

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the Twenty-second Meeting of the Committee

held at 5 School Hill on 12th January 1988

PRESENT: Mr R. E. Melhuish (Chairman)
Mrs R Ashton
Mr R B Bensted-Smith
Mr P A Board
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 Sir James Dalrymple-Hay and Mr G. P. McMullen. (The Chairman said he was pleased to say that the former agreed to be co-opted on to the Committee).

2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 10th November 1987

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

The Secretary said that he had written to the Clerk to the Parish Council to initiate action on the suggested change of road names to Granny's Lane and Three Stile Lane.

3 Treasurer's Report

Mrs Walker reported a current balance of £251.55 after payment of all bills, ie including litter bins. It was agreed after all to leave the arrangements as they stood.

4 Traffic in Warnham

The Secretary said that he had written to the County Engineer and Surveyor to acknowledge his letter of 6th October and to remind him that the Society was waiting to hear from the Area Engineer at Broadbridge Heath as to the results of his investigations (chicanes etc).

It was agreed to write again to the County Engineer but to lay stress on moving the 30 mph sign at the Northern end of Church Street to a point at least as far out as the extremity of the street lighting. This was felt to be the most urgent requirement in view of the hazardous junction of Church Street with Friday Street and the high-lighting of this at the Annual General Meeting. It was agreed on reflection that the idea of a mirror at the junction was not worth pursuing.

Mr Purcell kindly agreed to write.

5 Planning Matters

(1) Stanford's Yard. The Committee noted with disappointment that planning approval had been given for the 3-storey development at Stanford's Yard despite the strong objections made by the Parish Council and others and despite Mrs Jean Burnham's confident assertion at the Annual General Meeting that the planning authority would never approve it. The Secretary was requested to write to Mrs Burnham and remonstrate. The Chairman said he had discussed the approval with the Area Planning Officer in case the Society could influence the choice of materials but unfortunately this did not appear to be the case.

(2) Sussex Oak Public House. The Committee noted that a planning application was probably imminent here and, like that at Stanford's Yard, would probably show a development which was excessive in scale. It was agreed to keep an eye out for this application.

(3) Conservation Areas. The Chairman circulated copies of an extract from the relevant circular and also asked that the circular itself – all of which was of interest - should be circulated round the Committee after the meeting.

(4) Periodic lists of planning applications. The Secretary had established that the cost of receiving these on a regular basis would be approximately £45 per annum (£35 initially). It was agreed that this was a reasonable sum to pay for this useful facility, and that the list should be sent to the Chairman at his home address. The Secretary would put in hand.

(5) Cromwells. Mr Smith reported that the planning application for extending the car park across the A29 had been turned down, a matter for some relief.

6 Footpaths on Ends Place land

Mr T F Luckin's unhelpful reply to the Secretary's letter of 17th December remonstrating about the recent ploughing up of footpaths, had been circulated to members and was noted. It was agreed to do what in fact Mr Luckin invited, and direct the complaint through the Parish Council. The Secretary would take the necessary action.

7 Spring Meeting

It was thought that the storm of 16th October and its aftermath might afford a good subject for the meeting, and Mr Board offered to ask Mr Tony Shelley of Wakehurst Place if he would be willing to speak on this subject. It was established that the village hall was available both on 28th April and 12th May (both Thursdays) and it was agreed to try and clinch one of these dates with Mr Shelley

and to make a firm booking. The Chairman requested members to give thought to the form of the meeting.

8 Electricity Supplies in the light of the storm

The Chairman would write to Seeboard on the desirability of burying cables as evidenced by the storm.

9 Gatwick Airport and night flying

The Secretary reported that he and Mrs Thornton had attended the Annual General Meeting of the Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign at Horley on 3rd December. There had been a hard-hitting discussion on the merits and demerits of the Government's latest proposals on night flying which would permit some increase in the number of flights by quieter aircraft. Following the meeting he had written to the Department of Transport to add the Society's voice to those who were objecting to the proposals. This letter had been acknowledged.

10 Any other business

(1) Land at Ends Place. Mr Board pointed out the attractions of the river which ran through the land, which appeared to be quite rich in wildlife, and wondered whether this offered any scope for a nature trail. It was agreed to give thought.

(2) Society to donate a tree or trees to the village. Mrs Thornton thought that this would be a good idea since the Parish Council were understood to have some planting in mind. It was agreed to consider again in the context of the Spring meeting.

(3) the forthcoming vacancy of Hon Secretary. The Chairman asked that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

(4) "Pocket Parks" - Fact Sheet No 2 from the BBC. Mrs Walker spoke enthusiastically about this, and she would try to obtain a copy for the next meeting.

11 Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Tuesday, 22nd March, venue Ramblers, Friday Street.