

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Chairman: P. M. Lee CBE

Secretary Mrs M. E. Dales

### **Minutes of the sixty ninth Meeting of the Committee held at Sands on 4th February 1998**

Present:

P.M. Lee	Chairman
Mrs. M.E. Dales	Secretary
Mrs. R. Ashton	
Mrs. J. Burnham	
A.G. Brand	
Mrs. S. Dutton	
Mrs. O. Thornton	

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Miss V. Ronaasen, Mr. R. Courtier, Mr. D.S. Cottell and Mr. G. Read.

#### **2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th December 1997**

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

#### **3. Matters arising**

##### **i) Village noticeboard**

The secretary had yet to contact the owner of the land to ascertain responsibility for the maintenance of the area.

##### **ii) Projector Screen for the Village Hall**

Informal consultation with other groups in the village indicated the need for a fixed screen in the Hall. The channel for implementing the purchase and installation of a screen was via the Village Hall Committee.

**iii) Membership Cards** A message from the Treasurer indicated that all bar three members had been sent cards.

**iv) Strategic Gap** The Chairman of Warnham Parish Council had reported that he was still trying to arrange a meeting with the County Planning Officer and members of the Strategic Gap Planning Committee.

**v) Football Pitch** Although there were still some unresolved problems, particularly on the fencing on the school side of the pitch, these were under discussion.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of the Treasurer there was no report. The Committee awaited confirmation of the auditing of the accounts for the year 1996–97.

#### **5 Planning Matters**

**i) Tuggles Plat** Comment was made on the height of the new house at the Byfleets Lane end of Tuggles Plat. From Byfleets Lane it appeared to be unacceptably tall. Mrs. Burnham confirmed that the building conformed to the planning consent and commented on the problems of assessing the visual impact of a building from the plans submitted. The latter did not indicate how the building would appear in its context.

**ii) Horsham District Council's Petition** HDC had mounted a campaign against the Secretary of State for the Environment's decision to impose an extra 12,800 houses in West Sussex. The Secretary agreed to attend the meeting on 5th February at which a petition was to be launched. The Committee agreed to support the petition, but did not feel that it would be necessary to take it from door to door, since petition sheets would be available in the Post Office, the Newsagents and possibly elsewhere in the village. There would be a notice in the Warbler, and on village noticeboards. The Chairman of Warnham Parish Council had expressed support for the petition.

#### **6 Spring Meeting 1998**

To take place on March 20th 1998 at 8pm in the Village Hall. The Secretary had contacted Mr. & Mrs. Lowe of Nursery House. They did not wish to speak at the Meeting, but invited members of the Society to visit the gardens, suggesting Saturday 21st March, when the gardens were expected to be at their Spring peak. This offer was gratefully accepted and it was agreed to inform members via the Warbler and individually, with the notice of the Spring meeting. The Spring Meeting at the Village Hall on 20th would still go ahead, on the subject of housing provision in the area. It was agreed to hold a forum, with three speakers representing the Planning department of HDC, the HDC Planning Committee and the Chairman of the Parish Council. Speakers would be invited to speak for approximately ten minutes each, followed by the opportunity to answer questions. It was hoped that discussion would be stimulated, and that local views could be expressed. (Secretary's note: The speakers who accepted the invitation to were Paul Rowley, Forward Planning Officer HDC, Julie Stainton, Chairman HDC Planning Committee and Michael Hodgson, Chairman of Warnham Parish Council).

Mrs. Ashton, Mrs Dutton and Mrs. Thornton offered to serve refreshments at the meeting and the

Chairman offered to contact Mr. Read about serving wine.

## **7 Any other Business**

**i) A24 & other Traffic matters** in the absence of the prospect of immediate improvements, a speed limit was suggested, but there was a majority feeling that this was unenforceable and would not solve the major problem, i.e...that the road is dangerously narrow for the traffic it takes. Mrs. Dutton commented on the need to consider traffic calming measures on traffic through the village. The Chairman reported that Ms. Woods and Mrs. Ingram had informed him of their efforts to get a 40mph restriction on the Goose Green road. Mrs. Burnham was asked to suggest to the Parish Council the erection of notices on the village approaches requesting considerate driving (as seen at Rusper).

**ii) Car Parking in Lucas Road** Mrs. Burnham confirmed that the problem of damage to the verge by the car had been reported to the appropriate HDC officer.

**iii) Millennium** It was noted that Millennium Funding is available to both Parish & District Councils. Possible projects suggested included a Village pond, a plaque commemorating Shelley (on the Church), and a commemorative booklet of recording life in the village at the millennium, the last of these possibly in conjunction with the Historical Society.

**iv) CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE WARNHAM SOCIETY** The Chairman made it clear that he wished to step down from the Chair, but did not propose to do so immediately. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

**8 Date of the next meeting** WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE, 8pm at Five Gables