

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 Sixtieth Meeting of the Committee
held at Five Gables, Warnham Lodge on
Tuesday 12 March 1996

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

1. Apologies for Absence.

An apology for absence had been received from Mr. A. G. Brand.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 1996

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

3. Matters Arising

(i) **Planning Application Lists.** Mrs. Burnham stated that no lists had been published since the previous meeting.

(ii) **Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies.** Mrs. Jameson-Bates said that she had written to Mrs. Jupp, the Membership Secretary, advising her of the decision to withdraw from the FSAS and requesting a statement of fees outstanding. No response has been received to date.

(iii) **Warnham Court School.** Mrs. Burnham advised of possible delays in the closure of the school which is now reduced to 10 pupils.

(iv) **Village Hall.** The Parish Council are considering establishing a Parish Office in the Village Hall and are asking for the support of other village groups. The District Council are willing to help with the provision of computer hardware which will link the Council with the Parishes, thereby assisting communications. It was agreed that access to computers and copiers would be useful but that security would require an office to be staffed. A new room with direct external access would have to be built and financed by the Parish Council. Mrs. Dutton suggested applying for Lottery money and it was agreed that such an application would have to be undertaken by the Village Hall Committee. Mrs. Thornton suggested that renting existing accommodation might be preferable to building new. It was agreed that the Chairman will write to Mick Hodgson expressing support for the idea of an office.

(v) **A24.** It was agreed that divorcing development of the southern end of the road is not a practical idea.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Read reported that funds stand at £426.63. Most members have now paid their subscriptions, with only 12 yet to renew their membership. One person has withdrawn from the Society. The Secretary handed over a request from the Civic Trust for the Society's annual subscription.

5. Planning Matters

Mrs. Burnham reported on the application for an Ostrich Farm. The development will require very high enclosure fencing and will not be granted permission for a house on site. Permission may be given for a mobile home, but future conversion of such permission into a permanent building could not be guaranteed.

6. Recruitment of New Members

As agreed at the previous meeting, Mr. Lee had produced a draft leaflet advertising the activities and achievements of the Warnham Society and he asked for comments from the committee. Mrs. Thornton said that mention should be made of the Society's contribution to the Best Kept Village awards, also the sponsorship of litter bins throughout the village. It was agreed that the statement should be published in the next edition of the Warbler in order to encourage attendance at the Spring Meeting.

Mr. Lee reported on his discussions with Mr. Collier on ways of making the Warbler more of a village magazine. Mr. Collier had advised him that the magazine has a circulation of 430,

which represents 2/3 of dwellings in the village! He also disagreed with the idea of reducing the quality (and cost) of the magazine in case advertisers lost interest in it. The Warbler is produced by the Parochial Council and will therefore continue to be a Church magazine. Mr. Collier is, however, keen to include contributions from other village groups. He thought that a "Letters to the Editor" section would be a good idea.

7. Traffic Calming

Mr. Purcell reported on a meeting held on 22 February with Peter Bradley and Stuart Smith from WSCC. All parties are now agreed on a scheme based on mini roundabouts at the junctions of Church Street with both Friday Street and Bell Road, with speed platforms at intervals along Church Street between these junctions. Mick Hodgson had suggested extending the scheme up to and including a mini roundabout at the Knob Hill junction, but this would greatly increase the scale and cost of the proposals. The estimated cost of the basic scheme ranges from a minimum of £40,000 up to £60 or £70,000. WSCC say that it is essential to have the support of the village for the scheme, and it was agreed that the Warnham Society should publicise the scheme and gauge the level of support. The County are agreeable to the scheme being implemented in stages e.g by installing the mini roundabouts first, and it was agreed that this would be a good idea.

It was agreed that Mr. Purcell will complete the scheme drawings for submission to WSCC. They will then supply him with a list of consultees (public utilities, emergency services etc.,) in order that the Warnham Society can make all the necessary consultations. WSCC cannot fund the entire project, but if an agreed scheme is in place it could be used as a lever for development funding allied to projects within the village. Mr. Lee suggested consideration of fundraising activities. It was established that waiting for work on the A24 is not a factor. Mr. Lee expressed the thanks of the committee to Mr. Purcell for all his work.

8. Yellow Lining

Mr. Purcell reported that he has been advised by WSCC that the scheme for yellow lining has been passed by Committee, and that only the support of Mrs. Millson, or submission to the High Court, could now get the scheme amended. He had spoken to Mrs. Millson saying that, following the AGM, 31 letters of objection had been written by villagers but that the proposals remain very heavy handed. In discussion, the following points were made: -

- a) At the AGM it had been agreed that the Warnham Society should object to the proposals for yellow lining as they go against all that the Society is trying to achieve with its proposals for traffic calming.
- b) Mr. Purcell had made a point by point response to the report which followed the objections

but, despite that, the scheme remained illogical (permitting parking in both sides of the road at the narrowest part of Church Street) and that the aim of achieving a free flow of traffic through the village is contrary to the objectives of traffic calming. A clear route will encourage rat running through the village.

- c) Mr. Read and Mrs. Burnham said that the white lining proposals had been made in response to requests by the villagers that the Parish Council do something about the parking in Church Street which frequently makes the road impassable and dangerous to use. They felt that the revised scheme had addressed the objections. Mrs. Burnham thought it undemocratic of the Warnham Society to try and change a scheme agreed by the Parish Council.

Mr. Purcell read out the letter he had written to Mrs. Millson requesting that the views of the objectors should be properly addressed. Mrs. Burnham said that she wished he had consulted with the Parish Council before writing, saying that it is important for all parties to work together.

Mr. Purcell distributed copies of a letter he proposed should be published in the Warbler, and the decision to publish was put to a vote of committee members, Mrs. Burnham and Mr. Read abstained but a majority of the remaining members were in favour of publishing the letter. Mr. Lee suggested that the Parish Council should call special meetings when such major issues are under consideration.

9. Any Other Business

The unsightliness of the pavement repairs outside the Post Office was commented upon - the County Council obviously have not found a sympathetic material for the works.

Mr. Lee read out a notice he had received regarding Local Agenda 21, which is concerned with sustainable development. It was not thought to be a matter that the Society should pursue.

Mrs. Burnham advised that the use of wheely bins is due to be proposed for the village, and asked that the matter should be discussed by the committee. Mrs. Dutton suggested that the matter could also be raised at a general meeting.

Mrs. Thornton asked if any decision had been made on removal of the Warnham Manor sign board. Mrs. Burnham advised that a 5 year permission had been granted and that it could, therefore, remain up for another 2 years!

It was agreed that Mrs. Jameson-Bates should represent the society at the conference on Future Housing needs in Sussex, to be held in East Grinstead on 23 April 1996 by arrangement of the Sussex Rural Community Council.

10. Spring Meeting

The Village Hall has been booked for 26 April 1996. Mrs. Burnham confirmed that Paul Rowley, Horsham District Council's Forward Planning Officer, has agreed to give a talk on the pressure for housing development in the south-east and how the Council are addressing the problem.

Mr. Read agreed to collect the key from Mr. Arliss and to make the payment. Drinks and refreshments will be organised as usual.

Mrs. Dutton suggested that a report on the meeting should subsequently be published in the Warbler.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 30 May 1996 at 8.00pm at Five Gables, Warnham Lodge.