

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty-ninth meeting of the Committee
held at Ramblers, Friday Street, Warnham on
Wednesday 11th December 1991.

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

1. Apologies for Absence All committee members being present there were no apologies for absence.

2. Election of Officers. The following were re-elected. nem-con :-
Chairman: Mr R. E. Melhuish.
Hon. Sec : Sir James Dalrymple-Hay
Treasurer: Mr R. H. Newman.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 1991.
The date for the meeting of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies should read 15th January 1992 and NOT 1991.

Apart from this the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 1991 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the chairman.

4. Matters arising
(i) GRANNY'S LANE. The Chairman had undertaken to write to the HDC. but had not yet done so. He promised to write before the next meeting.

(ii) MEMBERSHIP CARDS. The cards had been well received by members. The committee thanked Mr Purcell for producing them.

(iii) BANKING. The Treasurer reported that, subsequent to the last meeting the Society had been offered favourable terms by the Midland Bank and that he had therefore transferred the accounts from Barclays. The committee approved this action and thanked Mr Newman for his work.

(iv) FIELD PLACE. The Chairman had undertaken to investigate the position regarding the HDC decision to overturn the Inspector's recommendation on the designation of land at Field Place as a future housing site, in view of the Parish Council's objection.

The Chairman reported that the official HDC document stated that the Parish Council had "expressed concern" and that they "had not objected." The HDC therefore had seen no reason to alter the decision and had advised the Parish Council to enter into discussions with the Broadbridge Heath Parish Council.

Mr Read undertook to raise the matter at the next meeting of the Parish Council. The Society had objected previously to the HDC and it was felt that no further action could now be taken.

(v) BEST GARDEN COMPETITION. It was agreed that the Society should sponsor this again in 1992. Mrs Thornton and Mrs Jameson offered to organise and judge it and would approach Mr Overton to see if he would be prepared to help.

(vi) VILLAGE APPRAISAL. Messrs Read and Purcell undertook to examine the findings and to advise the next meeting whether there were matters on which in their opinion the Society should act.

(vii) TRAFFIC CALMING. Mr Courtier reported that he had attended the CPRE conference in Brighton and that he had discussed Warnham's problems with the visiting traffic consultant. Following discussion on various measures it was agreed that Mr Courtier should develop his ideas further and table a scheme in due course with a view to making formal recommendations to the Parish council for support and possible funding.

5. Treasurers Report.

As reported above, the Treasurer has transferred the Society bank account to the Midland Bank, West Street, Horsham.

He reported a credit balance of £ 155-42 which, with cash-in-hand of £ 38-05, amounted to a total of £ 193-47.

It was agreed that the Society should continue to subscribe to the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign and that we should continue to pay for copies of the HDC Planning List. The chairman's action in having new Society notepaper printed was approved by the committee.

The Treasurer thanked the Chairman for the money contributed to the Society from the sale of the illustrated "Warnham Guide."

The membership now stood at 106, made up of 42 (double) and 22 (single) members.

6. AGM 1991. The Annual General Meeting had been well attended and it was agreed that it had been a good meeting. The Chairman's action in changing the format of the meeting at the last moment to concentrate on the sudden emergence of the proposals for the A24 dualling was formally agreed by the committee.

The committee thanked Roger Purcell for the work put into explaining the proposals at the meeting.

7. A24 Sub-Committee and Terms of Reference. There was discussion on the draft terms of reference issued to committee members with the Agenda.

Mr Purcell stated that an expert committee should be free to advise in a professional manner and should not be bound by the "gut reaction" of those attending the AGM. A fundamental difficulty therefore existed as there was a clear mandate from that meeting for the Society to campaign for the original (eastern) route.

After some discussion it was agreed that the terms of reference for the sub-committee should read as follows:

"To evaluate the routes on behalf of the Warnham Society and to report their recommendations to the Committee of the Society."

Items 2, 3 and 4. of the draft relating to Membership, Authority and Correspondence were approved as they stood.

It was agreed that, after the sub-committee had reported, the Society should consider whether a further public meeting in the village would be advantageous.

8. Planning Matters. The chairman had no planning matters to bring before the committee.

9. Meeting of the Federation in Warnham. The meeting in Warnham Parish Room held on 11th September 1991 was well attended and several interesting matters had been discussed.

Members had been impressed by the amount of time that other societies had apparently been able to devote to the methodical sifting of planning applications for their areas. Mr Courtier suggested that a difference in age structure of the societies might go some way to account for this.

10. Publicity and PR. It was suggested that those attending the A24 exhibition should be asked to make their views known to the Society. Mr Brand offered to deal with this by putting a notice in the exhibition and arranging for Mr Ford at the Village PO. to accept these comments.

The chairman undertook to prepare an entry for the next Warbler.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS .

11. Review of Local Government. The chairman had responded to this matter by advising the HDC of the Society's wish to be kept informed. Letters and other documents were passed to the committee for circulation and for comment at the next meeting.
12. Roadworks on School Hill. Concern was expressed that banking was taking place at the junction of the A24 and School Hill. This will increase the speed of the traffic at that point. The work was clearly in hand, apparently without local consultation. The situation will be monitored.
13. Shelley Bi-Centenary. The Society has been invited to attend a meeting to discuss arrangements for celebrating the Shelley Bi-Centenary. Mr Newman and Mr Read offered to represent the Society.
14. Bulb Planting. The Society has offered to help in the widespread planting of bulbs in the village. It appears that the chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Mick Hodgson has a quantity of bulbs at his house for collection.
15. Next Meeting. The next meeting is to be held at "Ramblers" Friday Street, Warnham on Wednesday 29th January 1992 at 8pm.