

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

REGISTERED WITH THE CIVIC TRUST

CHAIRMAN P. M. Lee CBE SECRETARY Mrs M. E. Dales

Minutes of the Sixty Eighth Meeting of the Committee held at Sands on 11th December 1997

Present: P.M. Lee Chairman
 Mrs. M.E. Dales Secretary
 G.J. Read Vice-Chairman & Treasurer
 Mrs. R. Ashton
 A.G. Brand
 Mrs. S. Dutton
 Miss V. Ronaasen
 Mrs. O. Thornton

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs. J. Burnham, Mr. R. Courtier, and Mr. D.S. Cottell.

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

The minutes of the sixty seventh meeting were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

i) Damaged tree at the junction of Lucas Road and Tilletts Lane.

Mr. Read reported that the tree had been replaced.

ii) Village noticeboard

The secretary was asked to write to the believed owner of the land to request maintenance of the area .

iii) Projector Screen for the Village Hall

Mrs. Dutton reported on the cost of suitable screens, at £120 for 6' x 6', and £160 for a screen of 8' x 8'. This did not include the cost of fixing the screen. The W.I. had expressed interest in the purchase of a screen , but wanted other societies to contribute. They made the point that the provision of facilities, such as a screen, was the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee, and the Warnham Society Committee agreed to support the W.I. in its approaches to the Village Hall Committee for the provision of a screen, which would

benefit several societies who use the Hall.

iv) Membership cards The Treasurer reported that membership cards were being sent to people whose subscriptions had been received. Names of those who had not paid subscriptions for three years were being removed from the list

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that 46 subscriptions had been received for the current year. Some of these were for joint membership. Twenty memberships were outstanding. Reminders had been sent, to be followed by a second reminder after Christmas , if necessary.

The Treasurer reported a balance of £427.88 plus cash £8.45.

He commented on the high cost of photocopying. Both he and Mr. Brand might be able to do some at a lower cost, given adequate notice. The Chairman suggested contacting Mrs. Margaret Oram, for access to the Parish photocopying facilities.

The auditing of the Society's accounts for the year 1996–1997 had not yet been carried out. The Treasurer agreed to contact Mr. Boud with a view to undertaking an audit.

5 Planning Matters

i) Detailed planning application for the three houses off Farm Close had been made to Horsham District Council. Mr. Read had seen the plan and reported favourably on the design and on the quality of the proposed materials.

ii) It was noted that the Department of the Environment had overturned the West Sussex County Plan, thus continuing to propose that by the year 2011 the county provide 12,800 houses on top of the 39,700 already in the County plan. So far there were no planning applications for large scale housing developments, but it appeared that suggestions had been made that some of the housing would be in large developments of 2500 to 3000 houses. Sites mentioned included Kingsfold, Christ's Hospital and Billingshurst. The Committee commented on rumoured willingness to sell, and of "retainers" being paid to landowners, but agreed that , along with the Parish Council , it was to some extent a matter of "watch this space" until action could be taken. Whether the developments were to be concentrated on a few large projects, or to be spread more widely , would still result in some growth of housing in the Warnham area. Mrs. Ashton raised the matter of local wishes in Kingsfold. Would a large scale development bring with it amenities such as shops and schools? It was thought that opinion in Kingsfold was divided.

iii) Warnham Strategic Gap The Chairman had received a copy of a letter sent by Warnham Parish Council to the WSCC Planning Committee urging an amendment of the Deposit Draft Plan to upgrade from Local Gap to Strategic Gap, the land between Horsham and the two villages of Broadbridge Heath and Warnham. In its letter the Parish Council pointed out that already the Golf

Course and the new housing associated with it, plus Tanbridge House School, had been constructed in the last two years on land designated "Local Gap". The Parish Council requested a meeting with the County Planning Officer and members of the Strategic Planning Committee. The Chairman of the Warnham Society and another member of the Committee were invited to attend if a meeting were to be arranged.

6. Spring Meeting 1998

To take place on March 20th 1998 . The Secretary to book the Village Hall for the evening. The agreed topic for the meeting was Trees of Warnham, with invitations to participate to be made to Mr. & Mrs. Lowe of Nursery House, whose arboretum containing rare trees is to be the recipient of a Horsham D.C grant, and to a representative of HDC and other bodies responsible for the care of trees. The Secretary agreed to approach possible speakers.

7. AOB

i) Warnham Warbler The Chairman had attended an open meeting to discuss the Warbler in response to Mr. Collyer's invitation issued at the Society's AGM. The Editor explained the editorial and financial aspects of the magazine's production. The need for a sports reporter was expressed. The Editor depended on items for publication being sent in by the village societies, The Committee agreed to continue to send in its news. Ensuing discussion and comment encompassed the small distribution of the Warbler, its cost, compared to the free magazines circulated to every household in Broadbridge Heath and Southwater.

ii) Football Pitch Concern was expressed over the position of the stile, netting and protection, and the general poor and muddy condition of the footpath. It was agreed to take no action at present, since the problems were likely to be temporary and to be resolved as the work was completed.

8. Date of the next Meeting Wednesday 4th February, 8 pm, at Sands.