

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

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

---

Minutes of the Forty Eighth Meeting of the Committee  
held at The Red House, Church Street, Warnham on  
Tuesday 28 September 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 6 July 1993

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

3. Matters Arising

(i) **Golf Course.** Mr. Purcell reported that he had spoken to Jennifer Pearce and that she was aware of the Society's concern about the proposed access from Robin Hood Lane, supported the comments made, and would look into the matter.

Subsequent to the meeting Mr. Purcell was advised that work on the construction of the proposed access is due to commence in the near future. Any opportunity to effect a change of plan has therefore disappeared.

(ii) **Road Naming.** Mrs. Jameson said that she had again contacted Mr. Flack as no new road signs had been erected. He assured her that their provision has been instigated.

Mr. Purcell said that Jennifer Pearce had expressed an interest in the green signs used at Warninglid, and he had given her copies of his photographs.

(iii) **Society Affiliations.** Continued membership of The Civic Trust will be discussed at the AGM.

(iv) **Granny's Lane.** It was suggested that reinstatement of this name could possibly be raised with whoever purchases Field Place.

(v) **Best Kept Garden Competition.** It was agreed to share the award between 13 Church Street and 43 Bell Road, Mr. Newman handed £25 to Mrs Thornton to purchase vouchers of £12.50 for each of the winners. It was suggested that winners should be given a certificate in addition to the cash prize.

(vi) **Bus Shelter.** Mr. Read said that nothing further had been said at the Parish Council about the Tyldens shelter. They are now talking about using space in the churchyard for a shelter, although the actual position will need to be looked into. They are also considering the provision of a shelter at the end of Farm Close, the proposal being to lose the first parking bay with a shelter overhanging the footpath. Elimination of the parking bay would improve sight lines at this junction. It was suggested that any loss of parking was to be regretted. Comment was made on the nuisance caused by vehicles belonging to the warden of Stanford Orchard which are parked in Church Street and Farm Close as a result of insufficient parking allocated to his accommodation.

(vii) **Abbeyfield Society.** Mr. Read said that the plans for the Abbeyfield Society's development had not been discussed at the last Parish Council meeting. He advised, however, that the majority of the Parish Council members are in favour of the development being sited on the glebe land, and have agreed to access from the cricket field car park.

Sir James Dalrymple-Hay said that he had been given 6 months notice to the use of the field behind The Red House. An application is to be submitted to the District Council for permission to build on the southern part of the glebe land. The Parish Council favour use of the northern area but the Church is opposed to such siting. A central location for the development may be the best solution.

Whilst many on the Committee would prefer that the Glebe land should remain as a long-term open space and recreation area for the village, and thought that it would be a great shame to lose open space in its centre, it was agreed that the Society should work to ensure that any design submitted should be in character and of appropriate quality.

Concern was expressed that, although the Principle of the development is admirable, there will be insufficient funds to achieve a good enough standard of building. It was agreed to monitor progress of the proposals closely.

The access road to the proposed site will be very expensive, and it may be necessary to extend the parking area for the cricket field as cars could not be allowed to block access to the development.

The Abbeyfield Society have rejected use of Holland House for their accomodation. It is possible that they may change their ideas and decide to attend to people's needs in their own homes.

(viii) **Ends Place Footpath.** Following the Public Enquiry the diversion of the footpath has been approved. The Parish Council are actively looking into the legality of this decision. Mr. Read said that the decision would be rendered nul and void if it could be proved that the route of the footpath had been used for vehicular access. It was felt that the notice of approval is unclear, and that the Inspector's Report was poor. The time available for objection was not stated.

(ix) **Warnham Manor Lighting.** Approval has now been given to the external lighting at Warnham Manor.

(x) **Underground Cabling.** Work is now underway to bury overhead service cabling between Bell Road and Friday Street.

(xi) **Station Road.** No decision has yet been taken on the possible closure of Station Road. It was commented that the level crossing is closed for much of the time anyhow.

(xii) **Antiques Shop.** The sale of the antiques shop in Church Street has fallen through. The adjacent empty shop unit is now in a very poor condition structurally.

(xiii) **Best Kept Village Competition.** Mrs. Thornton reported that Warnham had come third in this competition, and that the village will be awarded a Certificate of Merit. All five assessors, together with the litter warden, will attend the presentation to be held at Ditchling on October 25. The certificate will be displayed in the Village Hall.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Newman distributed the accounts proforma which indicated a healthy balance. No bank charges have been incurred this year. The accounts have yet to be audited.

