

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the Fortieth meeting of the Committee
held at No 1. Valley Forge, Warnham on
Wednesday 29th January 1992.

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. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 1991.
The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 1991 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising
 - (i) GRANNY'S LANE. The Chairman had received an unsatisfactory reply from the HDC. Mrs Thornton offered to pursue the matter further and to speak to Mrs Burnham about it. The Chairman to provide Mrs Thornton with copies of the relevant papers.
 - (ii) FIELD PLACE. RESERVE HOUSING SITE. Mr Read confirmed that Parish Council members were under the impression that they had formally objected to the designation of Field Place as a reserve site for housing development. (The HDC planning document states that they had merely "expressed concern" at this designation which was contrary to the Planning Inspector's recommendation). He intended to bring the matter up at a Parish Council meeting but had not yet had the opportunity to do so.
 - (iii) BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION. The members concerned had this in mind, but there was nothing to report at this stage.

(iv) VILLAGE APPRAISAL. Mr Purcell had studied the report on the appraisal and considered that, while it was generally quite helpful there was nothing on which the Society should act.

(v) TRAFFIC CALMING. Mr Courtier has this in hand and will report to the next meeting.

(vi) A24. Mr Brand informed the meeting that he had provided a box for comments on the A24 proposals. There had been no response.

(vii) REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. There was a brief discussion. It was felt that, until such time as there were concrete proposals to consider, the Society should not comment.

(viii) BULB PLANTING. The bulbs obtained by Mick Hodgson had now all been planted. Thanks in particular to Mrs Thornton and Mrs Jameson.

(ix) A24 /SCHOOL HILL ROADWORKS. As this work was not yet complete it was agreed that discussion should be postponed to the next meeting.

Mr Purcell remarked that he was mystified by the comment in "The Warbler" that "all right turns into Warnham should be closed ."

(x) SHELLEY BI-CENTENARY. A meeting had been attended by Mr Newman and Mr Read on behalf of the Society. They expressed the opinion that there was little that the Society could do at this stage. Mr Prichard-Jones, the prime-mover, had seemed strangely reluctant to allow people to visit Field Place, which was considered by most people to be the focus of this event.

There is to be another meeting in March

4. Treasurers Report.

There had been a poor response to a letter circulated on the subject of overdue subscriptions.

Mr Newman reported that there were two new (joint) members in Mr and Mrs Burne-Smith of 26 Friday Street and that Mrs Newman of Friday Street had re-joined.

The meeting was advised that the balance stood at £ 160-37. The Bank had assured the treasurer that, provided that there were no more than five entries per quarter, there would be no bank charges.

5. Report of the A24 Sub-Committee.

The sub-committee comprises: Roger Purcell (Chairman), Robert Courtier, Philip Lee, Brian Francis and Michael Smith .

Copies of the letter drawn up after discussion of the sub-committee had been circulated to committee members. The letter had been sent to the following:

Mick Hodgson. Chairman, Parish Council
Brenda Dick. County Council member.
Jean Burnham. District Council member,
HDC Director of Planning and Law.

Mr Purcell said that there had been little response to date, apart from a non-committal comment from the Engineer and a letter from Mr Hodgson.

Concern was expressed that the views might not receive the serious consideration that they merited. It was agreed that the Society should monitor the situation.

6. County Landscape Plan for the Village.

Plans, produced by Mr Lloyd, Landscape Architect, WSCC were tabled. It was noted that the plan suggested no dramatic changes but concentrated on intensification of tree planting. It was also noted with satisfaction that there were many comments supporting the Society's stance on "wirescape" and the need for the grounding of cables.

Particular matters about which the committee were doubtful concerned the planting of trees in certain positions on the Green, the underplanting of trees framing the Green, the leaving of unmowed areas and the planting of trees along Friday Street (a low and dark road already). It was agreed that the policy of indigenous broad-leaf trees was right, but it was suggested that some of the species proposed did not follow this principle.

The chairman and Mrs Jameson will coordinate response from committee members, pass comments to the Parish Council and (after informing Mr Hodgson) discuss the scheme with Mr. Lloyd, WSCC.

7. SPRING EVENT.

The date of the Spring Event will be Friday, 8th May 1992 in the Village Hall. AFTERNOTE: The Secretary has booked the hall for this date.

It was suggested that (having spoken to Mick Hodgson) Mr Lloyd might be invited to speak on the Landscape Plan for Warnham. The Chairman to report back regarding this to the next meeting.

Mr Newman to collect the keys on the date from Mr Arliss.

8. Planning Matters.

(i) The District Council's Consultation Document on the proposal for housing and a golf

course on the land east of the by-pass was discussed.

The chairman had already written to the HDC (to be within the time limit for comments) and a copy of his letter was tabled. The letter expressed general approval but with caveats regarding the access from Robin Hood Lane, the need for conservation of natural habitat for flora and fauna, and a concern about the danger of further incursion of building north of the area now planned.

There was discussion on these and other points, and the chairman's letter was accepted as expressing the views of the committee.

(ii) There was a new application to retain the two cottages at the entrance to Mayes Park and to convert them to flats. There was no comment.

(iii) There was a proposal to increase the number of flats in the Ends Place development by four, by building rooms in the roof space. It was generally felt that this had been predictable, and that, anyway, they had probably been built already ! No comment to be made.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked Mrs Jameson for having the meeting in her house, and for the refreshments.

9. Next Meeting. The next meeting is to be held at No 1. Valley Forge, Warnham on Wednesday 15th April 1992 at 8 pm.