

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Committee held at Ramblers, Friday Street on 30th April 1987

Present: Mr G. P. McMullen (Chairman)

Mrs R Ashton

Mr R B Bensted-Smith

Mr P A Board

Mrs R. R. McLaughlin

Mr R. E. Melhuish

Mr R. C. Overton (Secretary)

Mr R H Purcell

Mr M V S Smith

Mrs O G. Thornton

Mrs J. M. Walker

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr Courtier and Mrs Cox.

2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd April 1987

The minutes were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

3 Current Membership

The Secretary had prepared a current list of members and this had been circulated and was noted. Membership now stood at 129, in 76 family units of which, interestingly, 25 were outside Warnham Village proper. It was noteworthy and regrettable that the "Council estate" contributed only three members to the Society.

4 Treasurer's Report

Mrs Walker reported that the bank balance stood at £431 of which £264 was set aside for the litter bins. Only one or two new subscriptions had so far been paid. It was agreed to issue receipts for cash or on request, but not otherwise (i.e. not for cheques). The Secretary had incurred expenses of £8.94 since 5th March and reimbursement was authorised.

5 Best Kept Village Competition

It was noted with satisfaction that two litter bins (the first order) had now been provided. Mrs Thornton said that she had arranged and publicised a clear-up on Tuesday 5th May and there would be another one at the beginning of June. As last year the school children would be asked to design posters for which the Society would offer the customary prizes.

6 Planning matters

(1) Outline planning application for development at Stanfords' Yard. It was agreed to write to the developers, Courtyard Historic Properties Ltd, to urge generous provision of parking within the development. Mr Purcell kindly agreed to draft.

(2) WN 21/87 – demolition of existing Victorian colonaded canopy at Field Place, etc.
It was agreed that no objection need be made.

7 The Ex-Gregson estate

The Chairman reported on developments which had taken place since the last meeting. As requested by the Committee he had sought a meeting with Mr Charles Lucas but had been redirected to Mr Douglas Fox, the Agent for the Trustees. He had only managed to have a short telephone conversation with Mr Fox who had been somewhat brusque and dismissive. In the meantime there had been critical press publicity for the clearances principally relating to the destruction of the hedge alongside the A 29.

In the light of these developments it was agreed that the Society had a duty to write formally to Mr Lucas and urge on the Trust the need for a balanced approach in the restoration of the remaining farmland which would pay regard to the ecological and amenity aspects as well as to the strictly farming interest. The Chairman would draft and sign the letter.

8 Spring meeting Thursday 21st May

Final arrangements were made relating to the meeting. It was agreed that the County Surveyor or his representative should be given the opportunity of attending if he wished. Mr Purcell would write to invite him.

9 Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies – Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 27th May – 6. 30 pm

The Secretary drew members' attention to this event, the special attraction of which was that there was to be a talk by Mr Bryant, the County Planning Officer, on recent changes in planning law. It

was agreed to publicise at the spring meeting.

10 Annual General Meeting - Friday 30th October

The proposed date was noted and agreed and the Secretary would confirm the booking of the village hall. The form of the meeting should be discussed at the next meeting of the committee.

11 Date of the next meeting

It was agreed to meet on Thursday, 9th July at 8 pm, at Little Broomhall.