

# THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty-sixth meeting of the Committee  
held at Ramblers, Friday Street, Warnham on  
Tuesday 19th February 1991.

Present : Mr R. E. Melhuish ( Chairman)  
Sir James Dalrymple-Hay ( Secretary)  
Mr A. G. Brand  
Mr R. H. Newman  
Mrs R . Ashton  
Mr R. H. Purcell  
Mrs O. G. Thornton  
Mr R. B. Bensted-Smith  
Mr G. J. Read

1. Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Mr McMullen, Mr Courtier and Mrs J. M. Walker.
  
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 1990.  
There being no comments, the minutes of the meeting of 11th December 1990 were approved as a correct record and were accordingly signed by the chairman.
  
3. Matters arising
  - (i) Election of Officers: The Chairman drew attention to the fact that a vice-chairman had not been elected at the last meeting. Mr G. J. Read was proposed and duly elected as the Vice-Chairman.
  - (ii) "Grannies Lane": Mrs Thornton had been to see the Planning Officer regarding renaming of "Grannies Lane" and "Three Stile Lane". The District Council undertook to post notices regarding the renaming. Mrs Thornton will follow this up.
  - (iii) Village Hall Costs. The Secretary had made enquiries regarding the possible saving to be made in booking the smaller of the two rooms at the Village Hall. The rents were £15 and £12 respectively. It was therefore agreed that as there was little difference in the cost we would continue to use the large hall for the Society Meetings.
  - (iv) Shop Adjoining The Antique Shop, Church Street: The Chairman is to find out the position regarding the planning consent.

(v) Field Opposite Bearsden Pet Supplies: The Chairman informed the meeting that permission had been given to change the position of the entrance in the interests of safety. There was an existing permission for a stable yard; an application for the erection of a bungalow had been refused.

(vi) Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies. The date of the meeting at Billingshurst had been changed to the 20th February. The Chairman and Mr Courtier are to attend.

(AFTERNOTE: In the event, owing to illness this was not possible . )

(vii) Dead Trees on The Green : The Secretary has spoken to the Parish Clerk regarding this matter.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

The Secretary informed the meeting that he had made several attempts to obtain audited accounts from Mrs Walker but owing to personal difficulties she had been unable to complete the accounts.

The Chairman then read a letter received from Mrs Walker, tendering her resignation owing to her personal circumstances. She had left the uncompleted accounts, the cash balance and the relevant documents with the Chairman earlier that evening.

After some discussion it was resolved that the documents would be examined by Mr Purcell and, with the assistance of Mr Brand complete them and arrange for the books to be audited before the Spring Meeting on 25th April. They would then be presented to the meeting for approval.

Mr Newman confirmed that he would be prepared to take over the duties of Treasurer once the accounts had been audited.

#### 5. Membership and Subscriptions.

No discussion of this was possible until the books had been inspected and it was known which members had not paid their subscriptions.

#### 6. Planning Matters:

THE WARNHAM WAREHOUSE HEALTH CLUB had applied to have a personal clause removed from the planning permission. The Committee saw no reason to oppose this application.

ENDS PLACE: The Chairman had attended a site meeting with the Parish Council to consider a revised plan submitted by the developers. A building to this plan was being erected without approval. He gave his view that there was little to choose between the two schemes and reminded the meeting that the Society had opposed the principle of such a

development in this position from the beginning. The Parish Council however had supported it and had now decided that they preferred the original scheme and had advised the District Council accordingly. The meeting agreed that there was little point now in pursuing this matter further.

#### PROPOSED OFFICE BUILDING, ORCHARD HOUSE:

The Chairman declared an interest and left the meeting. The Vice-Chairman, Mr Read took the chair.

It was resolved that no objection would be raised to this development, subject to the permission being tied to Mrs Stanford personally, with an agreement that in the event of the business being sold, or ceasing to exist, the building would revert to residential use. The Secretary undertook to write to the District Planning Officer to this effect.

Mr Melhuish resumed the chair.

NORTH HORSHAM PLAN : The committee were pleased to hear that the four sites for development considered last year by the Planning Inspector had all been refused. It was considered that the Society's strong action on this matter had been worthwhile.

ASHRIDGE, SCHOOL HILL : The committee noted that an application to build in the garden of this property had been passed.

#### 7. St Margaret's Church Roof.

The proposed re-roofing of St Margaret's Church was discussed in some detail. The existing roof was of Cotswold stone. It replaced an earlier slate roof, but doubtless the original roof had been Horsham Stone.

The chairman said that he had been informed by Mr Haynes, the surveyor engaged to advise the PCC, that there was no real alternative to the use of plain tiles as the timbers were inadequate to take the weight of a new stone roof. He expressed his own view that, in the long term, clay tiles would be preferable to an artificial product.

A general feeling was expressed that a red clay tile would be inappropriate. Mr Purcell asked whether an artificial stone, similar to that which had been used so successfully on his own house, had been considered. The chairman said that the PCC decision had been made prior to his discussion with Mr Haynes and that the matter was now in the hands of the District Council planners. Individual approaches could be made to the HDC by letter.

#### 8. Spring Meeting. The Society's Spring Meeting is to be held on 25th April 1991. The Village Hall was booked and the chairman volunteered to find a speaker (preferably at no cost in view of the current state of the finances. ) Mr Read offered to organise the wine; the ladies

to be responsible for the food.

9. Warnham Village Street Fayre. The Society are running a bottle Tombola stall. It was agreed that members attending the Spring Meeting should be asked to provide a bottle for the stall.
  
10. Publicity and PR. The Chairman said that he had been discussing "a joint initiative with Dr Dales of the Historical Society to prepare a Warnham Village Guide in the form of a poster-sized map with buildings of interest shown around it. He produced an example of a similar guide to the Woolwich Conservation Area in which he had been involved. It was felt that it would be worthwhile thing to pursue and the hope was expressed that it might be available for sale at the Street Fayre in June.

There was a discussion regarding the submission of entries for the Warbler on a regular basis.

#### Any Other Business.

11. Village Appraisal. The chairman read a letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council inviting comments and suggestions on the subject of the proposed Village Appraisal questionnaire. He said that the time given for these comments ( about one week) had been quite inadequate to ascertain committee members views and to respond.

The meeting was divided on the merits of the questionnaire and, as the time for comment had passed, it was agreed that the chairman should write to Mr Hodgson pointing out that inadequate time had been allowed bearing in mind the importance of the scheme, but offering the services of the Society in distribution and collection.

12. Next Meeting. The next meeting is to be held at "Ramblers" on Tuesday 14th May 1991 at 8pm.

NOTE: SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED TO WEDNESDAY 15th MAY 1991 at 8pm.