

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 142nd Committee Meeting held at The Tower, Warnham Lodge on Thursday 8th January 2009

Present. Mr Brand; Mrs Bridges, Mr Elliott Mr Hamer, Mr King, Mr Knight & Mr Purcell

Chairman of this Meeting. Mr Hamer

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. Minutes of Meeting No. 141, 12th November 2008 were approved & signed

3. Matters Arising:

a. Mr Elliott reported that he was due to receive a copy of the FoSAS policy to determine the cover provided and its relevance to our needs. Obtaining this, and other information, was taking unduly long. He will expedite

b. Mr Brand advised an increase in the fee for the Society's hire of the Village Hall from £35 to £52.50 per session. The Committee appreciated that there had been no increase for some years and welcomed the recent upgrading of the Hall's operations. An annual review of hire charges might be a better way of balancing income with expenditure

c. It was agreed, after a vote, that we continue our subscription to the CPRE

d. It was agreed that the question of increasing annual subscriptions shall be resolved at the next Meeting, the Constitution, Clause 5, vests authority to do so in the Committee. Mr Brand reported that cash at bank stands at £1144.69

e. Warnham Nature Conservation Project. Awaiting a response from Mr Lucas

4. Correspondence

a. Mr Purcell put some documents on circulation

b. Mr Purcell reported that WSCC had published a revised Minerals & Waste Development Framework. Members can view it on the County's website, WPC are due to discuss it on 23rd February 2009

5. Standards Board Update:

Mr King reported that he had received a reply from HDC to his letter of 13th December 2008, but not from the Standards Board. The HDC reply failed to deal with much of our serious concerns. Indeed it raised a further concern in respect of Mr Purcell in that the contents of the letter were at serious variance with the Decision Notice, to the detriment of Mr Purcell. He, after consultation with Committee colleagues, has written to HDC asking that their letter be reconsidered to accord with the Decision Notice. It was agreed that, given the serious concerns expressed in Mr King's letter, a response from the Standards Board may take some time and that any follow-up should be considered at the end of January 2009

6. Parish Design Statement It has been published and is being made available to anyone who wishes to read it. It has the important status of a Supplementary Planning Document within the

Local Development Framework. Mr Hamer pointed out that the Parish Plan and the PDC are statements of what people in the parish want based on extensive consultation. He expressed his thanks to the Steering Committee, especially Mr Purcell, and other contributors for their efforts

7. West of Horsham Development, DC/08/2446. It was agreed that Mr Hamer would write to HDC expressing our support for the road layout proposals of Countryside Properties, which differ from those of HDC, based on a paper circulated by Mr Purcell

8. Housing Needs Survey. Mr Hamer reported that a presentation of the Survey results had been made to WPC. There was a lack of correlation between the survey and its results. The WPC had accepted the need for more social housing in the village. However, its realisation depends on the availability of cheap land, a circumstance unlikely to obtain soon

9. The Village Hall: There has been no formal response to the Committee's suggested modifications to the proposed design for improvements to the Hall. It expressed the hope of an early response and, likewise, to other users' ideas. If none is forthcoming the Committee will write seeking a reply. Mr Knight reported on the welcome improvements to the hall's day-to-day operations and paid tribute to the sterling work of Tara Collins, the Booking Secretary. At the management level, the need to improve administration, communication, consultation and teamwork remains work-in-progress; it requires continuous attention by all concerned. Some members hope to participate in the painting weekend, 16-18th January 2009. It was asked why it was not being done professionally?

10. Warnham Website. Mr Purcell reported that it was not up to date and that Mr Benham hopes to take over as manager, after training. Mr Purcell reported the electronic capture of old village photographs

11. Spring Meeting, Thursday 14th May 2009: Mr King undertook to approach Mr Brian Slyfield, Editor of The Horsham Society's Newsletter, about speaking at the Meeting. A bird walk led by Mr David Bridges remains an option as an additional activity. The AGM and Autumn Meeting are scheduled for Friday 16th October 2009

12. Any Other Business: None

13. Next Meeting: Wednesday 25th February 2009 at Hawthorns, Knob Hill, 7.15 for 7.30. Mr Hamer was thanked for chairing the meeting and Mr King for his hospitality