

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

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

CHAIRMAN : P. M. Lee CBE

SECRETARY : Mrs. J. H. Jameson Dip Arch.

Minutes of the Fifty Third Meeting of the Committee
held at 1 The Forge, Byfleets Lane on
Wednesday 7 December 1994

Present: Mr. G. J. Read Vice-Chairman
Mrs. J. H. Jameson Secretary
Mr. R. H. Newman Treasurer
Mr. R. H. Purcell
Mr. R. Courtier
Mrs. O. G. Thornton
Mrs. R. Ashton
Mr. P. M. Lee
Mrs. S. Dutton
Mrs. V. Ronaasen

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. A. G. Brand and Mrs. J. Burnham.

2. Welcome to new Members

The new committee members, Mr. Lee, Mrs. Dutton and Mrs. Ronaasen, were welcomed to the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 1994

Ref: Item 4 – Should read Mr. Boud not Mr. Budd.

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

4. Matters Arising

(i) **Road Naming.** Mrs. Jameson read to the Meeting a letter she had received from

Horsham District Council. Despite earlier assurances that production of new nameplates was in hand, it now appeared that these could not be provided because names shown on the Ordnance Survey maps were not used in the postal addresses and erection of such new signs would cause confusion. Mr. Flack had suggested that, subject to consultation with the Parish Council, he was prepared to consider the inclusion of local names in bracketed lower case letters beneath the postal names.

Mr. Purcell questioned the status of the Post Office in the naming of roads, and it was agreed to look into this. Mr. Lee thought it undesirable to increase the number of modern style name signs, and after discussion of possible options it was agreed that the doubling up of street names would only cause confusion.

ii) **Bus Shelter.** Mr. Read said that the Parish Council are trying to reach a consensus with the PCC on the provision of a shelter within the churchyard area. The PCC are opposed to such a provision.

iii) **Underground Cabling.** Mrs. Dutton said that she hoped the new cabling would be extended down Bell Road as this also has a maze of overhead cables. She commented that she was presently without telephone connection because of damage to the lines by a lorry. Mr Read said that works to Bell Road would come after the hoped-for completion of Friday Street.

(iv) **Station Road.** The level crossing remains open following objections to its effect upon a footpath, and to the reluctance to fight a court case. Mr. Read and Mrs. Ashton want to keep an eye on the preservation of the signal box.

(v) **A24 Dualling.** Mr. Read reported on the presentation to the PC by the Highways Departments of the Surrey and Sussex Councils. Surrey have obtained Committee approval, and Sussex approval is due soon. A start in 1996/7 is still programmed, but this could slip if funding is delayed. Station Road will be re-aligned to cross over the new road which will be in a cutting at this point.

(vi) **Data Protection Act.** Mrs. Jameson said that she had written to all the Society's members prior to the AGM in October. She had received no objections to the production of a members list on computer, and it was agreed that this constituted tacit agreement.

(vii) **Traffic Calming.** Mr. Purcell said that, following informal approval by the County Council of his proposals, he has not had the time to prepare drawings which will incorporate all the amendments necessary to ensure progress. He explained these amendments for the of the new committee members, and said that the scheme is in the County Council's Local Plan for Warnham. Mrs. Dutton asked if something could be done to reduce the speed of traffic down Bell Road. He agreed that the scheme could be extended. The County Council are unlikely to implement any scheme prior to works to the A24, and a 20mph zone would

be experimental for 18 months. Final endorsement will be made if the scheme is proved to be self enforcing. It was agreed by the committee that funds should be made available for Mr. Purcell to employ a draughtsman to prepare the amended drawings. A cost of £100 will be the target, with a maximum £150.

(viii) **Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies.** Mr. Purcell regretted that he had been unable to attend the FSAS meeting in September.

(ix) **Footpaths.** Mr. Courtier reported the existence of an active unit in the County Council dealing with footpaths. This unit could be contacted in the event of queries and disputes.

(x) **Hanging Baskets.** These have been removed, but it is not known whether they will be re-provided in 1995.

(xi) **Street Lamps.** Not all the new lamps are yet working despite letters from the Parish Council, Overhead cables to the Warehouse have now been removed.

