

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

### Minutes of the seventh meeting of the Committee held at Little Broomhall on Thursday 16th January 1986

Present: Mr G. P. McMullen (Chairman)  
Mrs R Ashton  
Mr P Board  
Mrs A. E. Cox  
Mrs R. R. McLaughlin  
Mr R Melhuish  
Mr R C Overton (Secretary)  
Mr H J Parr (Treasurer)  
Mrs L P Parr  
Mrs O. G. Thornton

In attendance: Mr R H Purcell (for item 4 only)

#### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr Bensted-Smith and Mr Courtier.

#### 2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th November 1985

The minutes were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

Arising out of item 12, Giant Hogweed, the Chairman said that armed with the information obtained by Mr Board from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew he had raised the subject of this dangerous plant and its spread in the Warnham area (particularly north of Warnham Mill Pond) with the Parish Council who had expressed interest and were passing the information on to the Health and Water Authorities. Mr Charles Lucas (owner of Warnham Mill Pond) had also expressed considerable interest and concern.

#### 3 Hon Treasurer's Report

Mr Parr reported that the current balance stood at £59.74.

#### 4 Traffic conditions in Warnham

Mr Purcell tabled a letter dated 10th January received from the County Engineer and Surveyor which followed a telephone conversation he had had with an officer of that Department before Christmas. The letter was somewhat dismissive and seemed to indicate a change of personnel. It laid emphasis on the fact that few heavy lorries were using Warnham as a through route, which in

fact no one had supposed to be the case, and also stated that the Highway Committee had decided that traffic restrictions on environmental grounds alone would not be considered. The letter concluded by declining the Society's proposal for a meeting with the Committee.

Mr Purcell also commented on the results of the survey organised by Mrs Cox which quantified and analysed the traffic passing through the village between 7.30 am and 9 am on Tuesday, 25th November. It showed that:

- (1) about two thirds of the traffic did not stop in the village (ie 165 out of the 412 recorded);
- (2) the largest volume of traffic was from Broadbridge Heath to Knob Hill (with some syphoning off to Bell Road and Robinhood Lane) ;
- (5) the next most heavily-trafficked through road was from Northlands on the A29 to Bell Road, and the reverse movement.

It was agreed to return to the attack with the Highway Authority and in doing so to make use of the above survey. Mr Purcell undertook to do this and tabled a draft of what he proposed to send, which was agreed. It was also agreed that copies should be sent to the County Planning Officer and to the Parish Council.

## 5 Planning Matters

The Secretary said that unfortunately Mr Courtier had been obliged to go to North Wales on business at short notice so could not attend. He had informed him that the proposed meeting with Mr Jones (Director of Planning and Development, Horsham District Council) had not yet taken place but that he hoped that it would shortly. Mr Melhuish said that the Sub-committee had not met since the last meeting.

The Chairman reported on the Field Place planning enquiry (3rd–5th December) at which he and Mr Courtier had made verbal representations based on the letter sent by Mr Courtier to the Department of the Environment on 18th November. There was nothing to do now but await the result of the enquiry which might not appear for some months. The Chairman expressed his thankfulness that the Society's involvement in this business was now over, whatever the outcome. He thought that the Society had been too much associated in people's minds with its opposition to this planning application and now was the time to get away from that .

## 6 Spring Event

The Secretary reminded the committee that a meeting of the Society of some sort had been mooted to coincide with the commencement of the new subscription year on 1st April (see item 11 of the minutes of 29th August 1985).

It was agreed that a suitable date would be Friday, 11th April and the Secretary was requested to

try and book the village hall for that evening. (Note: That evening turned out to be booked, but a booking has been made for Friday, 18th April).

As to a subject for the meeting, the Chairman mentioned one possibility which arose out of a request made to him by Mrs Olive Stanford that the Society should consider sponsoring a "Neighbourhood Crime Watch". He had agreed to attend, with Mrs Stanford, a meeting of the Police Liaison Committee next Monday at which this was to be explained. Depending on what happened then this was something which could be raised at the Spring Meeting.

In the discussion which followed there was considerable disagreement as to whether the Society should involve - itself in a Neighbourhood Crime Watch even to the limited extent of using the Spring Meeting as a forum for the discussion of such a project. However it was agreed to defer a decision until there was more detail available which presumably would be the case after the meeting of the Police Liaison Committee. The Chairman would report at the next meeting.

#### 7 Civic Trust National Environmental Week 3rd-11th May 1986

The Secretary drew attention to the above and there was some preliminary discussion as to whether the Society might participate. Mr Melhuish favoured a photographic exhibition of buildings in Warnham but did not think he could mount this till 1987. Another possibility was "walking the bounds" possibly in co-operation with the Parish Council (see item 2 minutes of 10th October). Then there was the Best Kept Village Competition which conceivably could serve as a project for the National Environment Week. It was agreed to defer a decision till the next meeting of the Committee, it being noted that the deadline so far as publicity by the Civic Trust was concerned was end February.

#### 8 To sponsor a litter bin

It was agreed to go ahead and to provide the necessary finance (about £35) by a Bring and Buy Coffee Morning. The ladies on the Committee would form a sub-committee to organise and would fix a date, Mrs Cox informing Secretary for publicity etc.

#### 9 The Chairmanship

On a proposition by Mrs Cox, seconded by Mr Melhuish, Mr McMullen was unanimously elected chairman of the Committee. Mr McMullen indicated that he would not wish to hold the position for more than a year.

He said that in order to publicize the Society and to increase membership he would be prepared to talk to other local societies etc. about the role of the Warnham Society if opportunity offered. Members of the Committee undertook to bear this in mind and inform him of any suitable

occasions.

#### 10 The recently-planted oaktrees

Mr Parr tabled a schedule and map indicating how the responsibility for the trees had been distributed amongst the members and also showing which were dead, missing or requiring new covers.

Mr. Parr was thanked for organising this and for presenting the position so clearly and was requested to pass the information about dead trees and missing covers to the Clerk to the Parish Council whose responsibility the replacement was believed to be.

#### 11 Best Kept Village Competition

For agenda next meeting.

#### 12 Date of next meeting

This was fixed for Thursday, 20th February 1986 at 8 pm, same venue.