

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the twenty-third meeting of the Committee held at Ramblers, Friday Street on 22nd March 1988

PRESENT: Mr R. E. Melhuish (Chairman)
Mrs R Ashton
Mr R B Bensted-Smith
Mr P A Board
Mr R H Courtier
Sir James Dalrymple-Hay
Mr G. P. McMullen
Mr R C Overton (Secretary)
Mr R H Purcell
Mrs O G Thornton
Mrs J M Walker

1. Apologies for absence - Welcome to Sir James Dalrymple-Hay

An apology had been received from Mr M V S Smith. The Chairman welcomed Sir James Dalrymple-Hay to his first meeting.

2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th January 1988

The minutes were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman. With regard to the two suggested changes in road names - Granny's Lane and Three Stile Lane – the Secretary reported that the Parish Council were agreeable to the Society pursuing. It was agreed that the next step was to consult all householders on these two roads. The Secretary and Mrs Thornton would do this.

With regard to the obstructed footpaths on Ends Place land (item 6 of the minutes) the Secretary said that this had been reported to West Sussex County Council via the Parish Council.

The Chairman said that he had not yet written to Seeboard on the question of burying electric cables in the light of the experience of the hurricane.

3 Treasurer's Report

Mrs Walker reported a current bank balance of £220.98 with no major commitments. It was agreed to pay the Civic Trust's new membership fee of £25 per annum.

4 Traffic Matters

Copies of Mr Purcell's letter of 15th January to the County Engineer and Surveyor and his reply of 27th January, on the subject of the speed limit sign at the southern end of Church Street, had been sent to members.

Mr Purcell judged that there would be little or nothing to be got out of the County until the completion of the Horsham Northern Bypass and (with regard to chicanes) until the 90-day trial at Bramber had elapsed. However, he offered to write again in general terms to keep the pressure on.

5 Planning Matters

The Chairman reported on those applications affecting Warnham of which he had information through the lists, the only significant one being for 18 2-bedroom flats at Ends Place. The Committee took the view that this development would be an intrusion into the rural scene, and it was agreed to make representations. The Chairman would write.

The Secretary read the letter that he had written to Mrs Jean Burnham at the Committee's request on the subject of the proposed development at Stanford's Yard (see paragraph 5(1) of previous minutes) and Mrs Burnham's reply dated 16th March.

The Secretary was requested to purchase for the Society a copy of the recently published consultation document on the North Horsham District Plan.

6 Land at Ends Place

Mr McMullen said that the Parish Council had been consulted on the Lucas Trust's proposals for the restoration of the farmland in the remaining North East corner, ie the part nearest to Warnham Village. The plans seemed reasonable but the Council had expressed the hope that restraint would be exercised in their execution.

It was a matter of concern to the Committee that this work was likely to take place during the nesting season, and Mr Board suggested that the Society might commission a survey of the effect on bird life. He would make some enquiries but it was agreed that, this possible avenue excepted, it would not be appropriate for the Society to take any action at the present time.

7 Tree planting by the Parish Council 1988–89

At their meeting on 18th January the Council had decided to seek the advice of the Warnham Society, without however specifying what they had in mind. The Secretary had written to demur at this and the Clerk had subsequently written to say that the Council had reconsidered at their next meeting and would be dealing with the matter themselves.

The committee noted and endorsed the Secretary's action.

8 Forthcoming vacancy of Secretary

This item was on the agenda at the request of the Chairman. Mr Overton reiterated that it would be his wish to retire at the next AGM in October 1988, when he would have been in office over 3 1/2 years, ie beyond the period originally envisaged.

The Chairman asked if any member present would be willing to take on the secretaryship, but there was no response. It was agreed to appeal for a candidate in the letter which would shortly be going out to members in connection with the Spring meeting.

9 Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies - AGM and exhibition at Wivelsfield Green on 11th May

The Secretary and Mrs Thornton would attend the meeting, but the Warnham Society would not be represented in the exhibition.

10 Environment Week 25th April - 4th May

The Committee agreed that participation was not necessary or practicable.

11 Spring Meeting 12th May 1988

Mr Board said that unfortunately Mr Tony Shelley of Wakehurst Place was not available on either of the possible dates. The Chairman said that he was prepared to give a talk with slides on the theme of an Architect's view of the buildings of Warnham and this was enthusiastically accepted. Mr Board agreed to provide and set up a projector. Mr Courtier offered to put on an updated photographic display of "horrors" etc. Arrangements for the meeting were discussed. The Secretary would write to all members to invite them to the meeting (and also to invite renewal of subscriptions) and there would also be publicity by poster etc.

12 Any Other Business

(1) Telephone Boxes Mrs Thornton reported that the Parish Council had applied for two boxes to be listed - the one in Church Street and the one in Friday Street.

(2) Publicity. The Secretary undertook to try and arrange for the Society to get a mention in every Warbler. A separate newsletter was not thought to be justified.

(3) Best Kept Village Competition Mrs Thornton said that she had been invited by the Parish Council to co-ordinate once again.

Mr Courtier suggested that there was scope for the Society to identify and "attack" specific areas which cried out for improvement, perhaps calling for volunteers. It was agreed to put an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

(4) Neighbourhood Watch, also Crime Prevention Committee

Mr Bensted-Smith said that it was not practicable to continue his involvement in these on Warnham's behalf following his move to Slinfold. For agenda at next meeting.

13 Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on 19th July same venue. (But this was subsequently brought forward to Tuesday, 14th June.)