

# THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

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

PRESENT: Mr R. E. Melhuish (Chairman)

Mrs R Ashton

Mr R B Bensted-Smith

Mr R C Overton (Secretary)

Mr R H Purcell

Mrs O G Thornton

Mrs J M Walker

## 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr P A Board, Mr R H Courtier, Sir James Dalrymple-Hay, Mr G. P. McMullen and Mr M V S Smith.

## 2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 September 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, it remained the Chairman's intention to pursue with the County Council.

With regard to membership of the Crime Prevention Committee and to Neighbourhood Watch, it was noted that Mrs Jennifer Pearce had now been appointed by the Parish Council as the representative of the village on the Crime Prevention Committee. It was felt that the Society should maintain its interest in Neighbourhood Watch and the Secretary undertook to make some enquiries as to how this was proceeding.

## 3 Appointment of Officers

The Committee formally elected Mr Melhuish, Mr Overton and Mrs Walker as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for the ensuing year.

## 4 Treasurer's Report and Subscriptions

Mrs Walker said that though there had been quite a good response to her "dunning" letter, which had brought in about £50, ten members still owed their subscriptions as follows:-

Mr and Mrs Bridges, Mrs Enid Dance, Mr and Mrs Elliott,

Mr and Mrs Francis, Mrs Harrod, Mr and Mrs King,

Mr and Mrs Marshall, Mr and Mrs Morton, Mr and Mrs Pearce and Mr W. E. Thornton.

Responsibility for an informal approach to each of the above was then allocated to various members of the Committee.

Mrs Walker went on to say that the current balance of funds was only £140 and she thought the situation called either for the raising of subscriptions or for some fund-raising effort. It was agreed to defer further consideration until the next meeting when it was hoped there would be a better attendance.

The committee authorised the payment of £29.96 to the Secretary for various expenses incurred and for the cost (about £7.50) of a suitable present for Mr Andrew Farquhar who had now audited the 1987-88 accounts.

#### 5 Annual General Meeting – 27th October 1988

This was felt to have gone well and to have afforded a useful opportunity for discussion on various topics. It was felt that the experiment of serving wine at the beginning rather than at the end had been a success and should be followed next time.

The secretary was thanked for his information report which had served as the basis for much of the discussion. Members of the Committee had his draft Minutes of the meeting which with one or two amendments were agreed to be a sufficient record of the meeting, for presentation at the next.

Various matters arising from that report were then discussed: –

Conservation Area. The Chairman said that it now looked as if the joint working party would consist only of two members on each side - himself and Mr Purcell, and Mr Hodgson and probably Mrs Jean Burnham. He was now waiting to hear from the Council with regard to this and to the date for the first meeting.

Best Kept Village Competition. Mrs Thornton reported that Warnham's prize, donated by The Men of the Trees, was £20 plus 150 crocus and daffodil bulbs which had already been planted. The £20 was payable to the Parish Council and its use, possibly for a tree, would have to be mutually agreed. She also said that she had written to British Telecom about the telephone boxes; they had replied sympathetically and were considering.

Annual Garden Prize. It was agreed that it would be early enough to put a note in The Warbler in the Spring. Secretary would deal.

Traffic. Mr Purcell explained developments since the meeting. As agreed he had written to the County Council and to British Rail (copy to the Parish Council) to say that the Society was in favour of closing Station Road and had received a sympathetic reply from the latter. The Clerk of the Parish Council had then phoned him to remonstrate that the Society was

usurping the Council's prerogative, but Mr Purcell had rejected this view of the matter. The (copy) letter had then been the subject of discussion at the Parish Council's meeting at the beginning of November and (not without an intervention from Mr Purcell from the public gallery) the Council had decided by a narrow margin to endorse the Society's view and to declare in favour of the closure of Station Road.

Footpaths. It was noted that Mrs Penny Bennett had established, on behalf of the Parish Council, a personal contact with the department of the County Council concerned and it was agreed that it would be best for the Society to channel its efforts through her for the present, eg on footpaths on Ends Place land. The Secretary would suggest to her that the Sussex Rural Community Council might be able to help.

The desirability of retaining Wapple Way along its present line in view of its historical significance was noted and agreed.

Granny's Lane. The Secretary had written to the Horsham District Council to ask for the change of name.

Youth in the Village at a loose end. Though the remarks of the Vicar were noted, it was agreed that it would not be appropriate for the Society to intervene in this matter at the present time.

#### 6 Letter from Mr M P S Hodgson, Chairman of Warnham Parish Council

All members had copies of this letter from Mr Hodgson dated 25th October in which he expressed regret that he would be unable to attend the Society's AGM because of a previous engagement and went on to discuss a number of subjects of mutual interest arising from the Committee's report which the Secretary had sent him. Unfortunately through some oversight the letter had not been received till after the meeting.

A point stressed by Mr Hodgson was the importance of the gap between Horsham and Warnham including the whole of the land acquired by the Horsham District Council from the Lucas Estate two years ago. In their representation on the Horsham District Local Plan the Parish Council were asking that this land (and also the Warnham Park estate and the Field Place estate) be accorded the status of "strategic gap" (like the land between Horsham and Crawley) and Mr Hodgson expressed the hope in this letter that the Society would support the Council in this.

It was agreed that the above required further consideration but that in the meanwhile the Secretary would write and thank Mr Hodgson for his most welcome letter.

#### 7 Traffic in Warnham

It was agreed that any further representations would have to await the opening of the Horsham

Northern Bypass.

## 8 Planning Matters

(1) Proposed dwelling on land adjoining The Banks, Church Street. It was noted that another planning application had been submitted and it was agreed that the Society should reiterate its objection. The Secretary would write.

(2) W/N 20/88 Tickfold Farm, Kingsfold. It was noted with relief that this application had been refused.

(3) No 42 Friday Street. This was a brick-built Victorian semi-detached cottage which (the Chairman had learned) the owner was threatening to paint white. He (the Chairman) had alerted the planning authority though it seemed rather doubtful if the owner could be prevented if he was determined to go ahead.

## 9 FSAS Anniversary Award

It was agreed that regrettably the Society was not in a position to enter a project for the award.

## 10 Date of the next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1989, same venue.