

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. Jameson-Bates Dip. Arch

Minutes of the Fifty Seventh Meeting of the Committee held at
Apple Garth, School Hill, Warnham on
Thursday 28 September 1995

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

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 June 1995

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

3. Matters Arising

(i) **Traffic Calming.** Mr. Lee reported on a letter he had received from Peter Bradley of the West Sussex County Council Traffic Calming and Safety Audit. Mr. Bradley thought that it is likely to be some considerable time before Warnham could be included in any programme of works as it has a lower accident rate than other areas wanting similar schemes. Mr. Purcell said that some Parish Council members are also opposed to traffic calming.

Rather than accept defeat it was agreed to go ahead with preparation of the scheme and try to get it agreed with the PC and WSCC – an opportunity may arise to get development

financing as has occurred in Slinfold. Mr. Lee will write to Mick Hodgson asking for his view of the Warnham Society finalising a scheme. Mrs. Ronaasen asked whether a survey of the villagers could be undertaken. Mr. Purcell thought an A4 questionnaire and drawing could be produced.

(ii) **Strategic Road Network.** Mr. Lee said that he had received a letter of acknowledgement to his comments on these proposals.

(iii) **VJ Day Lunch.** Mrs. Thornton reported that this had been a very good occasion.

(iv) **Tilletts Lane Housing.** The traffic route discussed at the previous meeting has been altered as it did not receive police approval. Access is via Knob Hill, Three Stile Road and Tilletts Lane rather than the longer route past the Animal Sanctuary. Mrs. Jameson-Bates said that the District Council are not a party to the contract between City and County Housing Association and their contractors, and the Council thought that any requirement for reinstatement of the access roads would be unenforceable.

Members of the committee were not aware of any problems being caused by the construction traffic.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Newman reported the deaths of Mr. Carpenter and Mrs. White.

Mr. Newman said that the accounts were with Mr. Boud for audit, but copies of the unaudited accounts were distributed. These showed a total of £334.34 in credit, and it was agreed that the subscription should remain unchanged for the coming year.

Thanks were given to Mr. Purcell for once again providing membership cards.

5. Appointment of New Treasurer

Mr. Newman confirmed his intention to resign at the coming AGM. As no other member of the committee expressed willingness to undertake the role it was agreed that Mr. Boud and Mr. Ritchie should be approached, together with Mr. Read.

Mr. Lee thanked Mr. Newman for all his work as Treasurer, and for his frequent hospitality to the Committee.

6. Planning Matters

Mr. Lee said that he had received a request from the owner of Brookhouse Farm in Kingsfold for the Society to support his opposition to the proposed housing development by Berkeley Homes. He has, however, been advised by Mrs. Burnham that the scheme for 21 houses has been given planning permission and that water services to the whole of

Kingsfold are to be improved by the developer as part to the deal.

Mrs. Thornton asked for how long will the developer's sign board for Warnham Manor be allowed to remain. Mrs. Jameson-Bates said that she had asked this question of Horsham District Council and had been advised that permission had been given for 5 years.

Mr. Purcell asked whether the Society should re-subscribe to the list of Planning Applications issued by Horsham District Council, and Mrs. Dutton agreed that it is difficult to identify proposed developments in Warnham in the lists published in the West Sussex County Times. Mr. Newman said that it would cost £90 per year to receive the lists, and Mr. Lee thought that Mr. Read and Mrs. Burnham should be able to keep the committee informed of submissions. Mrs. Thornton wondered whether this would upset the Parish Council, and Mrs. Jameson-Bates agreed to ask Mrs. Burnham's advice.

Mrs. Dutton asked what is to happen to the land next to the Sussex Oak which contains unsightly rubbish. Mrs. Thornton said that the Parish Council is aware of the problem and that tree planting is to be done under a PC initiative.

7. Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies

Mr. Lee reported on the FSAS meeting he had chaired the previous evening. The Horsham Group comprises 14 societies and a £5 subscription goes to this Group in addition to the £20 subscription to the FSAS. Only five of the societies are regularly represented at the meetings and, prior to the previous day's meeting, he had agreed with Mrs. Lamplugh of the Horsham Society to propose wrapping up the Group.