(xii) **Best Kept Village Competition.** Presentation of the Award had been made, and a plaque sited in the Village Hall.

(xiii) **Centenary Stocks.** The PC had inspected the stocks which were found to be in very bad condition and beyond repair.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Newman reported that, following confirmation that no monies were outstanding to committee members, funds stood at a total of £344.79. The Accounts had yet to be audited. He said that he likes to maintain a minimum of £200 in the account in order to avoid bank charges.

Mr. Newman said that many members had yet to renew their subscriptions. In the previous year membership had stood at 47 couples and 25 single members. This year it was 28 couples and 13 singles. He will be writing to all defaulting members on 1 January 1995.

Mrs. Dutton suggested that it could be made easier for people to pay if a number of committee members were empowered to accept fees. She also suggested a drive should be made for new members, and the committee discussed methods of achieving this. A notice could be put into the Warbler, although this is now largely a Church magazine and not seen by everyone. A letter could be circulated to new village residents if these could be ascertained. In Southwater a monthly newsletter is distributed to all houses.

6. Planning Matters

No contentious planning applications had been submitted since the previous meeting of the committee.

The committee agreed that the direction signs to Warnham Manor were unsightly and that their removal should be obtained if possible.

Mr. Read said that a positive start on the Tilletts Lane housing must be made by the end of December or the permission may be withdrawn.

Mrs. Jameson undertook to study the Pre-Inquiry Proposed Changes to the Horsham District Local Plan to check on any changes affecting Warnham.

Mrs. Dutton asked whether the large banners displayed outside the Sussex Oak were subject to planning constraints. Mrs. Jameson will check on this matter.

7. AGM

It was agreed that it had been a good meeting and that the guest speaker had been interesting and well received. Mr. Courtier confirmed that he had written to Mr. Laird to thank him for the talk, and the committee expressed their thanks to Mr. Courtier for making the arrangements.

Mr. Lee referred to the request at the AGM that the Warnham Society should consider increasing its subscription to the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign. After discussion it was agreed that, despite acknowledgement of the work needed to counter the threat of greatly increased night flying and the second runway, the subscription already made was appropriate to the interests of the village.

8. Selection and Appointment of a new Chairman

Mr. P. Lee confirmed, after discussion, that he would be prepared to serve as Chairman of the Warnham Society. His appointment was welcomed by all members present.

Mr. Lee requested a copy of the Society's Constitution. Mr. Read agreed to get copies for distribution.

Mr. Read agreed to continue to act as Vice-Chairman.

9. Any Other Business

Mrs. Jameson advised the committee of the FSAS's invitation for individual subscriptions.

Mr. Lee questioned whether the FSAS represented value for money. It was agreed to follow Sir James Dalrymple-Hay's thoughts that the development of the Horsham chapter should be monitored, and that the membership of the FSAS be reviewed prior to payment of the next annual subscription. It was also agreed to continue membership of the Civic Trust in accordance with the wishes of the Warnham Society membership.

Mrs. Dutton suggested that a follow-up report of the Society's two annual meetings should

be published in the Warbler.

Mr Purcell commented on the very poor condition of the footpaths following the cabling works. Mr. Read said that Mrs. Burnham was intending that the Parish Council should press for the resurfacing of all the footpaths when the cabling is finally complete.

Mr. Read reported that the Parish Council is promoting the yellow lining of the west side of Church Street and the east side opposite the end of Hollands Way. Mr. Purcell expressed his surprise at this intention.

Mr. Read reported that the police had mounted a speed trap in Church Street early one morning, and that they will be doing so again in the future. Mrs. Dutton asked whether it would be possible to ban lorries from the village except when making deliveries. Mr. Purcell said that width restrictions cannot be enforced, but that the traffic calming proposals will help reduce the amount of through traffic in the village.

Mrs. Jameson will produce a new directory of committee members' names and addresses.

Mrs. Ronaasen asked whether the painted hatching applied to the crossover beside the butchers shop is official marking, but the committee were uncertain on the matter.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 February 1995 at 8.00pm at Applegarth, School Hill.