Mr Newman said that he had discussed with the Civic Trust our thoughts of withdrawing the Society's registration. They had responded by setting out what they could do for the Society. He said that we have not used the Civic Trust in any way and that the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies seems to cover all the Society's requirements.

#### 5. Planning Matters.

No applications submitted since the last meeting had given cause for concern.

Mr. Brand stated that permission had been granted in early August for the Nursing Home extension to Tyldens. He had been extremely concerned to discover that the adjacent land of Cox Farm has been sold to the County Council by Mr. Kendrick, and that his neighbours

in Cox Farm Lodge had obtained plans of a proposed Retirement Village sited on this land between the A24 and the route of the new By-pass. He showed the Committee a copy of this plan which comprises some 50 houses together with shops and communal leisure facilities. This plan shares the same Job Number as the plans submitted for the Tyldens Nursing Home proposals, and Mr. Brand expressed his concern as to the long term intended use of Tyldens and the attempt to contravene the Local Plan and its designated development areas. He feared that the owner of Tyldens might apply for a change of use to a hotel. It was thought unlikely by the Meeting that the District Council would agree to such an application as they had always been opposed to such a use of Tyldens.

It was agreed that the Committee would keep an eye on any developments as the Council can make changes to the Local Plan should they so wish. Mrs. Jameson had visited the Planning Office to question the Retirement Village proposals and had been assured that any such proposals on Council owned land would be subject to the same open application procedures as privately owned land.

The intended sale of Field Place by Mr. Prichard Jones was discussed. It would appear that the District Council's permission for enabling development will transfer to whoever purchases the property. It is thought that such development is preferable to a Developer allowing such a house to deteriorate beyond economic repair, thereby opening the way to more lucrative use of the land.

6. Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies

Mr. Newman reported on the meeting of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies which was held at Rowhook on 28 September 1993. After discussion of problems which particularly affected Rowhook (land purchased and illegally developed by gipsies; traffic problems; car boot sales and signs; noise arising from clay pigeon shooting; aircraft cutting corners), the following matters of concern to the F.S.A.S. were raised:-

a) the ad hoc erection of telecommunication towers, masts and aerials all over the county, mostly on buildings. Many have been erected without planning permission by means of the prior notification system which is not advertised in the press. Societies asked to keep the F. S. A. S. informed of any contentious masts erected in their area.

b) the proposed second runway at Gatwick. The F. S. A. S. suggested that they should support the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign in their opposition to this proposal, together with the allied problems of population influx, road and rail access etc.

The meeting was informed that Stanley Nye had agreed to take over as Chairman of the F. S. A. S.

Mr. Read pointed out that most small telecommunication aerials serve personal

communication systems and can be erected without consent. Large masts and clusters of dishes do need consent.

Mr. Newman said that he had written to the Secretary of State about the increase of aircraft noise at Gatwick and had received a very non-committal reply. He pointed out that the number of night flights (9,550 in the summer and 6,820 in the winter) was 33% more than at Heathrow.

7. AGM

A copy of the Chairman's draft Report was distributed to the committee members for comment. It was agreed to include reference to the proposed Abbeyfield Society development as this constituted a significant development within the village.

Continued registration with the Civic Trust will be raised as an Agenda item.

The Guest Speaker will be John Hamilton of the Natural History Society who will give an illustrated talk on Birds Of Warnham.

Mr. Read agreed to arrange the wine; Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. James:will provide coffee and nibbles.

Mr. Purcell will develop his plans for the traffic calming proposals for display in the Hall. Reference to these proposals will be made during the meeting.

8. Any Other Business

Mr. Purcell commented on the untidy verge outside The Sussex Oak. It was agreed to channel this Observation through the Parish Council.

Mr. Purcell said the Rev. Canon Taylor wants to extend the Parish Room out towards the road. There is a lot of opposition within the PCC to the idea, and there is to be a vote at a public meeting. Mrs. Thornton said that a large donation has already been made towards the costs of such an extension. Concern was expressed that an extension could be made without planning consent. Mr. Purcell subsequently established that consent would be required.

Mr. Courtier queried the future of the Village Store. There are ideas to hold a mini market there on Tuesdays and Fridays, which could be very untidy, generate unsightly signs and create parking problems.

The Chairman expressed the need for more committee members - up to a maximum of twelve persons. Mrs. Jameson will ask Reg Melhuish if he would consider re-joining.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 December 1993 at 8.00pm at The Red House, Church Street at the kind invitation of Sir James Dalrymple-Hay.