

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

REGISTERED WITH THE CIVIC TRUST

CHAIRMAN : P. M. Lee CBE

SECRETARY Mrs. M.E. Dales

Minutes of the Sixty Seventh Meeting of the Committee

held at Sands on

Wednesday 8th October 1997

Present: P.M. Lee Chairman
Mrs. M.E. Dales Secretary
Mrs. S. Dutton
Miss V. Ronaasen
Mrs. O. Thornton

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs. R. Ashton, Mr. A.G. Brand, Mrs. J. Burnham, Mr. R. Courtier, Mrs. J. Jameson–Bates and Mr. G. Read.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th July 1997

The minutes of the sixty sixth meeting were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman, with the following amendment: – delete Mr. A.G. Brand's name from the list of those present and add it to the list of apologies for absence.

3. Matters arising

i) Damaged tree at the junction of Lucas Road and Tilletts Lane Mrs. Dutton reported that the tree had not apparently received attention. It was not known whether or not this had been reported to the Parish Council by Mr. Read. The matter remains outstanding.

ii) Dogs on the Cricket Field and Village Green Notices of the restrictions are now displayed on the Cricket Field, though the poop disposal bins remain there. Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. Dutton commented that the new arrangements penalise the responsible dog owners, while allowing those less responsible to allow their dogs access to the banned area. It is now necessary to walk dogs on the footpath on the field behind the Cricket Field. It was reported to the Committee that this footpath had not been maintained, but as the disruption was caused mainly by the works for the new football pitch the reinstatement of the path should follow the completion of this work. It was agreed to keep an eye on the situation and to act later, if necessary.

iii) Membership cards These had not been sent to members. Information on their distribution would be sought from the Treasurer.

iv) The Secretary confirmed that thanks for his work for the Fete competition had been sent to Mr. Peter Christmas.

v) Cyclist path signs in Robin Hood Lane In response to the Chairman's letter requesting a reduction of the number of direction signs, the Area Highway Engineer's officer stated that the situation would be reviewed in six months time, when the route had become more established. The Committee agreed to follow up this matter in due course.

vi) Dissemination of information. Copy on the Society's activities and on the forthcoming Autumn Meeting and Annual General Meeting had been sent for publication in the Warnham Warbler. As a result of an appeal for nominations for Committee membership the name of Mr. Bill Cottell was put forward by Mrs. Dutton. It was hoped that all current Committee members would be willing to be nominated for re-election.

vii) Traffic calming and A24 improvements

The Chairman had written to the WSCC Surveyor expressing the Society's disappointment that no agreement had been reached on a traffic calming scheme for Warnham, and requesting figures on the current traffic flow through the village and the predicted figures for such flow following completion of the A24 improvements. The reply from Mr. P. Bradley, of WSCC Surveyor's Department, stated that the current annual average daily flow of vehicles passing through the village is 2700. This number is predicted to rise by the year 2001 to between 2900 and 3000 vehicles per day in the absence of a bypass, and between 2300 and 2400 with a bypass.

Mr. Bradley also referred to a letter to the Society from his department in August 1995, and to a meeting with Jean Burnham, Roger Purcell, Mick Hodgson and Robert Courtier on 27 February 1996. The letter and meeting revealed that there was no County priority for a scheme in Warnham, based on relatively low accident levels, and that there would be difficulties in raising sufficient private funds to implement the scheme as a whole.

In his letter to the Chairman dated 24th July 1997, Mr. Bradley stated that there had been no change in policy and "I am unable to forward this scheme for inclusion in a works programme. However the option of private funding is still a possibility....". Mr. Bradley included a copy of a letter sent recently to all Parish Councils regarding changes in legislation which enables Parish Councils to raise funds for traffic calming.

It was agreed to contact the Parish Council and that the Chairman would write to our Member of Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Francis Maude, again to express concern at the delays to the A24 improvement programme.

There was discussion on the double yellow lines in Church Street. Views were divided on the desirability of completing them along the western side of the road. At present the effect of the lines is to enforce slower progress of vehicles. It was agreed to seek views at the Annual General Meeting.

viii) School sign The Chairman has written to the Area Highway Engineer suggesting the removal of the sign.

4. Treasurer's Report

In his absence the Treasurer sent a Statement of Accounts from 1st October 1996 to 30th September 1997. The, as yet unaudited, accounts showed a balance of £410.79. It was agreed that the statement would be circulated to members for adoption at the AGM on 24th October 1997.

5 Planning Matters

The planning application for three new houses in Farm Close. (WN 22/97) had been approved by Horsham District Council. It was agreed to look at detailed plans for the houses when they become available.

There was still no declaration of planning applications for large scale developments in the area.

6. Autumn Meeting and AGM 1997

Mr Michael Rowan , the WSCC Conservation Architect had agreed to speak on 'Planning, Listing and Conservation'.

It was agreed:

- that the speaker should be asked to address the meeting at 8pm
- that the AGM should start at approximately 9pm
- that the speaker should be given an honorarium of £25 and be offered travelling expenses from Chichester
- that a notice of the AGM, Statement of the accounts, the Committee's report on the year's activities and the minutes of the 1996 AGM should be sent to all members of the Society as soon as possible. The Secretary planned to do so within the next two days.
- to present an award to the winner of the Garden Competition. Miss Ronaasen and Mrs. Jameson-Bates were to be the judges and were looking for a garden which looked attractive all the year round.

It was arranged that Mr. Read would obtain the wine, Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. Jameson-Bates would organise the coffee and other refreshments, Mrs Lee and Mrs. Thornton would receive Members' subscriptions.

Mrs. Thornton offered to write a report of the Meeting and of Mr. Rowan's talk for publication in the Warbler.

The Chairman would introduce the speaker and Mrs Dutton offered to propose the vote of thanks.

AOB

i) Village Noticeboard Comment was made on the scruffy surroundings. Miss Ronaasen suggested ascertaining the owner of the land on which the noticeboard stands. There was also a query on the ownership of the board.

ii) Projector screen for the village hall The usefulness of a screen for meetings of various Warnham organisations was agreed. Mrs. Dutton had seen one in use at Rudgwick and she undertook to obtain information from the Rudgwick hall managers.

iii) Joint meetings Mrs. Dutton observed that there sometimes overlapping interests in meetings held by the Warnham Society and the Warnham Historical Society; a considerable number of people were also members of both organisations. It was agreed to discuss the possibility of some joint meetings, while appreciating that the basic aims of the two societies were different.

iv) Hedgerow Protection The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Horsham District Council on The Hedgerows Regulations 1997. This letter noted the role which could be played by Amenity Societies, in association with other local groups, in assessing the importance of hedgerows in their areas.

8. Date of the next Meeting

The next meeting was provisionally fixed for 4th December at 8.00pm at Sands by invitation of the Secretary.

N.B. This date was subsequently changed to Thursday 11th December