

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 177th Meeting held at The Tower on Monday 17th June 2013

Present: Mrs Debenham-Taylor; Mr Elliott; Mr Hamer; Mr King; Mr Lancaster & Mr Thompson.

Obituary: The Committee recorded with sadness the death of its Treasurer, Sue Lee, and also its appreciation for her service to the Warnham Society.

1. Apologies for Absence: Mrs Baker was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting: No.176, 3rd April 2013 were approved. Matters arising are covered in the Agenda.
3. Committee Membership: There remains a pressing need to recruit more members to the Committee. Members will contact Society members they know & invite them to attend the next meeting on Tuesday 6th August. Mr Hamer will publish a similar invitation in the Warbler. Mr Lancaster will repeat the invitation on the Society's website and on Twitter. We hope Mrs Baker will be able to attend the next meeting. A local topic of significance for the Autumn meeting & AGM could be a spur to attendance & recruitment. Mr Hamer raised the possibility of amending the Constitution so that Committee membership became more attractive.
4. Correspondence & Communication: Mr Thompson put items on circulation. It was agreed that membership of CPRE & FoSAS should continue, but not that of GACC to whom Mr King will write advising them of our withdrawal.
5. Finance: HSBC have been advised of Sue Lee's passing. Until a new Treasurer is appointed Mr Thompson & Mr Elliott will conduct the daily financial business of the Society. The " cash book " is not being updated so Mr Hamer will discuss the implications of this omission with our Honorary Auditor, Mr Boud. The current statement records a balance carried forward at 19.05.2013 of £ 1047.76, including a payment in by Mr Lancaster of monies taken at the door at the Spring Meeting.
6. Membership: Mr Lancaster advised that new members' applications need to be duly processed and records of existing members updated. Accordingly, he offered to serve as Membership Secretary, while continuing as Webmaster. He was appointed unanimously by a grateful Committee.
7. Parish Council, Mr Hamer. Matters reported included:
 - a new grass cutting contractor has been appointed
 - the oak tree near the village hall is to be treated
 - areas suitable for planting wild flowers are being sought
 - a location for outdoor gym equipment has been agreed
 - a vehicle activated speed display device is being installed
 - the PC is willing to support the publication of the proposed book commemorating Warnham's role in the Great War and the provision of a plaque recording the names of Warnham's dead not recorded on the War Memorial. This work is being carried out by a Warnham Society Project Team.

8. The Village Hall: It was agreed that Mr Elliott will attend the AGM of the Village Hall Committee on 3rd July 2013 to support Mr Thompson's nomination as the Society's member on the Committee.

9. War Memorial: Mr Elliott will write to the PC suggesting the need for the memorial to be at its best for the coming years' commemorations of the Great War. A War Memorials Trust scoring system should be helpful in securing a rational approach to renovation.

10. Roads & Traffic: It was noted that WSCC's Operation Watershed has funds assigned for clearing ditches etc to improve highway drainage. The PC will identify ditches most in need of attention to WSCC who will assign Balfour Beatty to survey & determine the work required. The PC will apply for funds for work agreed and engage contractors to carry out the work. A prompt response is being sought. It was noted that where highways are being resurfaced potholes are not receiving prior attention.

11. Planning:

- Various pending applications to the PC were reviewed, none warranted comment by the Committee.

- Mr Hamer advised that the the Parish Plan & Design Statement are due to be succeeded by Neighbourhood Plans.

12. Future Programme:

- Mr Hamer has set out the programme for the planned visit to Hampton Court on 22nd July 2013 in a piece in the next Warbler. For more publicity Mr Thompson will email Society members and Mr Lancaster will enter the visit on the Website.

- the Committee reiterated its commitment to maintaining a balance between honouring its historical remit , its safeguarding role & fostering activities beneficial to the parish.

- the Committee reviewed issues of current and future importance to the parish. It concluded that " water management over the next decade " was a suitable issue for the Autumn Meeting. Mr King will ask Southern Water to supply a speaker to adress this subject.

- the possibility of inviting the BBC's " Any Questions " programme to Warnham will be pursued.

13. Great War Commemoration Project: Mr Lancaster reported that work is progressing in writing biographies of Warnham's dead plus a few noteworthy survivors. Life on the home front will be portrayed, decorations will also be listed. The planned outcomes are an A4 size book, a website and the addition of names to the War Memorial. The Committee welcomed the Parish Council's support for the project. Mr Lancaster is supporting the WSCC Libraries' project to digitise newspaper sources from which we can benefit

14. Archaeological Field Walks: Mr Lancaster reported that the survey of the field at Ends Place is complete with findings of mediaeval flint & pottery.

15. Any Other Business: None

16. Next Meeting: It will be held on Tuesday 6 th August 2013, 7.15 for 7.30 pm, at

Forest Grange Manor, Centre Wing, Mr King to chair. Mr Hamer was thanked for chairing this meeting and Mr King for his hospitality.

Minutes of Meeting 177 were approved: _____

Date: _____