

## The Warnham Society

Chairman and Correspondence Secretary. Mrs Margaret Dales.

### Minutes of Committee Meeting No 76. Thursday 1st July 1999

Held at Sands, Warnham.

Present: Mrs M. Dales. Chairman  
Mr G. Elliott  
Mr. R. Melhuish  
Mr R. Newman  
Mrs O. Thornton  
Mr M. Rogers

#### Action

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Mr G. Brand, Mrs J. Burnham, Mr R. Courtier, Mrs S. Dutton, Mrs Ronaasen.

It was noted that there were sufficient members present to form a quorum.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 1999:** The minutes of the 75th meeting were approved as an accurate record after some minor text changes and were signed by Mrs Dales.

#### **3. Matters Arising.**

##### **(a) Millennium Projects**

**(i) Sundial:** Mr Rogers had discussed the matter with the church Standing Committee who had pointed out that there was an existing sundial in the churchyard but that it was in need of repair. The Standing Committee had expressed a clear preference for the repair of the existing dial over the provision of a new one.

The committee agreed that it would not proceed with its proposal for a new sundial and that, on balance, it would not support the maintenance of the existing dial as a millennium project.

MD **(ii) Time Capsule:** To be submitted to the Parish Council at the appropriate time.

**(iii) Photographic Record.** Mrs Dales reported that the County Council has a Millennium project incorporating "The Big Archive" which is intended to be a repository of records of community life accumulated in the year 2000. Mrs Dales is liaising with Elizabeth Bridges, a professional curator, who in turn is determining how the Village School can participate.

The Committee welcomed the Big Archive, saw the opportunity for societies and individuals within the village to take part but also highlighted the need for a coordinator to provide leadership and support if the project was to succeed.

MD It was agreed that Mrs Dales would write to the Parish Council proposing that the Council should adopt the Big Archive as a Millennium project and become accountable for its implementation.

**(b) Traffic Calming:**

Mrs Dales reported that Mr Courtier had written to the Parish Council informing them of the Society's relatively low-cost proposals to improve traffic management through the village. The Council's response is awaited.

It was noted that the Parish Council is examining traffic management at both ends of Bell Road.

**(c) Citizens' Jury Report.**

Mrs Dales reported that the return of the report had been outside the deadline for a response to the District Council. However, she believed it could be a useful document for future discussions on long-term plans affecting the village.

**(d) Amenity Society Membership:**

Mrs Dales reported an approach from Dr Annabelle Hughes, Chairman of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies, urging us to reconsider our decision not to rejoin the Federation. Mrs Dales also read out a letter from Mr John Buchanan of the Federation arguing that it was better placed now to influence events than it was, say, five years ago. She also distributed copies of their bi-monthly newsletter. The committee agreed that members would read the Newsletter to help them decide whether to rejoin the Federation and take a decision at our next meeting.

MD In the meantime Mrs Dales would write to Mr Buchanan telling him that we are considering whether to rejoin.

**4. Treasurer's Report.**

Mr Brand had advised Mrs Dales that the current balance of funds is £ 483. The only immediate funding commitment is our subscription to the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign.

**5. Membership.**

Mr Courtier had advised Mrs Dales that subscription renewals were coming through satisfactorily.

**6. Planning Matters.**

**(a)** Mr Melhuish had identified a planning application to convert a barn from agricultural to residential use on the lane to Pear Tree Farm, adjacent to the A29. On his advice Mrs Dales had registered a written objection on behalf of the Society on the principle that the proposed change of use did not fall within a designated residential area.

**(b)** At Mr Melhuish's behest the committee recorded its thanks to Mrs Burnham for providing him with planning application schedules from which he selects those deemed relevant to the Society and examines them at the Council Offices. This forms a time-saving and beneficial process.

**(c)** Mr Melhuish reported an application by Farlington School to build a second temporary classroom. The committee agreed with his contention that a permanent extension would be a preferable solution given the architectural merits of the main building. Mrs Dales will write and object to the proposal in these terms.

