

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 Ninth Meeting of the Committee
held at 1 The Forge, Byfleets Lane, Warnham on
Thursday 18 January 1996

Present: Mr. P. M. Lee Chairman
 Mrs. J. Jameson-Bates Secretary
 Mr. G. J. Read Treasurer
 Mrs. O. Thornton
 Mrs. J. Burnham
 Mrs. S. Dutton
 Mrs. R. Ashton
 Mr. R. Purcell
 Mr. A. G. Brand

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. R. Courtier and Mrs. V. Ronaasen. An apology had also been received from Jennifer Pearce who was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

2. Appointment of Officers

The Committee confirmed that it is their wish that Mr. P. Lee continue to be Chairman and that Mr. G. Read continue to be Vice Chairman for the next year.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 October 1995

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

4. Matters Arising

(i) **Traffic Calming.** Mr. Lee reported that Mick Hodgson has replied to his letter and is

happy for the Warnham Society to continue its development of the traffic calming scheme provided the Parish Council is permitted to comment upon the proposals. Mr. Lee has not yet received any response from Jennifer Pearce.

Mr. Purcell referred to Mick Hodgson's comment at the AGM that funds may be available from the District Council. He said that he had spoken to Mr. Bradley at the County Council suggesting a meeting or that he visit the village to discuss ideas on the ground. It was agreed that the latter would be a good way forward and the afternoon of 27 February was chosen from the selection of dates offered. Mr. Lee, Mr. Purcell, Mrs. Burnham and Mrs. Thornton will meet at 7 School Hill at 4.00pm prior to walking around the village. Mr. Purcell will also invite Mick Hodgson and Mr. Courtier.

(ii) **Tilletts Lane Housing.** Work is now well advanced on this development and Mrs. Burnham reported that there is a waiting list of people wanting to occupy the houses.

(iii) **Footpaths.** Mr. Lee said that he had written to the County Council and had received the very vague reply that it is their intention to reinstate the paths with sympathetic materials. The resurfacing has been included in their budget for this year.

(iv) **Yellow Lines.** Mr. Lee said that he has also written to the County Council to express his views on the proposed yellow lining and has been told that these views would be considered by the Roads and Traffic Sub-Committee. He has also received a response to his letter to Jennifer Pearce in which she says that the Highway Department is looking again at their proposals. She thinks it likely that lining will be applied to road junctions and to limited areas elsewhere. It seems that the Society will get another chance to comment on any revised proposals.

It was pointed out that some yellow lining had been requested by the village, and that at a recent fire at the Warehouse the fire engines had been unable to get through. Mr. Purcell said he understood that most of the residents of Church Street had written to the County Council to object to the current proposals. Mrs. Thornton said she thought that yellow lines applied to the Hollands Way junction should be extended up Hollands Way well beyond the corner.

(v) **AGM.** The Chairman expressed his thanks to everyone for arrangements for the AGM which it was agreed had been a successful meeting. He has written to the County Council to thank them for the TravelWise presentation.

(vi) **Planning Application Lists.** Mrs. Jameson-Bates said that she had been advised by the District Council that amenity societies could purchase the application lists at a reduced annual rate of £41.50. It was agreed that Mrs. Burnham would make her lists available for duplication.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Read reported that funds stand at £380.63, but that nearly 50% of members have yet to pay their subscriptions. Mrs. Jameson-Bates will give him an up-to-date list of members.

Mrs. Jameson-Bates said that she had been advised by the Secretary of the FSAS, Mrs. Jupp, that the Warnham Society have not yet paid their subscription for the previous year.

6. Planning Matters

The future use of Warnham Court School and the Nursery were queried. The proceeds of any sale of the school will have to be shared between all the London Boroughs, and no applications for use of the school have yet been submitted. No lifting of the agricultural restriction on the nursery has been granted. Mrs. Thornton said that attempts had been made to get the summerhouse listed but without success.

The shop in Church Street previously used for antique sales is to be used as a photographic studio. The old village shop has been put up for sale by Mr. Prichard-Jones but is in very bad condition.

7. Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies

The continued membership of the FSAS had been discussed at the AGM and put to a vote of the members present. This resulted in the decision to withdraw from the FSAS. Mrs. Jameson-Bates will write to advise them of this decision and also to ask for a statement of any monies due to them.

8. Any other Business

Mr. Lee said that he had received a letter from the Parish Clerk requesting volunteers from this and other village associations to form a committee to coordinate entries into the Best Kept Village and Britain in Bloom Competitions. No volunteers were forthcoming but Mr. Read suggested that the shopkeepers should be encouraged to coordinate their forecourt presentation.

Mr. Purcell raised the suggestion that a telecentre should be set up in the Village Hall. The location of a Parish Office there could be used by other village organisations, Mick Hodgson has asked for a proposal to be drawn up and costed.

Mr. Brand commented on the further likely delay to commencement of the A24 dualling. Mrs. Burnham confirmed that Surrey County Council are having to resubmit revised proposals to their Planning Committee in April following objections by pressure groups to the destruction of ancient woodland by the agreed route. She said that Mrs. Millson is now firmly committed to the need for the dualling.

Mrs. Thornton said that she had seen someone pacing out the green verge opposite her cottage and asked whether this was to be taken up to provide an additional parking space. This would have to be checked with the County Council.

Mrs. Dutton asked how more people could be persuaded to join the Warnham Society. Mrs. Thornton commented that the History Society have recently delivered a leaflet throughout the village and wondered whether we could do something similar. It was agreed that we need to let people know what the Society does and why it is necessary for them to join. Mr. Lee offered to prepare a first draft of such a leaflet, setting out examples of what the Society does for the village, with the aim of making a distribution before the Spring meeting. Mrs. Dutton said that she could get copies made.

It was pointed out that some villages distribute a free news sheet whilst the Warbler is very expensive and that its circulation has dropped. Ways of making the Warbler more interesting and cheaper were discussed, possibly making it more of a village magazine by the inclusion of regular reports of village societies and their activities. It was agreed that Mr. Lee and Mrs. Burnham should discuss ideas with Mr. Collier prior to the matter being raised at the Parish Council.

Mr. Brand reported that the police had held a meeting in the village to explore how they and the public can work together. A follow up meeting is to be held at Sun Alliance by invitation. He commented that the centralisation of communications at Lewes is not popular and is surely less efficient than being dealt with locally. Mrs. Burnham commented that no-one wants to pay more for better service. Mr. Lee asked that Mrs. Brand report on the outcome of the meeting.

A date for the Spring Meeting, dependant upon availability of the Village Hall was discussed. A booking was subsequently made for **Friday 26 April 1996**. The Village Hall has also been booked for **Friday 1 November 1996 for the AGM**.

Suggestions for a Guest Speaker at the Spring Meeting are requested.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 March 1996 at 8.00pm at Five Gables, Warnham Lodge.