

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the twenty-ninth meeting of the Committee held at
Ramblers, Friday Street on 12th September 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 M V S Smith
Mrs O G Thornton
Mrs J M Walker (Treasurer)

1 Apologies for absence

An apology was received from Mr McMullen. Mr Purcell was out of the country.

2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 10th May 1989

The Treasurer pointed out that the balance in the bank was misrecorded at £250 and should have read £202.50. With this amendment the minutes were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

With regard to traffic through Warnham (Paragraph 1 of the minutes) Mr Courtier enquired what was happening about West Sussex County Council's promised traffic count since it was his impression that the village was still being used for commuter traffic. The Secretary said that the Parish Council was currently pursuing this with the County.

With regard to the Best Kept Village Competition (Paragraph 6) Mrs Thornton reported that Warnham had had no success in the competition this year. The full report of the judges which highlighted one or two specific weaknesses (and notably the Children's Play Area) would appear in the October Warbler.

3 Treasurer's Report

Mrs Walker reported that the current balance in the bank was £148.81. A reimbursement of nearly £50 was owed from the Parish Council in respect of the hanging baskets in Church Street and she would pursue. Fifty-three subscriptions had now been paid of those due on 1st April 1988 and she would be chasing up the remainder via the despatch to members for the Annual General Meeting.

Mrs Walker added that it would suit her much better if the subscription date was changed to 1st October to agree with the Society's financial year. Though the Secretary demurred at yet another amendment of the constitution, it was agreed on a show of hands that in such a matter the convenience of the Treasurer should prevail and that the change should be effected at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

4 Annual General Meeting - Friday 27th October

It was agreed that this should take the same form as last year, ie the various items of necessary business to conclude with a discussion on the Committee's report for the year, which the Secretary would now draft, together with any other matters which members might wish to raise. This had kept things going last year and might perhaps do so this.

As before a glass of wine would be served (on a contribution basis) before the meeting.

5 Replacement of Secretary

Mr Overton pointed out that he would have completed his statutory 5 year term by March 1990 and that it was therefore urgent to find a replacement. The Chairman invited members to consider their own availability earnestly before the next meeting, failing which it would be necessary to seek a candidate at the AGM, but if that in turn failed the demise of the Society regrettably seemed unavoidable.

6 Re-election of the Committee

The Chairman invited members to consider their own personal availability for re-election since the answers to this would determine the tone of the invitation to all members to make nominations, which would go out with the papers for the AGM.

7 Suggestion by Warnham Historical Society of joint meeting in February

The Secretary said that he had been approached verbally by Mrs Elizabeth Bridges, the Secretary of the Historical Society. It was agreed that this was a welcome initiative and should be enthusiastically accepted on the assumption that the Historical Society would organise and that a programme could be satisfactorily agreed. The Secretary would speak to Mrs Bridges.

8 Planning Matters

The Chairman reported that he had made representations on 5 Church Street, 8 Friday Street and Tickfold Farm as agreed at the last meeting. He then mentioned four recent applications affecting

Warnham:- (1) Jonelands Farm (2) garages at Ends Place for the new housing development (3) garages, parking and offices at Stanford Orchard and (4) improvements at the Sussex Oak. It was agreed that no representations need be made in any of these cases.

9 Conservation Area - draft recommendations to Horsham District Council by the Working Party

The Chairman would ensure that members saw by the next meeting.

10 North Horsham District Local Plan

The schedule of proposed amendments published by Horsham District Council was duly noted. The only important change affecting Warnham was the amendment of the built-up area boundary of the village in the Bailing Hill area consequent on the appeal decision in WN 65/88. It was noted that the Public Local Enquiry was due to start on 7th November.

The Secretary said that he had heard that the Broadbridge Heath Parish Council were organising a meeting on 25th September to discuss the issue of Field Place as it was affected by the Plan. He would try and get some more information from the Clerk.

11 Neighbourhood Watch

The Secretary explained recent developments. On 2nd August he had attended a general meeting of Co-ordinators arranged by the Police at which the latter explained their intention to reorganise Neighbourhood Watch by setting up 15 different "Areas" each with an "Area Co-ordinator" who would be the liaison between the Police and the public on these matters. This would contrast with the present arrangements where there were about 230 Co-ordinators (Warnham has about 8) each with direct access to the Police - which the Police said have proved to be unworkable. Area "N", the area into which Warnham would fall under these proposals, consists of Rowhook, Rusper, Colgate, Broadbridge Heath and of course Warnham (including Kingsfold).

The Secretary had written to the Parish Council to put them in the picture since it was at the request of the Parish Council that the Society had launched Neighbourhood Watch 3 1/2 years ago. The Council had made no comment but at the meeting where it came up some members had expressed considerable scepticism about the workability of these proposals.

The Committee agreed with this view: it seemed most unlikely that anyone would be prepared to take on the role of Area Co-ordinator for Area "N", and furthermore there appeared to be no democratic way in which such an appointment could be made. Mr Bensted-Smith, whilst accepting this, pointed out that Neighbourhood Watch was a very useful thing and he hoped that any further communication sent to the Police on this subject would be constructive. However there was also a strong body of opinion on the Committee for the Society to take a back seat on Neighbourhood

Watch and to leave any further involvement to the Warnham Parish Council whose province it was felt to be. On a show of hands this view prevailed.

12 "Countryside Issues"

This was the title of a discussion paper published by West Sussex County Council as a lead-up to the Second Alteration to the West Sussex Structure Plan. Comments were invited by 8th September and though the report had not been sent to the Society officially, Mrs Brenda Dick had arranged for a copy to reach the Secretary a few days ago. He had read it as had the Chairman, Mrs Ashton and Mrs Thornton.

The contents of the report were unexceptionable and it was to be welcomed, but no particular comments appeared to be called for at this late stage.

13 Any other business

(1) Warnham Court Nursery Mrs Thornton said that there was a lovely old summer house in a state of dilapidation, which she hoped could be saved.

(2) Footpath map Mr Bensted-Smith said that Slinfold Amenity Society had succeeded in obtaining a copy of the definitive footpath map. Mr Courtier undertook to write to West Sussex County Council to try to obtain a copy.

(3) Kingsfold Residents Association Mr Smith reported that this organisation had recently come into existence, mainly in response to the various plans for 'Cromwells'.

14 Date of the next meeting

It was agreed on Tuesday 3rd October (same time and venue) principally to consider the annual report which the Secretary would draft meanwhile and any other matters pertaining to the Annual General Meeting.