

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 Fourth Meeting of the Committee
held at Apple Garth, School Hill, Warnham on
Wednesday 22 February 1995

Present: Mr. P. M. Lee Chairman
 Mrs. J. H. Jameson Secretary
 Mr. R. H. Newman Treasurer
 Mr. R. H. Purcell
 Mr. A. G. Brand
 Mrs. O. Thornton
 Mrs. J. Burnham
 Mrs. R. Ashton
 Mrs. S. Dutton
 Mrs. V. Ronaasen

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence had been received from Mr. R. Courtier.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 1994

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

(i) **Road Naming.** It was agreed that the District Council's suggestion to double up postal road names with local names was not desirable. Mrs. Jameson will write to Mr. Flack and advise him that we do not wish to pursue the matter any further.

(ii) **Bus Shelter.** No further progress to report.

(iii) **Underground Cabling.** No further progress to report.

(iv) **Station Road.** Mrs. Burnham reported that, even if the level crossing is closed, the footpath will have to be kept open. Railtrack want £30,000 to maintain the crossing which is

twice the amount which can be raised locally. Feelings were divided on whether such money should be raised to keep it open, although Mrs. Burnham said that many people wanted the crossing retained in order to maintain access to car parking. Mr. Lee said that a separate matter of interest to the Warnham Society was the retention of the signal box, and the desirability of getting it listed. It was agreed that the Secretary will write to English Heritage, and that Mrs. Burnham raise the matter of maintenance of the box with the Parish Council.

(v) **A24 Dualling.** Comment was made on the recent spate of serious accidents occurring along the single carriageway section of the A24.

Mr. Lee said that he had received correspondence from Mr. Horton of the Horsham Society which is to mount a campaign to push for the early commencement of work on the new road. It was agreed that as many Societies as possible should exert pressure on the County Council. Other road schemes which are in the pipeline do not have the accident record of the A24, and local pressure should be put upon the Highways Committee to put the A24 at the top of the priority list. Mr. Brand said that the scheme should be brought forward rather than delayed, and commented upon the serious problem of traffic attending Tydens. Garth Denham will still run Fayres even after extension of the Nursing Home and care training centre. (the office space application has been turned down). Mrs. Dutton commented on how dangerous the junction with Bell Road has become. Mrs. Burnham will raise the matter with the District Council, and The Warnham Society will write to the County Council. Mr. Purcell said that the County Council has community liaison groups, but that the Warnham Society has not been invited. It was suggested that Roger England at the Broadbridge Heath Depot should be contacted.

(vi) **Traffic Calming.** Mr. Purcell showed the Committee the new drawings which have been extended to show the 20mph area as discussed at the last meeting. He had spoken to staff at the County Council who had expressed dislike of direct entry into a 20mph restriction at Bell Road. It was now proposed to start this zone by the Sussex Oak, at the junction of Church Street and Friday Street, and at Hollands Way beside the cricket field. Features within the 20mph zone are needed to make the restriction self-enforcing, and the scheme proposes speed platforms which are 6m long with 1m long ramps at each side. Speed cushions may be preferable for larger vehicles such as buses. Mr. Purcell suggested that the scheme should now be submitted to the County Council with the suggestion that it is essential to link the traffic calming with the A24 dualling, and that a PC Sum be included within the funding budget for the A24.

Mrs. Dutton asked if there is any way to slow down traffic coming into Bell Road from School Hill. Mr. Purcell said that he would discuss the problem with the County Council, and also look into the similar problem at the junction of Hollands Way and Church Road.

The meeting agreed that Mr. Purcell should now take steps to promote the adoption of the scheme.

(vii) **Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies.** Mr. Lee reported that he had received a letter from the Horsham Society expressing dissatisfaction with the FSAS. It was agreed to monitor the effectiveness of the Federation over the coming year. Mrs. Jameson said that the FSAS wanted someone from the Warnham Society to chair the next Federation meeting on 12 April. Mr. Lee commented that this rotation of the chairmanship was not liked by the Horsham Society.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Newman reported that the accounts for 1993/4 have now been audited, and that current funds stand at £399.21.

The Chairman and Secretary signed a banking form for cheque signatories against the Society's account.

Mr. Newman reported that 6 members have still not renewed their membership, and that one person has left the Society. Ways of recruiting new members was again discussed together with ways of making villagers more aware of the Society and its aims. Mrs. Burnham said that she would include news of the Society in future editions of her Newsletter.

5. Planning Matters

Mrs. Burnham reported that the scheme for housing in Tilletts Lane had been sold on and that the new developer was trying to get permission to lift the restriction to provide social housing for Warnham only. The planners were not succumbing to this request, and she said that the development area could be removed from the structure plan if the restriction is not adhered to. She also hopes to see the imposition of a one-way system for construction traffic to the site in order to minimise disruption within the village.

Mrs. Thornton commented upon the number of old cars which have been taken into Warnham Court Farm. Mrs. Burnham said she would investigate the matter.

It was reported that the Parish Council are not happy with the direction signs to Warnham Manor but that they are not against the law and their removal cannot be enforced.

Mr. Brand asked when the main road signs that were stolen are to be replaced.

6. Spring Meeting

A date for the Spring Meeting was discussed, with 12 April seeming suitable. Mrs. Jameson

subsequently discovered that Friday 19 May is the first date on which the Village Hall is available.

It was agreed that a talk on the policing of village communities could be of interest to the residents of Warnham, Mrs. Thornton undertook to contact the Police and Neighbourhood Watch to investigate the availability of a guest speaker.

Mr. Purcell offered to talk about the further development of the traffic calming scheme for the village.

7. Expansion of Gatwick Airport

The Secretary of State's recent announcement was noted. It was agreed that there are not likely to be any significant developments in the immediate future, but that the Society should continue to monitor the matter.

8. Any Other Business

(i) VE / VJ Day: The Chairman said that he had been approached by Brigadier Hall who had enquired if the Society would be willing to help in organising and running the village celebrations on VE Day. The Committee agreed that the Society should play an active part. The Chairman will attend a meeting which the Royal British Legion propose to convene of all the village organisations, and will report back. It was agreed that the proposal to have a church service to mark VJ Day would be appropriate.

(ii) Footpaths: Concern was expressed over the continuing poor state of the village footpaths following the work of the different statutory undertakers. Mrs. Burnham advised that Horsham District Council had set aside £13,000 for the work, but that a start was delayed pending resolution of some matters of ownership. Mrs. Burnham was asked to press the Parish and District Councils to try to have the quality of the footpaths brought up as far as possible to their original condition, i.e. stone paving rather than asphalt.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

The Next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 April 1995 at 8.00pm at Apple Garth, School Hill.