

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 Fifth Meeting of the Committee
held at Apple Garth, School Hill, Warnham on
Thursday 6 April 1995

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

1. Apologies for Absence

All members of the Committee were present.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 February 1995

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

3. Matters Arising

(i) **Road Naming.** Mrs. Jameson confirmed that she had written to Mr. Flack at Horsham District Council to advise him that the Society did not wish to pursue this matter any further.

(ii) **Station Road.** Mrs. Burnham confirmed that Railtrack have agreed to keep the level crossing open for another year in view of the financial contribution being made locally. Mrs. Jameson will write to both the Department of the Environment and English Heritage

regarding the preservation of the signal box. As the Parish Council has not met since the last committee meeting it has not been possible for them to discuss the matter of future maintenance of the signal box.

(iii) **A24 Dualling.** Mr. Lee confirmed that he has written to Mrs. Millson, Chairman of the West Sussex County Council Highways Committee, expressing the concern of the Warnham Society at the slippage in the programming of this work, and requesting that it be given the highest priority. He said that this letter has been acknowledged but that he has yet to receive a full response. Mr. Purcell agreed to contact Mr. England at the Broadbridge Heath Depot to request inclusion in the liaison group set up by the County Council. Mrs. Burnham said that the pressure of local protest is making an impression on the Council and that such pressure should be maintained, particularly as Surrey County Council are ready to proceed with their section of the road. The work is currently programmed to commence in 1998/99, and the Highways Committee have to decide which of four schemes should receive the highest priority. Mr. Brand reported that monthly militaria fayres are proposed at Tyldens. He has taken photographs of the car parking generated along the A24 by these events which it was agreed could be used to press for early commencement of the new road.

(iv) **Traffic Calming.** Mr. Purcell said that he had written to the County Council, copied to Mr. Lee and Mr. Hodgson, explaining his proposals for a traffic calming scheme in Warnham and asking for their comments. He has now received an initial reaction from the Assistant County Engineer which raises some problems e. g.:

a) do the County Council want private initiatives - statutory consultation requirements, traffic Orders etc. have to be considered.

b) there are some technical difficulties – they do not believe that a 20mph scheme could be adopted as the proposed zone is a main route and bus route through the village with no adequate alternative route.

c) an insufficient number of speed platforms is proposed, but the bus companies would object to platforms at closer intervals. Mr. Purcell said that it may therefore be necessary to abandon the idea of a 20mph zone and adapt the scheme to a 30mph zone. This would need a greater emphasis at the entrances to the zone e. g. a gateway effect or streetside furniture. The County are not against the scheme being considered as part of the A24 dualling, which would gain Department of Transport funding.

It was agreed that a revised scheme should be developed and submitted. It would be up to the Highways Committee to decide whether traffic calming should be considered as part of the A24 work or not, but with an acceptable scheme before the Council it would be possible to apply pressure for technical support. (traffic calming at Ashington was carried out as part of the A24 works)

(v) **Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies.** Mr. Lee agreed to attend and chair the meeting scheduled for 12 April at West Chiltington.

(vi) **Membership.** Mrs. Burnham will include news of the Warnham Society in her summer Newsletter. Mrs. Jameson suggested that committee members carry out local recruiting with the distribution of invitations to the Spring Meeting. An approach to new residents in the village was also discussed.

(vii) **Tilletts Lane Housing.** Mrs. Burnham reported that the developer has now agreed to abide by the terms Of sale / rent to local residents, and that the Contract had been signed the previous week. Work on site should commence after Easter, and the estate will be named Gregsons.

(viii) **Old Cars at Warnham Court Farm.** Mrs. Burnham had reported the matter but had heard no further details.

(ix) **Footpaths.** There has been no progress towards reinstatement of the footpaths along Church Street.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr Newman reported that funds stand at £369.88. Five members have not renewed their membership.

5. Planning Matters

Mrs. Jameson said that she had inspected the plans for the proposed new houses in Bell Road, and had discussed the matter with Mrs. Dutton to get the views of the residents of Bell Road. Mrs. Jameson had expressed concern that the proposal for two houses on the site resulted in very narrow plots. Mrs. Burnham said that the Parish Council had recommended only one house should be built.

Mrs. Jameson reported Reg Melhuish's concern at an item in the Parish Magazine which said that the residents of St. Margaret's Court were saving to purchase a Portakabin for use as a common room within their site, and that the only space available for this would be within the car park facing Friday Street. It was agreed that such a proposal could never be acceptable. Mrs. Burnham offered to talk to the Warden to advise her on this matter.

It was reported that the proposal for the conversion of the barn on Stroud Lane had been reduced to one dwelling rather than the two originally intended.

6. Spring Meeting

It was confirmed that the Spring Meeting will be held on Friday 19 May in the Village Hall.

Mrs. Thornton has arranged for the Coordinator from Neighbourhood Watch to give a talk on crime prevention. She will discuss with her a suitable title for this talk in order that posters can be prepared for display.

Wine, coffee and biscuits will be provided as usual, available from 7.30pm. The need for projection facilities is to be checked with the speaker.

Mr. Purcell will give an update on the traffic calming scheme, with questions and answers, before the main talk.

7. VE / VJ Day

Mr. Lee reported that the Warnham Society will be taking part, along with the other local interest groups, in the staging of commemoration activities. He had attended the steering group chaired by Canon Taylor. It is proposed that that on VE Day (8 May) there will be a gathering on the Village Green commencing at 7.30pm. The bar will be provided by the Sussex Oak, tea and Coffee by the W. I., and the hamburger / hot dog stall will be run by the Warnham Society. There will be music, lights and decorations, and Mr. Purcell agreed to let the electrical supply be taken from his house. At 8.15 there will be a brief service of thanksgiving and prayer, and at 8.30 the British Legion will light the bonfire. (there will be no fireworks)

Mr. Read and Mr. Brand agreed to run the Bar-B-Q. It was thought that 150 each of hot dogs and burgers should be provided, together with rolls and onions, and kitchen paper for holding them. It was agreed that the village butcher should be asked to supply the meat. Any profit from sales will go towards the provision of lunch for Warnham veterans on VJ Day. (19/20 August)

Mrs. Dutton asked if there could be some form of permanent record of the day such as photographs or a tree planting. It was agreed to put ideas to the next steering group meeting.

All committee members will assist On 8 May, arriving at the Village Green between 6.30 and 7.00pm.

8. Any Other Business

Mr. Newman reported that vandals had destroyed all the daffodils at the top of the Village Green.

Mrs. Dutton said that the Publican at the Sussex Oak had handed over nearly £50 raised for seniors of the Village, and she thought that note should be made of his efforts.

9. Next Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27 June 1995 at 8.00pm at Apple Garth, School Hill.

The subsequent meeting will be held on Thursday 14 September 1995.

The date for the Annual General Meeting will be Friday 10 November 1995 (not 27 October as discussed at the meeting).