

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty-second meeting of the Committee held at The Red House, Church Street, on
Tuesday 6th March 1990.

Present : Mr R. E. Melhuish (Chairman)
Sir James Dalrymple-Hay (Secretary)
Mrs J. M. Walker (Treasurer)
Mrs R. Ashton
Mr G. J. Read
Mr R. C. Overton
Mr M. Smith
Mrs O. G. Thornton

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

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 December 1989. The minutes were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

Item 10: The joint meeting with the Warnham Historical Society held on 15 February was deemed to be a success.

Item 13: The definitive footpath map has been received and it was agreed that Mr Melhuish should be the custodian of the map.

Item 14: "Granny's Lane". Mr Overton informed the meeting that he had written to the Horsham District Council but had not, to date, received a reply.

4. Treasurer's Report Mrs Walker reported that there was a balance of approximately £96 in the bank. She advised the meeting that, as a result of the joint meeting with the Historical Society, we had gained five new members.

The new subscription forms (produced by Mr Overton) were approved, with minor alterations.

5. North Horsham District Plan Mr Melhuish reported on the position with regard to the

planning enquiry. The Society had been well represented on the Planning Inspector's inspection of the four sites.

6. Spring Meeting This is to be held at the Village Hall, on Thursday, 26 April 1990. Dr Brian Short, of the University of Sussex, has been invited to speak on the subject of " Changes in Agricultural Communities from the 15th Century to the Present Day " The meeting is to start at 7.30 for 8 pm.

Mr Overton undertook to deal with the wine; Mr Melhuish to prepare posters and a notice for the "Warbler". Mrs Thornton and Mrs Ashton to be responsible for the catering. Mrs Thornton will collect the Village Hall key.

The Secretary will circulate members with information on the Spring Meeting together with subscription forms and an up-to-date list of members.

7. Publicity A discussion took place on publicity in the "Warbler" and other means of promoting the Society as it was felt that there were many in the village who were not aware of the function of the Society.

Mr Melhuish agreed to write a small article for the "Warbler" referring to the visit to the potential development sites with the Planning Inspector, and Mr Overton will submit material on the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. It was agreed that we should endeavour to submit one reference to Society activities for each issue. Mrs Thornton said that she would be prepared to act as a focal point for the submission of such articles to the editor.

8. Neighbourhood Watch Mr Overton said that he had been in contact with the Horsham police in respect of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Police were anxious to have an Area Coordinator for Warnham. Mr Overton said that he was willing to act as Coordinator provided that the area was confined to within the parish boundaries. His offer was gratefully accepted by the committee.

There was general approval of the Neighbourhood Watch signs in use in the Northlands area. It was resolved to request the Parish Council to erect signs at the approaches to the village generally and to offer to contribute towards the cost. Mr Overton undertook to approach the Parish Council on this matter.

It was mentioned that certain insurance companies gave discounts on household insurance premiums within areas covered by a neighbourhood watch scheme.

9. Any Other Business

(i) Traffic Matters: The Chairman read a letter which Mr Courtier had written to the West Sussex County Council Traffic Engineer, to which he had not yet had a reply. The letter put forward in some detail various options for controlling the speed of traffic through the village. Among the other

recommendations was the plan to make School Hill a one-way (north only) road, thus preventing southbound traffic on the A24 from turning right, across the fast northbound traffic stream.

(ii) Litter on the A24: Mr Hodgson (Senior) had asked the Secretary to request the Warnham Society to arrange for volunteers to pick up the rubbish on the A24 from Kingsfold to the Daux roundabout. The committee felt that it was not something that they could undertake and that it was clearly the responsibility of the Highway Authority.

(iii) Trees: A number of trees planted around the village following the hurricane in 1987 were leaning over and the Society had been asked whether they would undertake to deal with them. The Committee felt that whilst the Society had agreed to look after the trees for the first year of their life, and had indeed done so, they were not in a position to accept a continuing responsibility . The Secretary was asked to write to the Parish Council accordingly.

(iv) The Sussex Federation The Treasurer confirmed that she had paid the subscription to the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies for both last year and this year, and for the newsletter which was charged as an extra.

Mr Melhuish said that he had attended a meeting in Pulborough at which local groups had been set up. The first meeting of our particular group had been held at Coolham on 14th February. Robert Courtier had attended this meeting and he had provided a brief report. The general feeling was that we should support the move for some coordination of Societies such as ours. It provided an opportunity to exchange ideas with neighbouring societies and to discuss certain problems that we had in common.

With regard to the Federation AGM to be held on 30th May, it was found that no committee member was in a position to attend. The Secretary undertook to inform Mrs Ruth Ward accordingly, sending our regrets.

(v) Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign It was agreed that we should continue membership.

(vi) Entrance to Warnham Park It was noted that gates had been erected at each end of the old A24 road and that the Lucas Estate had placed "Private Land" notices on them. The committee understood that the validity of these measures was to be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council. It was therefore decided to wait until the result of this was known before discussing it further.

(vii) Church Restoration Fund In response to Canon Taylor's request that the Society should, with the Historical Society, help with the appeal for funds to repair St Margaret's church, the principle of this was discussed. It was agreed that we should regard the church as a "special case" and to see what could be done. Mr Read suggested a competition to guess the location of a series of photographs taken in the village. An entry charge would be made in aid of the fund. The suggestion was enthusiastically welcomed and it was resolved that, as the appeal was not yet fully under way, we should consider it further at the next meeting.

(viii) Planning Matters It was decided that there should be a standing item on the agenda for such matters, and in particular those that had arisen since the previous meeting.

(ix) Bottle Bank Mrs Walker suggested that the village should have a "bottle-bank". There was some discussion but the suggestion was not adopted because of the amount of litter that such banks seem to generate.

(x) Best Kept Village Competition After some discussion it was agreed that the Society should cooperate with the Parish Council again this year, provided that the Council organise the competition.

The Parish Council were criticised for failing to deal with items which had appeared in reports of two consecutive years.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th June at 8 pm at "Ramblers" Friday Street.