

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty-first meeting of the Committee held at Ramblers, Friday Street on 12th
December 1989

PRESENT: Mr R. E. Melhuish (Chairman)

Mrs R Ashton

Mr R H Courtier

Sir James Dalrymple-Hay

Mr R C Overton (Secretary)

Mr G. J. Read

Mrs O. G. Thornton

Mrs J M Walker

1 Welcome

Mr Melhuish welcomed those present and especially Mr Geoff Read, the new member.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr Bensted-Smith, Mr McMullen and Mr Smith. Mr Purcell was out of the country.

3 Appointment of officers

Mr. Overton, Mrs Walker and Mr Melhuish were reinstated as Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman, with Sir James Dalrymple-Hay to take over as Secretary at the next meeting.

4 Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd October 1989

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

With regard to item No 5 it was agreed that it would be appropriate for Sir Dalrymple-Hay to charge 5p per copy for any copying done on his machine for benefit of the Society: this represented an advantageous rate to the Society.

With regard to the report of the joint working party on the conservation area, it was understood that this report had now been forwarded to the Horsham District Council by the Parish Council.

The planning application for light industrial use at Northlands Farm had been withdrawn but subsequently resubmitted presumably with some amendment. It was agreed that the Society should maintain its opposition.

The Secretary reported a letter of thanks from Miss Joan Barton who had been awarded the prize for "The Garden and the Street Scene", and a less appreciative letter from the owner of No 70 Friday Street who was not pleased with the criticism in The Warbler article about their uncompleted hard-standing: he had replied apologetically.

5 Treasurer's Report

Mrs Walker reported that there was a balance of approximately £127 in the bank.

6 The Annual General Meeting of 27th October 1989 - Traffic in Warnham

All members had had a copy of the Secretary's draft minutes which were agreed with one or two amendments.

The meeting had brought out the concern still felt by members about traffic in the village and particularly the unacceptable speed of much of the through traffic in Church Street - and even in Friday Street despite the obstacle of cars parked solidly all the way up it. An interesting experiment in Ockley was referred to, where electronically controlled flashing lights warned a driver entering the village if he was exceeding the speed limit. The Secretary said that it had been suggested to him by Mr Stephen Garrish after the meeting, that if Friday Street could be declassified (Mr Garrish believed it to be a 'B' road) the Highway Authority would be more sympathetic to practical traffic slowing measures eg sleeping policemen. It was agreed there was no doubt that if the Society could be instrumental in effecting any speed restricting or traffic calming improvements, particularly in Friday Street, this would rebound to its credit and that the Committee should keep this firmly in its sights during the coming year.

Mr Courtier said he had it in mind to write to the Highway Authority to remind them of their promise to carry out a classified traffic count in the village following the opening of the Farthings Hill Underpass, and he agreed that it might be appropriate to take in some of the above points.

7 Subscriptions in the light of the AGM

The proposal to change the subscription date from 1st April to 1st October had been accepted without demur by the meeting and it was now necessary to decide how to bring this into effect. There seemed to be two possibilities – (1) a six months interim payment with effect from 1st April 1990 as indeed Mrs Walker had forecast at the meeting, with a further full year's payment with effect from 1st October; (2) an 18 month payment with effect from 1st April, as Mrs Walker was now inclined to prefer. It was agreed that as the former had been canvassed at the meeting it must be offered but that members could be given the alternative of payment for 18 months.

It was also agreed to drop the concessionary rate for Senior Citizens with effect from 1st April in

the light of the favourable reception given to this idea at the AGM.

8 North Horsham District Local Plan

The progress of the Public Enquiry was noted. Of the four sites in the village which were threatened by development only the land at Tuggles Plat had been debated verbally, on 1st December, when the Chairman had put in a "proof of evidence" on behalf of the Society to which he had not been required to speak. Field Place was to come up on 13th December and the question of Strategic/Local gap notation on 11th January.

So far as the latter was concerned, although the Committee was sympathetic to the Parish Council's contention that the land between Warnham and Horsham should be classified as "Strategic Gap" it was not felt that anything could be usefully added to the case already argued by Dr Peter Brandon on the Parish Council's half.

9 Other planning matters

number of current planning applications were discussed. It was agreed that the only one which merited the Society's intervention was the new house on land adjoining The Banks where the proposed new access was dangerous. The Chairman would make representations accordingly.

10 Joint meeting with Warnham Historical Society - Thursday 15th February

Mrs Thornton said that the Historical Society were still looking for a speaker but that it would be much appreciated if in addition Mr Melhuish could offer to show a few slides. They would also welcome it if he could prepare some posters in due course to publicise the meeting.

The Historical Society would make whatever other requirements were required for the meeting.

11 Spring Meeting of the Society

It was agreed to hold this on Thursday, 26th April. The Chairman would consider the question of a speaker, consulting the Civic Trust's list as necessary.

12 Sussex Federation of Amenity Societies

It was noted that the Federation was in the process of establishing a Horsham District Group. The Chairman had attended one meeting and another had been convened for 14th February, which he and Mr Courtier were prepared to attend.

13 Definitive Footpath Map

The Secretary had received a letter from West Sussex County Council offering supply at a cost of £26.40. Mr Courtier, whose enquiry had initiated this offer said he would be willing to pay the cost; he would reply to the County Council's letter. This was accepted by the Committee with gratitude.

14 Any other business

(1) "Granny's Lane" It was noted that some action from the Horsham District Council with regard to this change of name was now long overdue. Secretary would expedite.

(2) Dilapidated signpost at junction of Church Street and Bell Road Mr Courtier would include this in his letter to West Sussex County Council - see item 6 above.

15 Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Tuesday 20th February, the venue (by kind agreement of Sir James Dalrymple-Hay) to be The Red House, Church Street.