

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Committee held at
Little Broomhall on Thursday, 29th August 1985

PRESENT : Mr C J Williams (Chairman)
Mr R Bensted-Smith
Mr R H Courtier
Mrs A E Cox
G P McMullen
R. C. Overton (Secretary)
H J Parr (Treasurer)
Mrs L P Parr
Mrs O. G. Thornton
Mrs P N White

1 Apologies for absence

An apology was received from Mrs McLaughlin.

2 Minutes of the last meeting, held on 4th July

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

There was further discussion on item 2, the enforcement of the speed limit through the village and the other problem of bad parking, and the suggestion was made that admonitory stickers might be put on badly parked cars. Mr McMullen agreed to raise this suggestion, and the speeding issue, at the forthcoming meeting of the Parish Council, though he warned that P C Harper was not able to lay on speed traps. He would also mention the superfluous telegraph pole (item 12).

Mrs Thornton reported that the Post Office had been quick to respond to her request about the pillar box at the corner of Mayes Lane and Northlands Road which had now been repaired and refurbished (item 10).

3 Hon Treasurer's Report

Mr Parr said that the current balance was now £31.20. He was authorised to reimburse the Secretary in the sum of £1.50 in respect of postage and stationery.

4 West Sussex Structure Plan, First Alteration

The Secretary referred to his letter to Committee members dated 9th August and said that he had written accordingly to the DoE on 12th August to state that the Society fully supported the policies for housing development in the First Alteration.

5 Planning Sub-Committee

Mr Courtier said that he had held a preliminary meeting with Mr R Melhuish and Mr M. Smith, the other members of the sub-committee not being available for one reason or another. (Mr Melhuish was an architect with the Property Services Agency and Mr Smith a retired architect). The three had discussed the role of the Planning Sub-Committee which they felt should be twofold - (1) the negative (though necessary) function of monitoring all planning applications and (2) the more positive approach of producing for the planning authorities a detailed statement, or possibly a visual impression, of the sort of development which would be acceptable in Warnham and which might act as guidelines for the authorities in dealing with future applications. Of course all this would take time and in the meanwhile a procedure had still to be devised for monitoring and if necessary passing comment on current applications. He hoped to be able to arrange another meeting shortly to make further progress on both aspects.

6 Current planning applications - car parking in the village

The Secretary said that there were two planning applications which had caught his eye in the public library (1) an application by Warnham Studios for change of use of the end floor from warehouse to massage room and gymnasium in association with the existing dance studios, and (2) an outline application for the conversion of a barn to a dwelling at Hoopers Farm, Northlands.

It was agreed that no comment need be made on the latter at least at the outline stage, but with regard to Warnham Studios application members were concerned at the car parking implications of this development considering the difficulties which already existed with parking in Church Road. The Secretary was requested to voice the Committee's concern to the planning authority and to suggest the erection of an official "P" sign in Church Road pointing the way to the public parking at the village hall.

Mrs Parr suggested that double yellow lines on the west side of Church Street might be appropriate but the general feeling was that this would be going too far. But it was agreed that it would be no bad thing to sound out the views on car parking of the membership as a whole via the progress report to the Special General Meeting.

7 Invitation by Mr A. H. Windrum, Chairman of Horsham District Council

Mr Windrum had written to the Chairman inviting him or another representative of the Society to attend a meeting on 20th September to discuss the cause of conservation. It was agreed that Mr Courtier would attend and would reply accordingly.

8 Two cottages adjoining Warnham Mill

It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Mr Charles Lucas and enquire what was to happen to these two cottages which were now vacant and the fate of which was of some general interest.

9 Best Kept Village Competition

Mrs Thornton reported that Warnham had received a Certificate of Merit in the main competition and had actually won the County Council's prize of £100 (Note: £150 actually) for the most litter-free village. She added that it was the practice for parish councils to receive the prizes, and there would probably be a presentation at the parish council meeting on 14th October. The Chairman expressed the hope that the Society would be consulted on the expenditure of the money.

It was agreed that the various specific criticisms made by the judges should be followed up, where these seemed justified, the Secretary and Mrs Thornton would concoct suitable letters to those concerned.

10 Footpaths

It was agreed to set up a two-man sub-committee consisting of Mr Parr and Mr Overton to fill this gap in the Society's coverage and to see what the Society could do to help safeguard those footpaths and bridleways around Warnham which were official rights of way. First step would be to contact the rights of way authority (West Sussex County Council) and also the Ramblers' Association who might be able to offer general advice.

11 Special General Meeting on Friday 18th October 1985

The revised draft letter of invitation to members tabled by the Secretary was agreed with one or two further amendments and would issue on 15th September, together with the revised draft constitution (also tabled and agreed) and the committee's report on the seven months to date which the Secretary would draft on consultation with the Chairman.

There was discussion about the period the accounts should cover and it was agreed that the Treasurer should prepare these for the seven months period ending 30th September 1985, and thereafter annually (same date). Subscriptions should be payable annually on 1st April as stated in the constitution and it was thought that it would be a good idea to make this more or less coincide with a regular spring meeting of members.

It was agreed that the Treasurer would approach Mr Tilney with a view to his becoming Honorary Auditor, an appointment which would need to be ratified at the Special General Meeting.

Mrs White and Mr Williams said that they did not wish to stand for nomination to the new Committee. It was agreed that the other present members of the Committee who were prepared to

continue would make arrangements mutually for their own nomination and seconding.

With regard to other arrangements for the meeting the following points were agreed or noted:

- (1) The ladies of the committee who were present would constitute a sub-committee to look after the catering side.
- (2) The Treasurer had applied for a licence.
- (3) The Secretary had booked the village hall.
- (4) The local press should be invited to attend, ie the West Sussex County Times and The Horsham Guardian.
- (5) It should be a private and not a public meeting, but members should be welcome to bring members of their families with them or other interested guests. The letter of 15th September would make this clear.

Further points of detail would be dealt with at the next committee meeting which would need to be held a short time beforehand.

12 The Chairmanship

The position was that no candidate was forthcoming, and the matter could now only be left until after the Special General Meeting.

13 The Horsham Northern Bypass

Mr McMullen enquired if there had been any progress with regard to the report to be written by Mr Roger Purcell for submission to the Highway authority about the traffic implications for Warnham (see Minutes of 11th April). The Secretary said he would have a word with Mr Purcell. It was agreed that a suitable reference to this important subject should be included in the Committee's report to members going out on 15th September.

14 Parking of cars at the corner of Broadbridge Heath Road and Byfleets Lane

Mr McMullen said that he was concerned at the unauthorised parking of cars by members of the Broadbridge Heath Tennis Club on the grass verge and on the road near this junction. It seemed that this arose because the Broadbridge Heath Cricket Club were refusing to let the Tennis Club use their car park near the pavilion midweek, although this had been intended for use by the members of both clubs to obviate the very nuisance which was now occurring. It seemed that the cricket club feared vandalism by cars invading the pitch. He intended to raise at the parish council.

15 Date of next meeting

This was fixed for 8 pm on Thursday, 3rd October, same venue. (Note – this has now been changed to 10th October)