

# 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

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Minutes of the Sixty Second Meeting of the Committee  
held at 1 The Forge, Byfleets Lane, Warnham on  
Tuesday 27 August 1996

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr. R. Purcell, Mr. R. Courtier and Mrs. S. Dutton.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 May 1996

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

3. Matters Arising

Mrs. Burnham commented on the early completion of the water main installation to Kingsfold, and which had been carried out with minimum disruption to traffic through the area.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Read reported funds standing at £404.30. The annual subscription had been paid to the Civic Trust. Mrs. Jameson-Bates will pass the GACC subscription form to him for payment.

The recent recruitment drive had not resulted in any increase in membership. Five members had not renewed their membership although one may yet do so. Mrs. Burnham said that the residents of Warnham Manor had expressed a desire to get to know and be involved more with the village. She suggested that they each be given a copy of the Chairman's Statement on the activities of the Society, with a covering letter of welcome to the village and an invitation to attend the AGM. The Secretary will forward these to her.

5. Planning Matters

Apart from applications for additions to 'Byfleets', which would not affect any neighbours, the only proposed developments had been for small extensions.

The old shop opposite Farm Close is currently being extensively refurbished for an upholsterer's business, and the demolitions at the rear were commented upon.

Mr. Brand said that the development at Tyldens was proceeding apace. He questioned whether the accommodation was going to be used for mentally ill patients rather than as a Nursing Home. Mrs. Burnham said she would look into this, as such usage might affect the planning consent.

Mrs. Burnham confirmed that the planning permission for the ostrich farm included consent for farm buildings only, not for a new house on the site.

6. West Sussex Structure Plan Deposit Draft

The Chairman said that the Deposit Draft had been studied by himself, Mr. Purcell and Mrs. Jameson-Bates on behalf of the Committee, and that three objections / proposals had been submitted to West Sussex County Council from the Warnham Society. Mrs. Jameson-Bates read these out to the meeting, i.e. that the countryside gap between Warnham and Broadbridge Heath should be redefined as a strategic gap, that in villages designated as Conservation Areas there should be a presumption against significant development, and that the rail service at Warnham Station did not constitute a "frequent" service. Mr. Lee and Mrs. Jameson-Bates had both felt that the County Council were committed to resisting the Government's demands for additional housing in West Sussex.

7. A24 Horsham - Capel Improvement

An exhibition of the proposed improvement had been held at Cromwells in Kingsfold. Mr. Lee said that he thought the Warnham Society could not object in detail without the mandate of the membership. It was agreed that the publicised correspondence concerning Station Road was unfortunate, although the residents should try and get the best deal they can. Objections to the new road will only further delay the construction of a greatly needed

improvement. Mr. Purcell had written to the District Council on behalf of the committee, requesting that traffic calming in Warnham be included in the overall scheme.

8. Litter Bin, Warnham Park Estate

Mr. Lee read out a letter he had received from Mr. J. Lucas requesting that the litter bin sponsored by the Warnham Society in the lay-by along Robin Hood Lane be removed. Mr. Lucas said that litter bin was encouraging picnickers into the deer park, that litter was being strewn about by foxes, and that all this was detrimental to the management of the park. The committee did not think that this particular bin had been sponsored by the Society, and certainly the existing bin is of the newer type currently being provided by the District Council. Mrs. Thornton said that there had been a bad litter problem before the provision of a bin. Mrs. Burnham thought that the bin was not being emptied often enough and offered to ask the Council whether a covered container could be provided (wheely Bin?) to prevent scavenging. Mr. Lee will also write to the Council and will reply to Mr. Lucas advising him of this suggestion. The provision of notices prohibiting picnicking would also be of assistance. The problem of litter generally was discussed, and it was agreed that action should be taken by the Parish Council.

9. AGM

The date of the AGM has been set for 1 November. The subject matter for the Guest Speaker was discussed. Rather than invite a Developer to put forward their viewpoint, it was agreed that discussion of the threat of a new "settlement" in the area would generate local interest. Mr. Read agreed to see if he could find a Planning Consultant who would be able to present the pros and cons of infill development versus the idea of a settlement.

10. Any Other Business

Mrs. Thornton commented on the dead tree opposite her house. Mrs. Burnham will raise the matter at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Mrs. Burnham commented on the danger to children in the village who attend the new Tanbridge School. As the new school is closer to Warnham they do not qualify for bus passes and many therefore are having to walk or cycle up Bailing Hill to Broadbridge Heath.

Mr. Read said that the County Council's response to the Society's request that the footpaths be repaired in sympathetic materials had not been helpful. Their letter will be given to Mr. Purcell for comment.

Mr. Lee said that he had received a letter from the Wiggonholt Protection Association requesting that we object to the proposed mineral extraction in their area. Mrs. Burnham

thought that local societies should support each other, but in this instance Mr. Lee said that their case had been so badly put as to render response impossible.

Mr. Lee reported that he had also received a letter from the Horsham Group urging the Warnham Society to re-join.

Mrs. Ronaasen and Mrs. Jameson-Bates will walk around the village to select the winner(s) of this year's award for the best kept garden.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 October 1996 at 8.00pm at Five Gables, Warnham Lodge.