

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 178th Meeting held at Forest Grange on Tuesday 6th August 2013

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

1. Apologies for Absence: Mrs Baker has advised that she is unable to join the Committee due to the demands of her other commitments.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting, 17th June 2013, No. 177: They were approved.
3. Matters Arising: Mr Elliott will write shortly to the Parish Council recommending that the War Memorial be refurbished in time for next year's commemorations of the Great War.
4. Correspondence / Communication: The Society has had an enquiry about the age of some houses in Friday St. to which Mr Hamer will respond.
5. Finance & Membership: Mr Lancaster advised that he does not know which members have, or have not, paid their subscriptions, and if so from which dates. It was agreed that all members' subs. would fall due at the AGM unless they had evidence of recent payment.
There is a pressing need to institute a record of individual payments in written or electronic form before the AGM. The cash book where such payments would have been recorded has not surfaced. There is also a need to ensure that all payments to or from the bank are identified by category to prepare the annual accounts for 2012-2013 for the AGM. Subsequent to the meeting Mr King undertook to address these issues with C'ttee members. Mr Hamer has secured Mr Boud's agreement that accounts may be assembled retrospectively.
Mr Elliott reported that our bank balance stood at £ 985.26 @ 19th July 2013
6. It was agreed that the pressing need to appoint a Treasurer be met by Mr Hamer placing an advert in the September Warbler, (deadline 17 August) for a Treasurer. Separately, Mr Hamer will submit photos of the Hampton Court visit to the Warbler to stimulate recruitment of new members.
7. Parish Council, Mr Hamer: Matters reported included:
 - a planning application by Longwells vineyard for a caravan to remain on its present site, HDC to decide
 - a Sussex Police initiative to crackdown on anti-social driving, by public reporting
 - the Youth Community Worker for Warnham, Slinfold & BBH is now in post
 - the church clock needs a new mechanism fitted, the PCC has opened a public appeal for funds to pay for it
 - the outdoor gym. facilities become available mid -August
 - there is to be a survey of parish trees in public areas to be followed by the development of a planting plan & its implementation. All to be funded by a generous bequest by Mr Hodgson & his family
 - the bus shelter on the A24 near Bell Rd. has been so badly damaged by a car colliding with it that it needs to be demolished and then rebuilt

- a progress report on the Friday St. traffic calming scheme
- the design of a parish logo is almost complete
- the responsibility for keeping parish roads clear in winter has been passed to the WPC
- the theft of two recently replaced finger posts
- a briefing on increased runway capacity at Gatwick airport

8. Village Hall: Mr Elliott will ascertain if building works will be taking place in October when the Autumn meeting is due.

A letter of concern has been received from Society Member Mr Mc Laughlin in which he points out that the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee at the recent AGM stated that the Society did not use the hall enough to be recognised as having a right to appoint its own Representative Member. The C'ttee agreed that this position should be challenged by writing a letter to the Village Hall Committee of Management, see Clauses 6 & 7 of its Constitution, Mr Elliott to scan copies and send to C'ttee members. Mr King agreed to circulate a draft letter for comment.

9. Roads & Traffic: The Committee remains concerned about the number of unrepaired potholes in parish roads but accepts that other than reporting their occurrence there seems to be little more that can be done.

10 Planning:

- it was agreed that none of the current planning applications was contentious
- it's too early to take action on developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

11. Hampton Court Visit: 28 people attended and enjoyed themselves Mr Hamer was thanked for arranging the visit, he advised that a similar visit to Kensington Palace could be arranged next year.

12. Autumn Meeting & AGM: Mr King is negotiating the provision of a speaker from Southern Water to address the strategic issues of managing the long term supply of water. Mr Elliott will obtain village hall dates. Mr King suggested we look at rationalising the information we supply to Society members for the AGM.

13 Great War Commemoration Project, Mr Lancaster:

- the Parish Council will approach the Heritage Lottery Fund to fund changes to the War Memorial to accept additional names
- Mr Lancaster is supporting the Sussex Libraries' digitisation of local newspapers
- the unearthing of the Defence of the Realm Act, DORA, provisions for Warnham will enliven the home front narrative
- Mr Hamer advised that he has a publishing friend who would help with the book editing
- the writing of profiles continues
- a visit to Kew to examine records is foreseen.

14. Archaeological Field Walks, Mr Lancaster: To be resumed after harvesting.

15. Any Other Business: Mr Lancaster gave an encouraging report on butterfly sightings at the nature reserve off Tilletts Lane

16. Next Meeting: Provisionally fixed for Tuesday 17th September 2013, date, venue & chairman to be agreed. Mr King was thanked for chairing this meeting and Mrs Debenham - Taylor was thanked for her hospitality.

Minutes of Meeting 178 were approved: _____

Date: _____