

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the Fifth meeting of the Committee held at
Little Broomhall on Thursday, 10th October 1985

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

1 Apologies for absence

An apology was received from Mrs White.

Minutes of the last meeting, held on 29th August

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

On Item 2, the enforcement of the speed limit through the village, Mr McMullen said that the Clerk of the Parish Council had been requested to raise with PC Harper.

With regard to item 4, West Sussex Structure Plan and the First Alteration to it, the Secretary said that he had received an acknowledgement from the DoE with an invitation to be present at the Public Enquiry, which was to begin at Chichester on 22nd October; the letter said that the Society's views in support of the County Council's policies would be taken into account.

With regard to item 6, current planning applications and in particular the application by Warnham Studios for change of use of the second floor from Warehouse to massage room etc., the Secretary said that he had written to the planning authority in accordance with the Committee's instructions to voice concern at the car parking implications and had sent a copy of his letter to Mrs Poole, the applicant, who was in fact a member of the Society. Mrs Poole had registered some surprise and concern at the Society's intervention.

Mr. McMullen said that the Parish Council had also made similar representations on the car parking aspect of this planning application, and it seemed that as a result of this and of the representations made by the Society, the public car park at the village hall was to be advertised by normal 'P' signs.

With regard to item 7, Mr Courtier reported on meeting and reception called by Mr Windrum the Chairman of Horsham District Council, on 20th September. The meeting had been attended by representatives of amenity societies, by members of the staffs of architectural practices in the area, by senior Council officers and by the press, and had been a lively affair. After the reception Mr Courtier had had opportunity to talk to Mr Jones, the Council's Director of Planning and Development and had told him about his ideas endorsed by the Committee for a positive planning role for the Warnham Society. Mr Jones had reacted enthusiastically remarking that it was refreshing to hear the viewpoint from an amenity society that development itself was not unwelcome provided it was sensibly directed. Mr Courtier had got the impression that Mr Jones and his staff would be grateful for any help the Society could give by way of constructive advice for what would be acceptable to the Village. Mr Jones had offered to come and talk to the Committee and had told him that he would try and arrange this soon after the Special General Meeting.

With regard to item 8, the two cottages adjoining Warnham Mill, the Secretary said that he had written to Mr Charles but had not yet had a reply.

On item 10, footpaths and the small sub-committee set up for this purpose, Mr McMullen said that the Parish Council, who were themselves very concerned about the maintenance of official footpaths within the parish, had been interested to learn of the establishment of the sub-committee. They were talking about "walking the bounds" and would no doubt be in touch.

3 Hon Treasurer's Report

Mr Parr tabled the accounts for the period 29th March to 30th September which had been audited by Mr Andrew Frank for presentation at the Special General Meeting. These were agreed. Mr Parr suggested the payment of an honorarium of £5 to Mr Frank and this was agreed.

4 Planning matters

Mr McMullen read out the list of planning applications listed for the consideration of the Parish Council, and a number of these were then discussed including:

- (a) Sands Farm, change of use from farming to equestrian
- (b) Felling of six trees, new building site near corner of Byfleets Lane and Friday Street
- (c) Hardstanding at No. 5 Goose Green, Broadbridge Heath Road

Though members of the committee had reservations about all of these, it was not felt that it would be appropriate for the Society to make representations in any of these cases.

5 Best Kept Village Competition – presentation of WSCC Prize at Parish Council Meeting on 14th

October

The Chairman invited suggestions for how the Parish Council might be recommended to spend the prize money of £150, and the following ideas came up:

- (a) to move a bus shelter to The Green (there was an outdated one at the bottom of Bell Road)
- (b) to erect benches round the cricket field
- (c) to improve the fence around the play area at the village hall
- (d) to improve the steep and uneven access to the footpath which went west across the fields from the corner of Lucas Road and Tilletts Lane

It was agreed that (b) was the most practicable and appropriate and that Mr McMullen would so recommend at the meeting if invited to do so.

As many members as possible would attend the meeting.

6 Special General Meeting on Friday 18th October

The Secretary had circulated a draft agenda, and also the report on the 7 months period to date and the draft constitution both of which had already been circulated to all members. The draft agenda was agreed without amendment and the Secretary was complimented on the report.

The position with regard to nominations to the committee was noted and it was agreed to publish a list at the meeting.

It was agreed to charge 60p for a glass of wine after the meeting and 20p for coffee.

7 The newly-planted oak trees

The Secretary reported a letter dated 4th October 1985 from Mr Douglas Fox suggesting that the Society replace dead trees as necessary in the autumn and offering to supply replacements now if an indication of requirements could be given.

It was agreed that this was not feasible and the Secretary would so inform Mr Fox. The future care and maintenance of the trees, if any was required, would be something for the new committee.

8 Outgoing Chairman

The Chairman thanked all members for their support during his chairmanship which he much appreciated.

9 Date of next meeting

This was fixed for 8pm on Thursday 21st November, same venue. (Note – this has now been changed to Friday 15th November).