

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Committee held at
Ramblers, Friday Street on 14th September 1988

PRESENT: Mr R E Melhuish (Chairman)
Mr R B Bensted-Smith
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 Mrs Ashton, Mr Board, Mr Courtier, Sir James Dalrymple-Hay and Mr McMullen.

2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 June 1988

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

On the subject of the burying of electricity cables (para 2 of the minutes) the Chairman reported a letter dated 22nd July received from Seaboard. The letter was not particularly encouraging but did point out that when this type of work was last carried out (at West Chiltington) it had been co-ordinated by the County Council and went on to suggest that it might be worthwhile for the Society to pursue with the County.

It was agreed to make this approach and the Chairman undertook to write. On the subject of the North Horsham District Local Plan (para 5 of the minutes) the Chairman confirmed that he had written to the District Council as requested to comment on the consultation draft.

Comments as agreed had also been duly made on the two planning applications – Tickfold Farm (WN 20/88) and land adjoining The Banks (WN 29/88) – paras 7 and 8 of the minutes refer.

With regard to the land adjoining the village hall (para 9) the position was still obscure though it was now known that the seller was the West Sussex Council Council. It was agreed that more information would still be welcome.

With regard to neighbourhood watch and crime prevention (paragraph 13, Mr Bensted-Smith said that he would follow up with the Crime Prevention Officer the letter he had written to him on 16th May resigning from the Crime Prevention Panel and suggesting that the representation of Warnham revert to the Parish Council.

3 Treasurer's Report

Mrs Walker reported a balance in the bank of £253.51. So far as subscriptions were concerned the position was that exactly half had now been paid, ie 37 out of 74. She apologised for not having yet written to the defaulters but had with her a draft letter which (with one or two amendments) it was agreed should issue with the invitations to the Annual General Meeting. Mrs Walker tabled a letter from Mr and Mrs Parr dated 27th May resigning from the Society. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to acknowledge, and the Chairman would deal.

4 Annual General Meeting 27th October 1988

The Secretary tabled a draft agenda which was agreed with some rearrangements. Item 3 was to amend the constitution so as to rule out any officer serving for more than five years in any one term, thus reinstating a clause (but with 3 years instead of 5) which had appeared in the original constitution. He (Mr. Overton) would be prepared to continue in office for the present if the clause was passed. Item 5 of the agenda was to elect a new committee for which nominations would be invited in the letter to issue shortly to all members. All committee members present indicated that they would be prepared to stand for re-election.

The final item on the agenda was the Committee's report for the year which the Secretary had drafted and which was agreed with one or two amendments and additions. It was felt that discussion of the report, which raised a number of topical issues, should occupy the time of the meeting satisfactorily, but that this last item on the agenda should be so worded as to invite members to raise any other matters of their own if they wished.

It was agreed that the meeting should be a public one; also that it should be preceded (not followed as last year) by an informal session at which wine and coffee would be served.

5 The Conservation Area - composition of joint working party with Warnham Parish Council

The Chairman's letter of 30th June to the Parish Council proposing a joint working party had been enthusiastically received and the Clerk had replied accordingly in his letter of 12th July. This had been followed by a preliminary walk round the village with two planning officers. Mr Hodgson, the Chairman of the Parish Council, would himself be leading the Council in the working party. He was suggesting a total membership of about six and had expressed the hope that progress could be made over the next six months. What was now required was for both sides to select their members for the working party.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Mr Purcell would represent the Society. Ideally it would be nice to have a landscape architect as well and this could be canvassed at the AGM, but one was unlikely to be forthcoming. The Chairman would settle the details with Mr Hodgson.

6 Traffic in Warnham

Mr Purcell said the village of Broadbridge Heath and their parish council were equally concerned about excessive commuter traffic through the villages and had recently been discussing the possibility of making the short stretch of Warnham Road by the newsagent into one-way or closing it altogether, as the Warnham Society had put forward a year or two ago. There might be an opportunity for liaison here and he would contact the Clerk, Mr Turk.

7 Planning Matters

The Chairman reported on the list of applications affecting Warnham which had come to him, none of which seemed to require any action by the Society.

8 Best Kept Village Competition

The committee congratulated Mrs Thornton on Warnham's success in the competition - second in the Large Village section.

9 "The Garden and the Street Scene" - proposed prize in 1989

The Secretary (whose idea it had been in the first place) suggested the following terms of reference: (1) Prize to go to the garden which in the preceding 12 months had done most to brighten the street scene; (2) Prize to be awarded in October yearly; (3) Entries not to be invited - the judges would short-list and make final decision; (4) Only the built-up area of the village to be eligible; (5) No-one to be awarded the prize twice in five years; (6) Panel of three to judge - all Warnham villagers and gardening expertise not to be the main criterion.

It was agreed that the above seemed sensible and to proceed accordingly, first step being to publish in "The Warbler" but this should not be till after the Annual General Meeting. Meanwhile Secretary would find out from the Vicar if he was willing to come on the panel.

10 Civic Trust and their magazine "Heritage Outlook"

The Trust had asked if the Committee would agree to their circularising Warnham Society members (with the aid of a list to be provided by the Secretary) so as to increase circulation of the magazine.

It was agreed that this was not acceptable but that the magazine should be brought to the attention of members at the AGM, the names of anyone interested to be passed to the Civic Trust.

11 Any other business - proposed new bus shelter

It was noted that the Parish Council was canvassing views on this. The matter was one of interest to the Society and the Committee should keep abreast of developments.

12 Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Tuesday 22nd November at 8 pm, same venue