meeting held at The Banks, Bailing Hill, on Thursday 18th September 2008

Present. Mr Brand Mrs Bridges, Mr Elliott, Mr Hamer, Mr King & Mr Purcell Chairman of this Meeting. Mr Hamer

1. Apologies for Absence. Mr Knight & Mrs Rees
2. The Agenda proposed by Mr Hamer was approved
3. The Minutes of Meeting 139 were approved with two minor amendments
4. Matters Arising:
  - Mr Knight has provided a progress report on the Village Hall
  - The WPC is arranging the cleaning of the WW2 Memorial
  - FSAS has provided a copy of our insurance certificate for the current year, Mr Elliott to review and file
  - Warnham PO Closure: Mr King reported his receipt of a letter from Royal Mail which was neither helpful nor illuminating. It was agreed to let the matter rest
5. Standards Board Hearing. Mr Purcell summarised the events which occurred before, during and after the hearing originating in complaints laid by Mrs S. Pavey regarding the conduct of Mrs Dales & Mr Purcell in discussing her planning application at WPC Meetings. A HDC Sub Committee meeting in formal session upheld one of the two complaints against Mrs Dales but did not uphold the complaint against Mr Purcell. Both were required to undertake training, which they have done. However, the Committee believes the proceedings were flawed and false conclusions were drawn. In Mr Purcell's case the process used seems to flout the principles of natural justice making any outcomes unsound. He is seeking guidance from the association of Parish Council Clerks to help him determine how to proceed. The Society's direct involvement arose from conversations between Mr King and the Investigating Officer for the Standards Board which has raised two major concerns, namely:
  - the Investigating Officer's failure to incorporate amendments of matters of substance, as agreed, in his report
  - the Officer's contention that the Society exists to influence public policy or opinion, acceptance of this view would have consequences, eg declaration of interests by Parish Councillors. More immediately, this wrong view could have affected the Local Determinations Sub - Committee's decisions making them unsound. Mr King was asked to prepare a letter spelling out the Society's deep concerns for agreement by the Committee, to be sent to the Chief Executives of HDC and The Standards Board. Mr Purcell will advise the FSAS branch to keep their information on this matter confidential whilst the Society considers its position.
6. The Parish Design Statement. A final meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for 1st October, 7 pm at The Banks, Bailing Hill to agree a final version of the Statement, accommodating comments from consultees. A Consultation Report will also be finalised. Both documents will be

sent to HDC for expected approval of the Statement in November

7. Warnham Nature Reserve Project. Mr Bridges has written a report. Funding options are being explored, including one with DEFRA, which could result in the proposed Reserve being part of a larger environmental programme

8. West of Horsham Development. No decision has been reached yet on the choice of road layout. The decision rests with HDC, but WSCC must be satisfied that safety criteria are met

9 Minerals etc. Framework. Mr King will write a response to a recent WSCC letter expressing our continuing interest

10. Housing Needs Survey: WPC has received a copy of the report, a meeting is being arranged with the author(s) to discuss its findings

11. Autumn Meeting & AGM. Friday 24th October 2008, Village Hall, 7.30 for 8.00pm. Logistics Pre

- Meeting:

- Sam Bayley to speak on "Wild Warnham "EB

- Warbler entries, RP

- Posters, RP / EB

- Notifying Members, Agenda & Annual Report, BK et al to prepare. Distribution, RP et al

- Audited Statement of Accounts BK. GB to liaise with SR 40 copies needed for meeting to GE

- Election of Committee: Current members have agreed to stand, except Mrs Rees

Meeting Logistics:

- Open & lock hall, return keys to B Butler. RP

- Committee attend at 7 pm to set up hall, ALL

- Collate copies of Accounts, Minutes of last AGM and lay out GE

- Welcome & support speaker, JH/BK

- Identify charity for donation in lieu of speaker's fee, EB

- Wine, GE

- Coffee/tea, JH

- Membership renewals, EB, SR/RP

- Chair AGM. BK

- Chair Meeting & Vote of Thanks, JH

- Take Minutes, GE

- Reinstate hall, ALL

12. Any Other Business. None

13. Next Meeting. Wednesday 12th November 2008 at 7 School Hill, 7.15 for 7.30, Mr King to chair. Mr Hamer was thanked for chairing this meeting and for his hospitality