

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Committee held at
Ramblers, Friday Street on 7th February 1989

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 R C Overton (Secretary)
Mr R H Purcell
Mr M V S Smith
Mrs O G Thornton
Mrs J M Walker

1 Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd November 1988

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

On the Neighbourhood Watch, the Secretary said that the Police were talking about a meeting of Co-ordinators in the Spring. The contact there was now a Mr Macilroy.

On "Youth in the village at a loose end" it was agreed to record that the Society supported the Vicar in principle for what he was trying to do.

2 Treasurer's Report – also subscriptions, fund-raising and membership

The Treasurer reported a balance in the bank of £132. The final round-up on subscriptions showed that all but five old members had renewed, the current score being 117 individuals in membership (71 if husband and wife counted as one unit). The Hon Treasurer, Mrs Jo Walker said that she would have liked a larger balance and wondered whether it would be possible to have a membership drive and/or to promote some fund-raising event. Mr Purcell suggested, however, that present balance between subscriptions and expenditure was about right, and reminded the Committee that the Parish Council had recently indicated that they had money to spare for good causes, which might perhaps include the yearly "rent" paid to the District Council for the litter bins, quite a big item. He would speak to the Parish Council Chairman, Mr Hodgson. The Chairman said that he thought there was little to be done to increase membership beyond the publicising of the Society's main events, to which the Secretary added his view that if the Society was doing its job membership would look after itself. It was agreed to look again at the question of fund-raising in the

Autumn.

3 Conservation Area - working party

The Chairman said that a preliminary meeting had been held with Mr Hodgson. Mr Purcell said that he had written to the School of Architecture and Landscape at Thames Polytechnic in the hope that one or two of their landscape students might be able to assist in the conservation area project since there appeared to be a lack of this particular expertise in the village. The Chairman welcomed this initiative.

4 Traffic in Warnham

Mr Purcell said that he would now contact West Sussex County Council officers to sound them out on the position and their intentions subsequent to the opening of the new bypass.

5 Planning Applications

The new planning application for an extension to the Sussex Oak was discussed. Also discussed were two applications by Wates for signs in Hollands Way (WN 7/89) and Newmans Cottage (WN 8/89), the latter no less than 16 feet high. It was agreed that the Chairman would make representations about both. Apropos Stanford's yard, Sir James Dalrymple-Hay said he understood the latest intention was to sell the flat previously earmarked for the Warden. He considered that if the appointment of a Warden was a planning condition, the Society should object. The Chairman undertook to find out.

6 North Horsham District Local Plan - Deposit Draft

This had been published in January and a copy had been purchased by the Secretary and was tabled together with another useful document scheduling all the representations which had been made on the original draft and the extent to which these had been accepted (ie incorporated in the Deposit Draft) or rejected. If there were to be further representations these were required by 20th February. It was agreed that it would not be necessary for the Society to make any further representations.

The Secretary said that he hoped to make personal representations about the Riverside Walk west of Merryfield Drive, Horsham, which was better than nothing but much too modest in length.

7 The Spring Meeting

The Chairman had spoken with Mr Ian Ockenden who was willing to give a talk on the subject which concerned him so nearly, aircraft emissions as the likely cause of die-back in oaks and

other trees under the Gatwick flight path. It was agreed that this would be a good subject for the Spring Meeting.

The Chairman then telephoned Mr Ockenden and a firm date of Thursday 27th April was agreed. Mr Ockenden said that he would be accompanied by Mr Frank Adsett of the Arun Branch of the Friends of the Earth.

It was agreed to put a suitable item in the next edition of The Warbler and the Chairman undertook to produce some posters shortly beforehand. The Secretary would get the usual letter out to members at the beginning of April, which would also cover subscriptions for 1989–90.

8 "The Garden and the Street Scene"

The item for The Warbler drafted by the Secretary and set out at the bottom of the agenda was agreed with one or two amendments.

9 Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies - information "planning" meeting at Haywards Heath, 23rd March

The meeting was noted. The Chairman and Mrs Thornton would try to attend.

10 Environment Week at end of April; also "Building a Better Britain Exhibiton, Islington, 29th April

These events were noted but it was not practicable for the Warnham Society to participate.

11 Any other business

(1) Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign

Once again the Secretary and Mrs Thornton had attended the Annual General Meeting, which was held on 12th January. They had also taken Mr Ockenden along and he had had a limited opportunity to express his views as above. Possibly because the meeting was the occasion for a transfer of chairmanship, it had not had quite the "punch" of last year.

(2) Hanging Baskets for Church Street

Mr Harry Parr had approached Mrs Thornton with the suggestion that if the Society would organise and obtain the necessary permissions, he would fill baskets and water them. It was agreed in the first instance to raise the subject informally with the Parish Council.

12 Date of the next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Tuesday 16th May, same venue.