

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 169th Meeting held at Hawthorns, Knob Hill on Wednesday 29th February 2012.

Present: Mrs Debenham-Taylor; Mr Elliott; Mr Hamer (from Minute 8); Mr King; Mr Lancaster; Miss Lee & Mr Thompson.

1. Apologies for Absence: Mrs Bridges

2. The Minutes of the Last Meeting (25th January 2012; No.168) were approved.

3. Matters Arising:

- Mr King will discuss the restoration of postal services to the village with Caroline Lucas on her return from holiday and report back to the next meeting.

- Mr Elliott reported that he had advised WSCC of two highway problems on Knob Hill using their online procedure. A pothole was dealt with promptly. The restoration of missing letters to a WARNHAM sign awaits attention.

4. Correspondence: Mr Thompson submitted an invitation from FoSAS to renew our annual subscription and to attend the AGM, see Minute 7 below. Where practical, printed documents are being scanned for email circulation by Mr Lancaster obviating the need for person to person circulation, and giving timely, wider and continuous access.

5. Membership: Mrs D. - Taylor reported that a new village resident wanted to join the Society.

6. Finance: Miss Lee reported that the bank balance stands at £ 1006.81.

7. Insurance: Mr King & Mr Elliott reported that the Insurance provided to members of the British Association For Local History appears to meet our needs, at a cost of £ 58 pa., a saving of almost £ 100 on our FoSAS policy. It was agreed that the Society would join the BAfLH, subject to a satisfactory appraisal of their welcome pack by M/s King & Elliott. They will see through our application with Miss Lee.

Mr Hair, Secretary of the FoSAS, will be advised of our decision by Mr King/ Mr Elliott.

Coincidentally, one of whom will discuss the benefits of membership of FoSAS and report back to the next meeting, see Minute 4 above.

It was agreed that our membership of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign will be reviewed at its renewal date.

It was agreed that we should remain a member of CPRE.

8. Parish Council: Mr Lancaster reported that the most recent WPC meeting had a high public attendance whose concerns related to the recent resurfacing of Strood Lane & Byfleets Lane where surface improvement and incidental widening will make them more inviting to rat-running traffic now and in the future as the BBH developments come to fruition. WPC representatives are meeting WSCC Highways to discuss such concerns. The Committee noted that both it and the Parish Council had been, and remain, assiduous in challenging the traffic impact of business & residential developments.

Mr Hamer reported that HDC was reviewing the possibility of reducing the membership numbers on parish councils. The election of a police commissioner is also on the horizon.

It was noted that plans for the extension of the Village Hall would not be put out to tender until they had been submitted to the WPC at its next meeting.

Mr King noted that there remained a long-standing concern about traffic volumes and speeds outwith the village centre, but within the parish.

9. Planning:

9.1 National Planning Policy Framework: Mr Hamer reported that one aim is to delegate more planning power from a national to District Council level. The Government is due to publish its revised version of the NPPF in the Spring when it will receive intense scrutiny from, among others, the National Trust & the CPRE.

9.2 Pending Application DC/12/0084: Mr King reported that he had written to HDC supporting WPC's call for this application to be subject to full planning consent.

9.3 Gypsy & Traveller Sites: HDC is due to decide soon on the eligibility of the site at the A29 end of Northlands Rd. for use by itinerants. (No other sites are proposed within the parish.) Since this meeting HDC has removed this site from its proposed list.

9.4 BBH Sports Centre: Mr Lancaster reported that the Action Group is energetic and that he is helping them develop a website. WPC hasn't taken a position on the proposed closure, it was suggested that the Action Group leader should attend a Parish Council meeting to solicit their support..

10. Diamond Jubilee Celebrations: Mr King reported that Sue Overton has been advised by Mick Hodgson that his mother has a collection of Jubilee memorabilia that can be made available for display during the D.J. Celebs. Mr King will discuss with Sue how and where this material could be displayed, possibly supplemented by other contributions.

11. Spring Meeting: Mr Elliott reported that a Mr Bill Gage of the West Sussex Records Office would be available to speak on West Sussex Railways, covering 1830 - 1948, on Friday 18th May 2012 when we have provisionally booked the Village Hall. As well as slides he can project a film taken from the footplate of a local train, total cost £ 60. Mr King will urgently seek Mrs Bridges' thoughts, if satisfactory he will arrange to book Mr Gage.

A prompt decision will allow Mr Elliott to prepare a piece for the April Warbler, deadline 17.3.2012.

Miss Lee advised that she was preparing a piece which could be used to recruit new members, she'll raise at the next meeting.

Notification of members and other admin. arrangements will be dealt with at our next meeting.

Mr Hamer identified two possible speakers of his acquaintance for future meetings.

12. War Memorial Project: Mr Lancaster reported steady progress and that a review meeting was scheduled for March. An update could be given to members at the AGM.

13. Society Website: Mr Lancaster reported that the minutes of the latest WPC meeting were loaded as would the Spring Meeting details when known.

14. Bulk Fuel Oil Purchase: Mr Elliott related his experiences with his first oil purchase as a member of the Community Oil Buying Syndicate, based in Nuthurst, but covering West Sussex. Although most houses in the parish are served by gas it was agreed that Mr Elliott should submit a piece to the Warbler on the Society's behalf on his experiences, as others may wish to join to secure the scheme's economic and other benefits. Mr Elliott alerted the meeting to a reported initiative by WHICH to recruit electricity & gas consumers to secure lower prices. When he gets more info. he will advise.

15. Any Other Business: Mr Lancaster reported that the Horsham Archaeological Society was taking an active interest in findings of pottery etc around Ends Place. So much so that Mr Lucas's permission is being sought to organise " field walking " volunteers who could be recruited from the Society's members.

16. Date & Venue of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd April 2012 at The Banks, Bailing Hill, 7.15 for 7.30 pm., Mr Hamer to chair. Mr King was thanked for chairing this meeting and Mr Elliott for his hospitality.

Minutes of Meeting No. 169 were agreed: _____ Date: _____