

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the Twenty-first Meeting of the Committee held at 5 School Hill on 10th November 1987

Present : Mr. R. E. Melhuish (Chairman)
Mrs R Ashton
Mr R B Bensted-Smith
Mr P A Board
Mr R H Courtier
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

An apology was received from Mr McMullen.

2 Appointment of Chairman and other officers

Mr Melhuish was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee and duly took the Chair. Mr. Overton and Mrs Walker were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer.

The Chairman proposed that he should approach Sir James Dalrymple-Hay with a view to co-opting him to the Committee. It was agreed that this would be a most desirable addition and the Chairman was requested to proceed accordingly.

3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 24th September 1987

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

With regard to item 8 "Granny's Lane", this had unfortunately been overlooked at the Annual General Meeting, but it was agreed that the change of name should be pursued notwithstanding, and the Secretary should write to the Parish Council to initiate. On Mr Purcell's suggestion it was agreed to press at the same time for the restoration of "Threestile Lane" for the road which runs down to School Hill from the Tilletts Lane/Mayes Lane junction.

4 Treasurer's Report

Mrs Walker reported that the current balance was £417.61. This was possibly rather a lot not to be

earning interest and she would re-explore the alternatives to the present arrangements (current account with Barclays Bank).

5 Annual General Meeting 22nd October 1987

The draft minutes prepared by the Secretary and copied to all of the Committee were agreed with one or two minor amendments.

On the subject of traffic management for Warnham which had provoked a lively discussion at the meeting, it was agreed that Mr Boud had made a good point about the hazards of the junction of Friday Street with Church Street: a mirror fixed on the east side of Church Street and facing down Friday Street might help matters and in the first instance Mr Board would have a word with Mr Tilney, the owner of the land on which this would have to stand. Mr Bensted-Smith suggested that another danger was that pedestrians negotiating Bailing Hill were tempted to use the main road instead of the bridleway because of the bad state of the latter and that an approach to the highway authority might be justified to up-grade this path. It was agreed to investigate first.

Another subject which had provoked lively discussion at the AGM was the planning application for a three-storey development at Stanford's Yard where, following some remarks by Mr Robin Morton, Mr McMullen had indicated that the Committee would give consideration to vigorous action if this seemed necessary. Mr. Bensted-Smith thought (with Mr. Morton) that the Society's resistance in extreme cases should not be confined to making representations to the planning authority, but on the whole the Committee took the view that the constitutional approach was likely to be more effective in the long run. Mr Purcell pointed out that, through inadvertence, the Society had failed even to make representations in the Stanford's Yard case.

On the subject of the Government's proposal to extend night-flying, which had come up at the AGM as a result of the mention in the report of the Society's membership of the Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign, it was agreed that the Society should add its voice to those who were protesting against this proposal and the Secretary was asked to pursue.

Finally, the Committee warmly endorsed the thanks to Mr McMullen expressed by Mr Bensted-Smith at the conclusion of the AGM and rightly recorded in the minutes for the admirable way in which he had exercised the chairmanship of the Committee for the last two years.

6 Planning Matters

The Chairman undertook to let each member of the Committee have a copy of the conservation area regulations which, read in relation to the relevant circular (8/87), in his view gave the Society considerable scope to play a more active part in the planning of future developments for the Village.

The Secretary suggested that the committee needed to look at its procedures for making planning

representations, which appeared to be ineffectual. It was agreed that the first step was to write to the Planning Officer and ask if the Society could be sent the periodic lists of new applications, and what this would cost. The Secretary would write accordingly.

7 Any other business

(1) Footpaths on the Ends Place estate. It was agreed that the Secretary would to the new occupant, Mr Luckin, to remonstrate about the recent ploughing up of footpaths in three areas.

(2) Electricity cables. Recent experience, particularly the storm of 16th October, highlighted the vulnerability of overground cables. The question was whether the Society might usefully make representations to Seeboard on this subject. It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

8 Date of the next meeting. It was agreed to meet again on Tuesday 12th January 1988, same venue.