

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Committee held at
Ramblers, Friday Street on 16th May 1989

PRESENT: Mr R E Melhuish (Chairman)

Mrs R Ashton

Mr G. P. McMullen

Mr R B Bensted-Smith

Mr R H Purcell

Mr P A Board

Mr M V S Smith

Mr R H Courtier

Mrs O G Thornton

Sir James Dalrymple-Hay

Mrs J M Walker

Mr R C Overton (Secretary)

1 Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th February 1989

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

With regard to the exercise on the Conservation Area (item 3 of the Minutes) the Chairman reported that he had asked Brian Clouston and Partners to estimate for doing an assessment and their Mr Alex Novell would be coming to have a look at the village.

With regard to traffic through Warnham (item 4) Mr Purcell reported that he had not yet been able to get a satisfactory indication from West Sussex County Council as to their plans for a survey of through traffic following the opening of the Horsham Northern Bypass.

The Secretary reported that the Clerk of the Parish Council had written advising the Society to withhold payment of the annual fee of £40 per litter bin for emptying, since the Parish Council would be attending to this.

2 Treasurer's Report

With regard to renewal of subscriptions Mrs Walker reported that 49 had been paid, thus leaving 25 still outstanding. There had been one new addition as a result of the meeting, Mr and Mrs Moss of 26 Friday Street. There was currently £202.50 in the bank.

3 Spring Meeting - 27th April 1989

Dr Peter Brandon's talk under the title "Sussex Landscape in Peril", which had been critical of some aspects of the government's environmental policy, had received rather a mixed reception. Furthermore, after the meeting Mrs Dulcie Kup had written to the Secretary to complain that the talk was "far too political" in view of the imminence of the County Council elections, and had sought an assurance that the Society was non-political.

It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Mrs Kup to confirm that the Society had no political affiliations or leanings (barred in fact by its Constitution) and to explain that the Committee had no idea what line Dr Brandon was going to take so that the proximity of the elections had not entered their heads.

4 Parish Council Meeting 15th May – Footpaths

The Secretary, who had attended this meeting, reported that WSCC's Public Rights of Way Officer, Mr Marshall, had advised the Parish Council against approaching farmers who failed to reinstate footpaths after ploughing, and rather counselled reliance on the County's normal procedures for enforcement of the law; this appeared to the Secretary (and indeed to some members of the Parish Council) to be a recipe for total inaction judging by experience to date.

Mr Courtier said that there was a certain precise time in April when if the ground were trampled by a number of feet all future growth would be inhibited and suggested that it might be possible to organise something along these lines along a right of way which was being permanently obstructed by a farmer in this way, eg Footpath 1446 from Ends Place Drive to Ridge House, Byfleets Lane. It was agreed in the first instance the Secretary would write to the Parish Council.

5 Planning Matters

A number of recent planning applications were discussed and it was agreed that the Chairman would write to make representations on the following: (1) extension at 8 Friday Street; (2) 5 Church Street – conversion of butcher's shop to two shops with two flats above; (3) Tickfold Farm, where there had been a resubmission.

It was noted that Mr Hamer had won his appeal for the erection of a dwelling between The Banks and Bailing Hill House.

6 Best Kept Village Competition

Mrs Thornton asked for the Committee's support in organising the Village's effort this year and plans were discussed. It was noted that the condition of the vacant shop next to the antique shop made it an eyesore but that the Parish Council were writing to the person who had submitted a planning application for its conversion.

7 Hanging Baskets for Church Street

The Parish Council had written to convey a promise of a contribution of £50 towards the "flower basket scheme" (see Item 11(2) minutes of the last meeting). The Committee authorised Mrs Thornton to make any arrangements she could in co-operation with Mr Harry Parr who had offered

to stock and water the baskets.

8 Ends Place Drive

The Secretary tabled a landscaping scheme produced by Courtyard Historic Properties as part of the planning application for the proposed building development, which he had borrowed from Mr Harry Parr. This was noted. Mr Prichard-Jones's letter of 20th April to Mrs Burnham on the subject of the removal of the abandoned car and of damage to tree planting was also noted.

9 Annual General Meeting

A date was discussed and this was fixed for Friday 27th October.

10 Any other business – Warnham Railway Station

Mr Laurie Ashton had written to the Chairman to suggest that British Rail might be urged to preserve the buildings. However it had since been learnt that these were to be auctioned on 26th June and it seemed best to await the outcome.

11 Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Tuesday 12th September, same venue.