The meeting had been addressed by Martin Pearson on how the Horsham Group can work closely with the District Council. He likes to work with the groups, tackling common problems such as water supplies. He stated that he is happy to deal directly with village societies, and that officers can meet them on particular topics. When Mr. Lee suggested that the Group should be closed it was apparent that most others present had been inspired by Mr. Pearson and it was proposed to continue with the meetings as before.

Mr. Lee questioned the committee on whether the Warnham Society wanted to continue within the Horsham Group as it would have to be represented more regularly at the Group meetings and participate in the rota of providing a meeting secretary and chairman. He also questioned whether we wanted to retain membership of the FSAS who tend to deal with matters at County level. Mrs. Thornton said that it had originally been thought that the Horsham Group would be more relevant to our interests than the FSAS. Mrs. Dutton said that people want to deal with local issues. Mr. Courtier thought it had seemed to be a good idea which had not held up in practice.

As no-one has ever reported FSAS meetings to be of any benefit to Warnham, and as

Martin Pearson has expressed willingness to deal directly with individual societies, it was agreed to opt out of the Horsham Group. The proposal to withdraw from the FSAS will be put to the AGM.

8. AGM

Subjects for a guest speaker were discussed. Subjects listed by the FSAS were considered, and the only one of interest was agreed to be the Travel Wise presentation by West Sussex County Council and which the Secretary undertook to investigate. Other suggestions were talks by the Fire Brigade, Paramedics, CAB, and Mr. Lucas on the deer at Warnham.

Membership of the committee was discussed. Provided a replacement Treasurer can be found the full complement of 12 members will be retained.

9. Any Other Business

Mr. Purcell asked what the Society's cash reserves are being held for, and whether the money should be spent on behalf of the village. Mr Newman thought that it is essential for the Society to have a healthy reserve, but the meeting could not agree as to a correct level. Ideas for expenditure were discussed. Mr. Newman suggested the provision of a microphone for the Village Hall, and it was agreed to investigate the likely cost, or whether there is a microphone available to borrow. Mrs. Thornton said that the waste bin at the cricket field is damaged, and it was agreed that this should be replaced or repaired. The Secretary will contact the District Council on the matter.

The award of the Best Kept Garden prize was discussed. Mrs. Thornton expressed her reservations over the award, but it was agreed that a cottage in Friday Street (belonging to Mr. Dale?) opposite The Greets had provided a spectacular display of colour throughout the summer and merited recognition. An award of a £25 garden token will be made.

Mr. Lee said that Jennifer Pearce had expressed interest in attending a Warnham Society committee meeting. The Secretary will send her an invitation to the next such meeting.

Mrs. Ronaasen commented on the damaged signpost at the junction of Robin Hood Lane with Broadbridge Heath Road. It is understood that the Parish Council is pressing the County Council for a replacement.

Mrs. Dutton said that the Bell Road sign is still missing, and Mrs. Thornton added that the Tilletts Lane sign opposite Lucas Road is also missing.

Mrs. Ronaasen asked if there is any way of preventing the duplication of road names, e. g. The Forge, but it would appear not.

Mr. Purcell asked if the A24 dualling committee is active. It was reported that a meeting had been held, at which it was agreed to maintain pressure on the County Council. Norman Horton is keeping statistics to send to the County - the delayed start date of 1999 is fact but pressure should be kept up. It was noted that work is being undertaken to the surfacing of some bends along the existing road.

Mr. Purcell commented on the black tarmac now being used to repair footpaths in the village, and said that what were once paved footpaths are now a mess of different materials. It was agreed to check with Mrs. Burnham on the proposed reinstatement of footpaths generally.

Mr. Courtier commented on the subsidence along Friday Street. This will have to be dealt with and he wondered who controls the quality of finish for such works. It was thought to be Roger England at the Broadbridge Heath Depot.

Mrs. Ronaasen queried the positioning of double yellow lines, and the purpose of markings on the pavement. It was thought that these were the positions of bollards to be installed. It was suggested that the proposals for parking restrictions should be advertised.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26 October 1995 at 8.00pm at Old Cottage, Church Street at the kind invitation of Mrs. Thornton.