#### **7. Autumn Meeting and AGM. 14th October 1999.**

Mrs Dales reported that the Village Hall has been booked, that she will place an advert in the September "Warbler" and circulate papers to the Society in September. The provision of refreshments, putting out chairs etc. will be discussed at our next meeting.

Mr Melhuish advised that the title of his talk will be "Buildings. - The Warnham Heritage."

#### **8. Correspondence.**

In addition to documents mentioned above, Mrs Dales reported the receipt of reports from organisations of which the Society is a member.

#### **9. Any Other Business.**

##### **(a) Accident and Emergency Hospital Services.**

MD Mr Newman expressed his concern at the transfer of accident and emergency services from Crawley Hospital to Redhill, a process which has already begun. It was agreed that Mrs Dales would write to the Chief Executive to determine what impact this change would have for people in Warnham. She would consult Mrs Burnham, who is taking a keen interest in this issue, before preparing her letter.

##### **(b) Warnham Station.**

GE MD Mr Elliot stated that in his view Warnham Station was in need of maintenance and in the present condition is unattractive to potential travellers. He undertook to identify a Railtrack official to whom Mrs Dales could write, expressing the Society's concern.

##### **(c) Housing in the Horsham District.**

Mrs Dales initiated and led a discussion on the long-term approach to the provision of additional housing within the Horsham District Council area. She had attended as the Society's representative, a two day meeting organised by the Council at which developers were invited to present their long-term proposals for the provision of housing. This process is another step in the Council's development of its housing strategy. Developers of smaller greenfield sites had not been invited. The developers presentations and the follow-up discussions had been essentially fact-finding. Evaluation begins with written responses

from stakeholders, due by 6th August.

To help the committee compose a response Mrs Dales distributed a useful summary from the W.S. County Times of the developers proposals. She also pointed out that some proposals breached the current strategic gaps and that there were clear transport and educational implications.

The committee debated the proposals for selected areas at some length. Three threads were woven in the discussion:-

- What balance of benefit would accrue to Warnham Parish?
- If a proposal was not favoured, could support be found for another proposal?
- A recognition that the implications of the possible scale of change are such that they will need detailed evaluation. Thus the committee's views are limited by the short time at its disposal.

Four proposals were considered in turn:

#### **Kingsfold. (A7 on the plan)**

The committee did not agree that Bryant Homes's offer of £10 million towards funding the dualling of the A24 should be a factor in determining a view of the proposed development. The committee came out against the proposal on the principle that it is wrong to develop a small town round a major arterial road, dualled or otherwise.

The Berkeley Homes proposals were deemed acceptable but not if dualing of the A24 were to happen, as it may well do.

#### **Langhurst. (14)**

The committee regarded this proposal as an extension of Horsham and did not comment on its acceptability.

#### **Land West of Southwater (7)**

The committee saw merit in this proposal with possible beneficial links to Broadbridge Heath (11 and 13) and Christ's Hospital (19). This area could be the site for an additional secondary school which, if built, could provide benefits for Warnham secondary students through easier admission and physical access to Horsham's existing schools.

#### **Warnham Court Farm (2)**

Mrs Dales explained that the entry to this site would be adjacent to Wood's lawnmower business premises, the farmhouse is scheduled to remain but the development does impinge on the Conservation Area. It was the committee's view that it should judge this proposal against present planning constraints and could not speculate on the content of future local plans.

MD The committee agreed to the proposal in principle but its support was conditional on a  
successful environmental impact analysis. Mrs Dales undertook to draft a letter to the  
District Council stating the committee's views on all the above issues and to send a copy to  
ALL each committee member for prompt comment back to Mrs Dales. (NB: District Council  
deadline for responses is 6th August). Mrs Dales was thanked for her considerable efforts  
in dealing with the issue and for her continuing hospitality.

#### **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at **Sands on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August 1999 at 8pm.**