

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF SUSSEX AMENITY SOCIETIES
REGISTERED WITH THE CIVIC TRUST

Minutes of the Forty Seventh Meeting of the Committee
held at The Red House, Church Street, Warnham on
Tuesday 6 July 1993

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

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 April 1993

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

(i) **Knob Hill.** Mr. Purcell said that he had spoken to the Council who had at first queried the need to undertake further work. They had, however, conceded the need and some tidying up has been done.

(ii) **Golf Course.** Jennifer Pearce, in her newsletter, has stated that the delay in construction of the golf course presents a chance to review the proposed access from Robin Hood Lane. Mr. Read said that he thought it unlikely that the District Council would change their mind, but it was agreed that this gave a chance for both the Parish Council and the Warnham Society to express their objections. Mr. Purcell undertook to contact Jennifer Pearce.

(iii) **Road Naming.** Mrs Jameson said that she had written to Mr Flack at the District Council requesting the provision of name signs for several roads in the area, (Bailing Hill, Threestile Road, Knob Hill, Little London Hill, Durfold Hill, The Forge) together with renewal of the 'Warnham' sign at the end of Bell Road. She had sent him copies of the photographs of the Warninglid street signs as examples of the style of sign we favoured and requested the financial implications of obtaining such signs. Having received no reply after several weeks she was advised during a telephone call to Mr. Flack that provision of the signs was in hand, but that nothing other than the standard type of name board was available.

(iv) **Society Affiliations.** In the early days of the Warnham Society the constitution had been amended to permit registration with the Civic Trust. Records show that this was a course of action which had been undertaken after open discussion at the AGM. It was agreed that any decision to withdraw from the Civic Trust should therefore only be made after similar open discussion at the next AGM.

It was noted that presentation of the Planning Application lists in the West Sussex County Times had recently been amended to appear in alphabetical Order.

(v) **Granny's Lane.** Mrs. Jameson said that she had written to Mr. Prichard Jones requesting him to reconsider his objection to the renaming of part of Byfleets Lane, but had received a blank refusal in reply. It was agreed that no further action could usefully be taken on this matter.

(vi) **Best Kept Garden Competition.** It was agreed that Richard Overton should be invited to join Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. Jameson in the assessment for this award.

(vii) **Bus Shelter.** It is now proposed that the shelter be repaired and moved into the village, to be sited opposite the Church. Location adjacent to Farm Close had been discounted because it would obstruct sight lines at the junction. The Committee were of the opinion that the proposed site is both useless and dangerous, being on the wrong side of the road at a point where traffic is often travelling at speed. Mr. Purcell suggested that it would best be located within the churchyard, but the cost of alterations to the wall are likely to be prohibitive,

4. Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Newman stated that the total of monies held in cash and in the bank stood at £223.47.

Membership numbers have been reduced by the sad death of Mrs. Peters.

All expenses have been paid up to date (except renewal subscription to the Civic Trust).

Neither Mrs. Thornton nor Mr. Read wished to be reimbursed for their provision or upkeep of the hanging baskets. It was suggested that some of the fund money should be put towards the purchase of new hanging baskets next year.

5. Planning Matters.

The Chairman expressed his concern that the Abbeyfield Society are still pursuing the use of the glebe land for their proposed home in Warnham. He was also surprised that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting seemed to imply their approval to such usage. He thought that the conversion of the house in Hollands Way, which also has room in its garden for bungalow units, would be far more appropriate and in line with Abbeyfields' previous use of existing buildings.

Mr. Read said that he would not object to the use of the top end of the glebe, although the Glebe Committee had said that they did not want it opposite the vicarage. It was not understood how the Abbeyfield Society would be able to afford the purchase of the glebe land in addition to the provision of access and services to the site. Concern was expressed that the land might be made available at a cheap rate to a charitable concern.

An alternative site at the end of Farm Close had been discussed. Mr. Read said that the only way that the Lucas Trust would agree to the release of this land would be if permission were also to be granted for the construction of 4 - 6 private houses and that he would not be happy to agree to such a breach of the Local Plan.

Mrs. Thornton reported that the Public Enquiry into the diversion of the footpath at Ends Place (Warnham Manor) had lasted all day. She felt that the Inspector had been sympathetic to the objectors' case, but thought that his visit to the site might have caused him to change his feelings. It is not known when the Inspector will announce his decision. Mr. Read conceded that it was unfortunate that the Parish Council had not objected to the earlier application to divert the bridleway.

The empty antiques shop has been sold and is to re-open as an antiques and interior decor business. The Society's concern was expressed at the continuing derelict state of the adjoining premises and doubt was expressed as to its structural stability.

The outcome of the application for external lighting at Warnham Manor is not yet known.

The closure of Station Road is to be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

West Sussex County Council have offered a grant to extend the proposed works to bury overhead service cabling between Bell Road and Hollands Way up as far as Friday Street. This was agreed to be a very welcome development.

6. Spring Meeting

Sir James Dalrymple-Hay expressed his thanks to Mr. Purcell and Mr. Courtier for their arrangements for and contribution to the Spring Meeting. It was agreed that it had been a very successful occasion.

7. AGM

The date agreed at the meeting for the AGM was Thursday 28 October 1993. This was subsequently amended to Thursday 4 November at 8.00 pm. The Secretary will book the Village Hall and place a notice in the Warnham Warbler.

Various topics were considered for presentation at the meeting. It was agreed that Mr. Newman would approach Richard Overton, Secretary of the Natural History Society, to discuss the possibility of a talk on Wildlife in the area.

8. Any Other Business.

Mr. Brand commented on the statement in Jennifer Pearce's newsletter that she had had discussions with the County Council's Highways Engineers about parking in Church Street and that the County Engineer would meet the Parish Council to discuss the way forward. Concern was expressed because the Parish Council were pushing for the provision of yellow lines. This is an option which the committee do not favour, although there may be a case for local use of yellow lines at points such as the Hollands Way junction.

Mr. Brand stated his concern about the report of serious accidents on the A24 at Warnham recently, and said that his wife had also been involved in an incident. He is concerned at the proposed delay to the start of the new A24 - a delay of 2 years has been reported - as the volume of traffic is increasing steadily. Mr. Courtier thought that work would not be delayed unduly as the old railway bridge is visibly deteriorating and Highways are unlikely to let separate contracts for repair of the bridge and construction of the new intersection.

Mrs. Thornton reported that the self assessment forms have been submitted for Warnham to be considered in the Best Kept Village competition. The forms were completed by five groups - The Warnham Society, The Historical Society, WI, the Cricket Club and the Church Council. An inspection will be carried out in July if the submission is successful.

Mr. Newman distributed copies of a leaflet issued by The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign inviting written objections to The Secretary of State for Transport about new rules for night flights. New regulations would permit night flying by all types of aircraft. Mr. Newman said that Gatwick monitors its own noise levels and he thought this would be better undertaken by an independent body. Both he and Mrs. Thornton will write to The Secretary of State.

Mr. Purcell reported that he had begun to develop the traffic calming proposals and had prepared a long strip map of Church Street. He intended that this would be fully developed and discussed with Ms. Macnab and other parties before the AGM. He would incorporate the new lighting column positions onto the map.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 September 1993 at 8.00pm at The Red House, Church Street at the kind invitation of Sir James Dalrymple-Hay.