

# 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.

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## Minutes of the Fifty Sixth Meeting of the Committee

Held at Apple Garth, School Hill, Warnham on

Tuesday 27 June 1995

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. R. Purcell and Mr. A. G. Brand.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 April 1995

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

3. Matters Arising

(i) **Station Road.** It was commented that the level crossing is frequently closed at times when it should be open and that no warning of such closure is posted at the end of Station Road. Mrs. Burnham said that she had written to Railtrack about this. They had replied that shortage of staff was the reason, Mrs. Dutton asked whether an automatic crossing could be provided but Mrs. Burnham said that such an installation would be too expensive. The Parish Council are in favour of keeping the crossing open.

(ii) **A24 Dualling.** Mr. Lee reported that he keeps writing to Mrs. Millson to stress the urgent need for this work, but 1999 is now the earliest date for commencement of the main works. Mrs. Ashton said that Mrs. Millson will be writing to the residents of Station Road because a survey has found that the proposed route will have to be altered. She reported that a local group had been formed to monitor the matter. Mr. Lee said Mrs. Millson had stated at the Strategic Road Network meeting that, even without engineering problems, 1999 is the earliest date for commencement.

Mrs. Burnham said that an Action A24 Dualling group is to be formed to keep up pressure for the work to be given a higher priority. The Angmering by-pass has been given higher priority despite the greater number of accidents on the A24. Mrs. Pearce was not at either of the recent Council meetings and therefore our interests were not represented. The new group will be headed by Norman Horton who has recently joined the Warnham Society. Mrs. Burnham said that Surrey County Council is ready to proceed with their end of the A24 and urged that everyone join the new group whose first meeting will be on 6 July. Mrs. Thornton suggested that the Warnham Society should write to Mrs. Pearce asking her to fight our cause and to invite her to a meeting. Mr. Lee agreed to do this. Mrs. Burnham said that the new action group should attend the Highways Committee meeting at Chichester on 15 September.

(iii) **Traffic Calming.** Mr. Lee reported his continuing correspondence with Mrs. Millson. He had been advised that there is no money in the calming budget for a scheme in Warnham and therefore he is pressing for its inclusion in the A24 budget. He has received acknowledgement of his latest request, but has had no response to his request for support from Mrs. Pearce.

Mr. Courtier said that he has no detailed estimate of the cost of the Warnham scheme although a guide of £15,000 has been suggested. Mrs. Dutton asked how it was that Slinfold were getting their scheme implemented, and the answer seemed to be the luck of the draw. Mr. Read said he was unsure that the County Council wanted the Warnham traffic calming done before the A24 dualling as without it traffic is dispersed.

(iv) **Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies.** Mr. Lee reported on the Federation meeting he had attended and at which he had taken the minutes. 75% of the meeting was a waste but some matters could be of interest to us. The next FSAS meeting is on 27 September, which is due to be chaired by the Warnham Society. Mr. Pearson will be in attendance with a view to exploring how the various amenity societies can get closer to the District Council. Mr. Lee said that he would like someone else from the Warnham Society to go with him to this meeting, which will be held in the Manor Room at The Barn in the Causeway. It may be possible for more than two members to attend. Mr. Lee suggested that our continuing membership of the FSAS could be decided after the September meeting. It was noted that

our annual subscription fee has not been paid.

(v) **Membership.** Mr. Newman reported that we have one new member, and that four members have not paid up for this year. Mrs. Burnham will include news of the Society in her September Newsletter.

(vi) **Tilletts Lane Housing.** Mrs. Burnham reported that work has started on this project . A one way access route for construction traffic has been agreed with Leech Homes, arriving via Mayes Lane and departing via Lucas Road and Hollands Way in order to avoid any use of Friday Street. Mr. Courtier expressed his concern about the considerable damage that could be caused to Mayes Lane and Tilletts Lane by HGV traffic and asked who would pay for reinstatement. It was agreed that the Warnham Society should write to the Director of Housing (copied to the Chief Executive ), quoting the problem with Robin Hood Lane, and suggesting that the lanes should be reinstated but not improved.

Mrs. Burnham confirmed that 18 houses are to be built, 12 of which will be for renting to Warnham residents only. 6 will be part rent part mortgage, with the first sale to Warnham residents only but any subsequent sale will be open.

