

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Committee held at Little Broomhall on Friday 15th November, 1985

Present: Mr G. P. McMullen (Chairman)
Mrs R Ashton
Mr R Bensted-Smith
Mr P Board
Mr R H Courtier
Mrs A. E. Cox
Mrs R. R. McLaughlin
Mr R Melhuish
Mr R C Overton (Secretary)
Mr H J Parr (Treasurer)
Mrs O. G. Thornton

In attendance: Mr R H Purcell

1 Apologies for absence

An apology was received from Mrs Parr.

2 Chairmanship

Mr G. McMullen was invited to chair the meeting, as host in his own house, and he duly took the chair. He welcomed new members, Mrs Rosemary Ashton, Mr Patrick Board and Mr Reginald Melhuish, and also Mr Roger Purcell who had come to present his paper on traffic conditions in Warnham.

It was agreed that the election of a permanent chair should be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 10th October 1985

The minutes were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

The Secretary reported that a reply had now been received from Mr Charles Lucas (or rather from his Agent, Mr Fox) to the letter enquiring the fate of the two cottages adjoining Warnham Mill. The reply said that no decision would be made until the new Horsham Northern By-pass was completed.

4 Draft minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 18th October 1985

The draft minutes were tabled and were agreed subject to two minor amendments.

5 Hon Treasurer's Report

Mr Parr reported that the wine and cheese session on 18th October had resulted in a small profit of £6.75. Funds now stood at £66.43. The Chairman asked the question whether it was feasible for the Society to carry on with these levels of income and it was agreed that it would be necessary to consider the finances of the Society at a future meeting.

6 Field Place planning appeal

It was unanimously agreed that the Society should make representations against the appeal, at the public enquiry due to start on 3rd November. Mr Courtier had prepared a synopsis of what might be submitted by the required date of 19th November. He went through this, which was agreed to meet the case. He was authorised by the Committee to despatch the letter of representations in consultation as necessary with Mr Purcell and Mr. Overton. Mr Courtier said that he was also prepared to make a verbal statement at the Enquiry if this proved to be appropriate.

Mr Bensted-Smith said that he had made his own personal representations and he had also written round members of the Society in the hopes of encouraging others to write as well. He wondered whether a petition might be organised but it was felt that this was going too far.

7 Report by Mr Roger Purcell on traffic conditions in Warnham

All members of the Committee had a copy of Mr Purcell's report, which he explained he would like to use to support an informal approach to the highway authority. Members were in broad agreement with the report, and it was left that individual members could raise any points of detail with Mr Purcell after the meeting. It was agreed that Mr Purcell would make the approach to the highway authority. The Chairman thanked him for this work that he was doing on behalf of the Society.

8 BBC Domesday Project

The Secretary said that he had received a request from the Project Co-ordinator for West Sussex that the Society should participate in the project, taking on one of the 4 x 3 kilometre blocks, actually one just south of Oakwood Hill. He had provisionally agreed to the request and was prepared to carry out the survey himself on behalf of the Society in the course of his domestic, ie dog-walking responsibilities, though any offers of assistance would of course be welcome. The deadline for submission was 9th December. The Committee endorsed these arrangements with thanks.

9 The Civic Trust

The secretary said that he had received an invitation for the Society to register with the Civic Trust. It was agreed that since there was no charge and one or two useful privileges the invitation should be accepted.

10 Future care and maintenance of the newly-planted oak trees

Mr Parr agreed to co-ordinate this and to "allocate" the trees (indicated on a map which he had) to various members of the Society to keep an eye on.

11 Bus shelter for The Green

Mr Purcell raised this under "Any other Business", having noticed from the previous minutes that the idea had been mooted of moving a shelter from the bottom of Bell Road. He said that he and other residents around The Green would be very unhappy if any such proposal were put into effect.

12 Giant Hogweed

Mr Melhuish said he was concerned at the prevalence of this dangerous weed in the Warnham area. He was shortly visiting Kew Gardens to try and get information on how to combat.

13 Sponsoring a litter bin

It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

14 Proposed meeting with or AA Jones, Director of Planning and Development, Horsham District Council

Mr Courtier reminded the Committee that Mr Jones had taken the initiative for a meeting when they met at the Council Chairman's reception on 20th September. It was agreed that it would be best to arrange this at sub-committee level. Mr Courtier would pursue.

15 Superfluous telegraph pole opposite Court Cottage

It was still there, and Mr McMullen would raise the matter with the Parish Council.

Date of the next meeting

This was fixed for Thursday, 16 January 1986 at 8pm, same venue.