

# THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the 187th Meeting held at 6 Friday St. on Thursday 25 September 2014

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

1. Apologies for Absence: Mr McLaughlin.
2. Minutes of Last meeting, No. 186, 26 August 2014 were approved.
3. Matters Arising: None.
4. Society Membership: Mr King & Mr Lancaster tabled a proposal for free membership for a one year trial period aimed at increasing the Society's income to a level where it matches, or exceeds, outgoings by charging a flat fee to all those attending. Society meetings, in lieu of annual subscriptions. Their view was that this approach was preferable to the status quo after intense efforts to secure the payment of overdue subscriptions were unsuccessful. Mr Thompson advised that the draft accounts for the current year confirmed that outgoings will exceed income. It was agreed that other ways of paying subs. were unlikely to bear fruit, nor was there a proposal to raise subs. It was agreed that the proposal for free membership fell within the letter of the Constitution. It was agreed by five votes to two to table a proposal to Society members at the 2014 AGM asking them to express a preference for the status quo or a one year trial for free membership. If the latter is chosen the issue would be further considered at the 2015 AGM, otherwise the status quo would obtain, with the possibility of increased subscriptions.  
Mr King & Mr Lancaster agreed to table a statement at the next meeting, 16. 10. 2014, for Committee agreement prior to submission to members as an A. O. B. item at the AGM. Arrangements for collecting fees or subs., as appropriate, on exit from the hall will need to be agreed
5. AGM & Autumn Meeting 7 November, 7.30 for 8 pm: The speaker will be Victoria Lillywhite of the Horsham Archaeological Group, HAG. The following actions were agreed:
  - Agenda, BK
  - Committee Report:, JH & BK
  - Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts, JT
  - Appointment of Auditor, JH
  - Appointment of Committee: An Agenda item, all attending agreed to stand for re-election, GE to contact WMcL and advise. Nominations from the members will be sought as usual.
  - A donation will be made to the HAG in lieu of a speaker's fee, the amount will be agreed at our next meeting.
  - Refreshments, WMcL & GD-T, GE to confirm
  - Power Point will be used to display documents, so minimising paper copies
  - Publicity: The October Warbler, AD. Flyers for general publicity, AD. Emailing members, SL.
  - Other arrangements: Next meeting.

6. Parish Council: Mr Hamer outlined the approach being taken by the Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan,( NDP). He will chair a group of parish councillors and invited people from within the parish to start work on preparing the NDP, which may require professional input. The NDP should identify whether any development is needed, if so where ? and its characteristics, style, density etc. Ownership of the final plan must be vested in the whole parish, of which the Council is a part. The Society's possible involvement will arise as the planning process proceeds and ideas, views etc are sought.

7. Gatwick Flight Path Trials;Nothing new to report

8. Planning: Nothing to report

9. North Horsham Development::The Planning Inspector is considering the soundness of HDC's Planning Framework and will start the public hearings in November.

10 Village Hall: Mr Hamer reported that the work on the hall is expected to be finished by the end of the month

11.Warnham and the Great War: Mr Lancaster reported that the rate of sales has slowed down but we continue to seek new sales and access points. .Accordingly, English Heritage will be approached to act as one. Waterstone's in Horsham are well overdue with their payments for copies purchased, Mr Lancaster will continue to seek timely payment.

Mr Elliott reported that the National Trust at corporate level had declined to stock the book, as have Brighton & Hove Museums & Galleries. He is also pursuing entry of the book for an award or review. One promising approach is through the British Association for Local History, BALH, with whom we are insured, which he will progress. It's likely to take some time

12. Future Programme:It was agreed to defer a possible visit to Kensington Palace until the Spring. Possible topics for Spring & Autumn Meetings include the WEY & ARUN CANAL TRUST, SINGLETON, WEST DEAN & WINE

13. Any Other Business: None

14. Date & Venue of Next Meeting: Thursday 16 October.2014 at 7.45 pm at 6 Friday St., Mr King to chair. Mr Hamer was thanked for chairing this meeting and Ms Davies for her hospitality.

Minutes of Meeting No.187 were approved:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_