(vii) **Old Cars at Warnham Court Farm.** Nothing further to report on this matter. It was noted that the herd of cows at the farm is to be sold, and it is not known what the land will be used for in the future

(viii) **Footpaths.** Redundant poles have now been removed, other than one belonging to BT, but Mrs. Burnham predicted a battle to get the footpaths reinstated. Mrs. Thornton commented on the work being done to the paths along Lucas Road - apparently as a result of flood damage.

(ix) **St. Margaret's Court.** No application has been submitted for use of a Portakabin.

(x) **Spring Meeting.** Mr. Lee expressed his thanks to Mrs. Thornton for arranging the speaker for this meeting.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Newman reported that funds stand at £343.56, which includes money raised by Mr. Read on VE Day.

After discussion of the work of GACC it was agreed to continue paying the £5.00 annual fee rather than increase it to a £10.00 contribution.

It was agreed to pay the subscription to FSAS for the previous year, reviewing any further payments after the September meeting.

Mr. Newman advised that, because of the 5 year maximum period as laid down in the constitution, he will be retiring as Treasurer after the AGM in the autumn. Mr. Lee requested

volunteers for the post.

5. Planning Matters

Mrs. Jameson noted that the Antiques Shop has now closed and queried the future use of this and the other empty shop. It was thought likely that the owners of both may request conversion to residential use. Any designs will need approval and therefore can be commented upon.

Mr. Read asked what is happening with the proposed new housing in Kingsfold. Mrs. Burnham said that problems with the water supply to the site presented an opportunity to improve the supply for all of Kingsfold, and also that the new sewage plant required for the development could help existing properties. The permission had been given for 18 houses for sale and 4 for social need. The Housing Department now say there is no need for the social housing and the matter is currently under discussion.

There have been no objections to the application for a single house in Bell Road.

6. Strategic Road Network

Mr. Lee reported on the public meeting he had attended to discuss the Strategic Road Network for West Sussex. He had found the presentation unsatisfactory, lacking in substance and logic. The Warnham Society had not received the consultation document, and whilst the A24 is included no priority statement is given. He felt it to be nonsense to ask people to reduce their use of roads.

Mr. Lee referred to his draft letter of response which had been circulated to the committee. Mr. Purcell had submitted a written suggestion that the reply should make a firmer statement on the inadequacy of the A24 between Horsham and Capel. Mr. Courtier thought that cyclists and walkers must be catered for where they cross main roads. He also thought that lack of improvements to non strategic roads, with resultant increase of traffic on main roads, will increase problems at bottlenecks. It is necessary to look at all roads. He also thought there was a danger that the more the A24 becomes like a motorway the more people will try to avoid it.

Mr. Lee will incorporate comments into his letter to the County Surveyor.

7. Any Other Business

A lunch for Warnham war veterans has been arranged for VJ Day.

Mrs. Millson and Roger England will address the Parish Council Meeting on 10 July. Mr. Lee has written to Mrs. Millson supporting the invitation and asking that the scope of

consideration should be widened to include all approach roads into the village. He hoped that Mr. Purcell would be able to attend and that they would have a chance to speak.

Mrs. Thornton expressed thanks to Mr. Read and everyone who helped at the VE Day celebrations.

Mrs. Dutton said that the WI and Parish Hall Committee were considering a function to raise money for new tables for the village hall. Money is to be spent on refitting the kitchen to permit use for weddings and functions, and she asked whether the Warnham Society would contribute towards a fund raising stall. Mrs. Burnham suggested that the Parish Council should be asked for the money. She agreed to raise the matter at the next PC meeting if Mrs. Dutton could provide details of the tables and an estimate of their cost.

Mrs. Dutton and Mrs. Thornton commented on road signs missing from both Bell Road and Tilletts Lane. Mr. Flack at Horsham District Council is the contact for replacement signs.

Mrs. Ronaasen commented on the gravel spreading from the Warehouse drive onto the Church Road footpath and the danger to pedestrians. This has been discussed by the Parish Council and is the responsibility of the owners of the access driveway.

Mrs. Burnham commented on the new parliamentary constituency which will cover a very large area.

#### 8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 September 1995 at 8.00pm at Apple Garth.