

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 147th meeting held at Hawthorns on Wednesday 16th September 2009

Present: Mr Brand; Mrs Bridges; Mr Elliott; Mr Hamer & Mr King. In attendance for item 6, Mr D. Bridges, who was welcomed to the Meeting

Chairman of this Meeting: Mr King

1. Apologies for Absence: Mr Knight & Mr Purcell
2. Mr King's proposed Agenda was approved
3. Minutes of Last Meeting, 16th July 2009, No.146
  - The Minutes were approved
  - Matters Arising: None
  - Correspondence: None

4. Treasurer's Report , Mr Brand: The accounts for the year to 30th September 2009 have been agreed by Mr R. J. Boud, Honorary Auditor. The Committee expressed its gratitude for his continuing service to the Society. The bank balance stands at £1005.18; for the second year running there has been a loss, £76.95. Annual subscriptions will rise to £6 for couples & £4 for singles from 1st October 2009, see Min. 5 of Meeting 146. The Committee agreed to review the renewal of its insurance with FoSAS, due 1.04.2010. A fall in the number of members has reduced income, while the cost of hiring the Village Hall has risen

5. Membership Secretary's Report, Mrs Bridges: Paid members consist of 34 couples & 16 singles, a fall of 25 on the year. Apart from opportunistic recruitment, a way to secure more members may be to offer more, eg a third meeting, see also Minutes 6 & 8

6. Nature Conservation Project, Mr Bridges: Work is well under way to establish a nature reserve in fields accessed from Tilletts Lane, certainly for butterflies, but also for other wildlife. There is goodwill being shown by the landowner and the tenant farmers. A key requirement is the imminent renewal of leases on the affected fields. Planned management of the fields should produce a favourable habitat for many different butterflies and other life forms. This would provide opportunities for field studies by school children and nature devotees, whilst giving pleasure to walkers et al, all within a picturesque setting. Operation of the reserve would largely fall to volunteers. However, there are issues that need to be addressed and agreed so that the project can proceed at the practical level, to this end Mr Purcell is preparing a Memorandum Of Understanding. The WPC is supportive but would prefer the Project to be championed by another Parish organisation.

The Society is willing, in principle, to undertake a lead role and will seek the agreement of its Members at the AGM to this proposal, backed up by Mr Bridges' attendance at the AGM. Subject to securing this in principle agreement and the successful resolution of matters alluded to above the Society would convene a public meeting of interested parties, from within & without the Parish, to determine support and define a way ahead.

7. Planning Matters:

- Signs Detering HGVs: Mr Hamer will seek expedition of their installation through the WPC
- HDC Core Strategy Review: The Consultation Document identifies an area north of Bell Road as an option for development. WPC is soliciting the views of relevant residents to inform its response, due with HDC by 16th

October. Mr King will consider a response by the Society, in consultation with Mr Hamer & Mr Purcell, taking account of the WPC's survey findings

- Parish Plan: Mr Hamer reported that the WPC reviews progress, much work is in progress, but a few actions need external help to carry them forward
- Waste Management: The Meeting endorsed the comprehensive response by WPC to WSCC in respect of BIFFA's Planning Application for the Brookhurst Wood site. Mr King agreed to respond on behalf of the Society supporting the WPC analysis

8. The Society's Silver Jubilee:

- Mr King will write to Mr Pritchard-Jones to determine his interest in supporting a republication of Ron. Mugeridge's book " Warnham a History "
- Mr Elliott will continue to complete the round walk from Warnham via Rowhook & Strood Green and identify any problems. Mr King will undertake a walk
- The Nature Conservation Project could be part of the celebrations

9. Warnham Village Hall: Mr Knight's written report was noted with thanks. It was agreed that Mr King should send the Joint Chairmen's letter on the Society's representation on the Village Hall Committee to its Chairman

10. AGM & Autumn Meeting Logistics: It will take place in the Village Hall on Friday 16th October 2009, 7.30 for 8.00. Mr Brian Slyfield, Editor of The Horsham Society's monthly Newsletter, whose subject will be " Heroes & Villains ".

Pre-meeting:

- Notice has been placed in the October Warbler, BK/RP
- Prepare & put up posters, RP/ALL
- Prepare Annual Report of the Committee, JH/BK
- Prepare Agenda, including agreement in principle to Nature C P, and Election of COMMITTEE MEMBERS, all 7 members have agreed to stand again unless we hear to contrary, JH/BK
- Prepare letter to Members inviting them to Meeting, inviting Committee nominations and asking for payment of subs. EB/RP
- Prepare labels for sending out Report, Agenda & Invite by 2nd October at latest, EB/RP/ALL

At Meeting:

- Collection & Return of Keys, GE
- Layout & Reinstate Hall from 7pm, ALL
- Host Speaker, BK
- Provide Nature CP material, Mr Bridges
- Lay out Minutes of 2008 Meeting, GE
- Lay out Annual Accounts, GB
- Membership, cards & Subs., EB/GB
- Wine etc, GE
- Coffee etc, GB/ BK
- Chair AGM, Meeting & Propose Thanks, JH/BK
- Take minutes, GE

11. Any Other Business:

- Mr Elliott & Mr King are attending a presentation on the role of the Army at its invitation
- Mr Brand asked about the future status of the A24. He was advised to refer to Mr Hodgson ( WSCC ) or Mr Purcell

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday 28th October 2009 at Hawthorns, 7,15 for 7.30, subject to confirmation by Mr Hamer, Mr Knight & Mr Purcell, Mr Hamer to chair. Mr King was thanked for chairing this Meeting and Mr Elliott for his hospitality