

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

### Minutes of the eighth meeting of the Committee held at Little Broomhall on Thursday, 20th February 1986

Present : Mr. G. P. McMullen (Chairman)  
Mrs R Ashton  
Mr R Bensted-Smith  
Mr R Board  
Mrs A. E. Cox  
Mr R Melhuish  
Mr R C Overton (Secretary)  
Mrs L P Parr  
Mrs O G Thornton

In attendance: Police Constable V Harper (for item 3 only )

#### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr Courtier , Mrs McLaughlin and Mr Parr.

#### 2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th January 1986

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

On item 4, traffic conditions in Warnham, the Secretary said that no reply had yet been received to Mr Purcell's letter of 20th January to the County Engineer and Surveyor.

Arising out of item 9, the Chairman said that he had undertaken to say a few words about the Warnham Society at the annual general meeting on Saturday 22nd February of the Warnham branch of the Conservative Association. Mrs Thornton said she would raise the possibility of a similar visit to the Women's Institute, Warnham Branch.

On item 10, the recently-planted oak trees, Mrs Parr said that her husband had written to the Clerk to the Parish Council as requested.

#### 3 Spring Meeting - Friday 18th April in the Village Hall

PC Harper had been invited to attend the discussion of this item since one of the main possibilities as a topic for the meeting was Neighbourhood Watch (see item 6 of the Minutes of the previous meeting) which the Parish Council had asked the Society if it could undertake.

PC Harper explained the idea of Neighbourhood Watch and answered a number of questions, from which the following emerged: –

- (1) The Neighbourhood Watch idea had been thought out by the Home Office as an extension – though a significant one – of the old Good Neighbour Scheme.
- (2) Locally there were already pilot schemes in Nuthurst and Southwater.
- (3) A whole village could be designated a Neighbourhood Watch area, or part of the village could be selected for a pilot scheme. Experience showed that at least 60% of the inhabitants of the area selected needed to participate actively in order to make the scheme a success.
- (4) The idea was for people to work together to reduce the opportunities for all forms of criminal offences including burglary, vandalism and breach of the litter laws.
- (5) However, the urgent reporting of imminent serious criminal offences, e.g. a break-in, would continue to be by the well-tried method of the 999 call to the police station, and not through the communication channel of the Neighbourhood Watch. Furthermore, traffic and licensing offences would not fall within the scope of the Neighbourhood Watch.
- (6) The channel of communication for Neighbourhood watch was through a local "Co-ordinator" or co-ordinators who would contact a "Collator" in the Horsham Police Station. PC Harper considered that there would need to be about four co-ordinators in Warnham. It was the experience of the Police that useful information was often not reported to them by the public, who were diffident at going straight to the Police with seemingly trivial matters.
- (7) Communication would be a two-way affair, with the Police issuing a monthly bulletin of e.g. likely sources of trouble or specific requests for co-operation. These bulletins would not be confidential and could be published eg on a village notice board or in "The Warbler" .
- (8) All literature, e.g. posters and window stickers, would be issued by the Police. No expenditure would fall on the co-ordinators except for the use of their telephones.
- (9) Finally PC Harper said that though he had had reservations initially he was now very keen on the Neighbourhood Watch idea and hoped that Warnham would decide to go ahead. He undertook that the Police would be adequately represented at the meeting on 18th April if it were decided to go ahead.

PC Harper then left the meeting, having been thanked by the Chairman for his valuable contribution, and discussion ensued as to whether Warnham would benefit from a Neighbourhood Watch and whether, if so, it was appropriate for the Warnham Society to try and introduce it. On both counts it was unanimously agreed that the answer was yes, those previously sceptical or opposed having been persuaded by the facts and arguments adduced by PC Harper. It was agreed:

- (a) that Mr McMullen would inform the Parish Council at its next meeting on 10th March that the Society was prepared to accede to its request to try and introduce a Neighbourhood Watch for Warnham;

(b) that there should be a public meeting under the sponsorship of the Society on 18th April to explain and launch a Neighbourhood Watch for Warnham;

(c) that the Secretary would write in due course to the members of the Society to invite them to the meeting, and would also arrange for notices to go in the March and April "Warbler". (Since the letter would also deal with annual subscriptions now due, it would need to be agreed with the Hon Treasurer);

(d) further arrangements for the meeting could be left to the next committee meeting.

#### 4 Hon Treasurer's Report

Mrs Parr reported on behalf of her husband that the balance was substantially the same as last reported.

#### 5 Planning matters

It was reported on behalf of Mr Courtier that a meeting with Mr Jones (Director of Planning and Development, Horsham District Council) had been arranged for 6th March.

#### 6 Bring and Buy Coffee Morning at Glebe End, Church street, Friday – 2nd May

The date was duly noted, and the Secretary would arrange for suitable publicity in The Warbler.

#### 7 Best Kept Village Competition

Mrs Thornton pointed out that it was for The Parish Council to enter the village in the competition. For agenda again at the next meeting.

#### 8 The Civic Trust

The Secretary reported that the Trust had written to say that it was one of the conditions of registration with it that the constitution of any joining Society contain provisions for declaration of interest, and they regretted that they could not accept the Warnham Society's registration until its constitution had been amended accordingly. It was agreed to consider a suitable amendment for the next Annual General Meeting and to seek registration again thereafter. In the meanwhile no further action need be taken in regard to the Trust's National Environment Week.

#### 9 Arrangements for copying of Committee papers etc.

It was agreed that henceforward Committee papers would be copied at the Teachers' Centre

where the current cost was understood to be 3p per sheet. Longer runs, e.g. papers for Annual General Meeting, would continue to be done by stencil and at no cost to the Society for as long as the present stocks of duplicating paper held out .

#### 10 Approach from Mr I F Ockenden

Mrs Cox reported that Mr Ockenden, who lived at 2 Benland Cottages, was concerned about pollution from aircraft and the bad effect on trees under the flight path, and wanted a survey undertaken which he thought the Society might assist in. It was agreed that the Secretary should see Mr Ockenden to try and judge whether the matter was one which should be taken further.

#### 11 Date of next meeting

This was fixed for 8 pm on Thursday 20th March, same venue.