

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 167th Meeting held at The Banks, Bailing Hill on Tuesday 1st November 2011.

Present: Mrs Bridges; Mr Elliott; Mr Hamer; Mr King; Mr Lancaster & Mr Thompson. In attendance: Mrs Gillian Debenham Taylor & Miss Sue Lee.

Chairman of this Meeting: Mr Hamer.

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. Minutes of the AGM & the Meeting of 20th September 2011: The Minutes of the AGM were noted, they will be submitted for approval at the 2012 AGM. The Minutes of the 166th Meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising: Mr Elliott reported that there had been no response from WSCC to the Society's concern about the poor condition of Tilletts Lane, he will pursue.

4. Election of Officers & Co-option of Members: Mrs Debenham-Taylor & Miss Lee were co-opted as members of the Committee. The Committee made the following appointments:

Joint Chairmen: Mr Hamer & Mr King
Treasurer: Miss Lee
Membership Secretary: Mrs Bridges
Minutes Secretary: Mr Elliott
Correspondence Secretary: Mr Thompson
Webmaster: Mr Lancaster

Mr Thompson will provide a schedule of members' contact details. Mr Elliott will transfer the account books to Miss Lee and initiate her registration with HSBC. Mr Elliott circulated a card from Mr Brand thanking the Society for its gift on his standing down from the Committee.

5. Correspondence: Mr Thompson tabled several items which Mr Lancaster will scan and circulate electronically.

6. Treasurer's Report: Mr Elliott reported that on 1st November the bank balance stood at £857.89. He reported a profit of about £30 on refreshment sales at the AGM. Mr Hamer relayed some observations from Society member Mr Boud aimed at improving the Society's financial position which the Committee is committed to addressing. The following were agreed:

- the need to raise subscriptions would be resolved before the 2012 AGM. Mr Elliott reported that The Horsham Society was raising its subs. to arrest a fall in its reserves.

- cost savings would be pursued through scrutiny of each item of proposed expenditure in the coming year. Mr Lancaster advised that the speaker at the autumn meeting had charged no fee or expenses.

- fund raising opportunities would be sought. Mr Lancaster instanced the possibility of charging to access the results of our W.W.1 project.

- the need for public liability insurance needs to be resolved. Mrs Bridges is determining how other similar organisations deal with this issue. She has found that annual membership of the British Association For Local History at £58 includes liability cover. Mr Elliott agreed to contact the Association to determine possible benefits to the Society from membership and to discuss the issue with the FoSAS.

7. Membership: Mrs Bridges reported that there are 11 single & 42 double paid members.

8. Parish Council: Mr Lancaster reported that the WPC approved minutes can be accessed on the Society's website. The lack of any restoration of Post Office remains a concern. Mr King will discuss the issue with Caroline Lucas to determine what more can be done and report back at the January meeting.

9. Village Hall: The Committee appreciates the improvements made to the hall so sees no pressing need to be represented on its Committee.

10. Planning:

- the music festival off the A29 was shorter and less intrusive than expected
- accessing Warnham related planning applications remains an issue. It appears that the WPC website is likely to be their best source. Mr Hamer will investigate and report at the January meeting.

- in response to a question from Mrs Taylor Mr Hamer confirmed that the WPC and the Society are active in challenging major development proposals, including the provision of sufficient infrastructure and the effect of additional traffic.

- Mr Elliott reported that following representations from bodies like the National Trust, expressions of concern across the national & local press and the intervention of Mr Cameron the Government is reviewing its draft National Policy Planning Framework.

11. Diamond Jubilee Celebrations: Mr King & Mr Elliott reported on their attendance at the first planning meeting organised by the Vicar & Hilary Farquhar. Mr King will circulate an email stating progress to date. A decision is needed on the Society's participation via a display of life in Warnham in 1952.

12. War Memorial Project: Collection of data is progressing. An organised survey of Warnham references in the local press is getting under way. Volunteers for this work are coming forward, others would be welcome.

13. Any Other Business:

- Mr Lancaster reported the transfer to the Society's website of photos. from its collection. Help with annotation is required

- Mr King asked members to come up with ideas for the Spring Meeting. He reported that the Biffa visit had gone well.

14. Date & Venue of Next Meeting: Thursday 26th January 2012 at The Tower 7.15 for 7.30 pm. Mr Hamer was thanked for his hospitality and for chairing the meeting.

Minutes of Meeting No. 167 were agreed: _____

Date: _____

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