

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

### Minutes of the 86th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th April 2001

Present: Mrs M Dales (Chairman), Mr A G Brand (Treasurer); Mrs J Burnham; Mr R Courtier; Mrs S Dutton; Mr G. Elliott; Mr M. Rogers; Mrs. O. Thornton; Miss V. Ronaasen

**1 Apologies** for absence were received from Mr R Newman and Mr R. Purcell.

**2 Minutes of the meeting of 30th January** were accepted with one minor amendment to Minute 8b.

### **3 Matters Arising**

**a. WWII Memorial** : No action had been taken. Mrs Dales to enquire.

**b. Mr Brand** reported his attendance at a function where the audience was advised that the most likely location for an additional runway would be Stansted, rather than Gatwick

**4 Treasurer's Report** Mr Brand reported that the Society's funds stood at £287. Subscriptions to societies, Spring Meeting and indemnity insurance have all been paid. It was noted that the Traffic Survey expenses were a one off cost. There were suggestions that the Society should consider some form of annual budget to help safeguard our financial strength. The Committee noted that an increase in membership would bring additional income from subscriptions and possible donations.

**5 Membership** Mr Courtier summarised the current position, pointing out that the new members were offset by losses of existing members, resulting in a static membership. Mr Courtier presented two sample brochures for use in recruiting members. The A5 version was preferred and after circulation within the meeting the brochure was approved for use. It was agreed that Mrs Dales and Mr Courtier would refine the text and that there would be targeted circulation to include the village stores, the two pubs and other public display opportunities, to be arranged by Mr Courtier.

It was agreed that entry to Society open meetings will remain free to members, but a £1 charge will be made to non-members

### **6 Planning Matters**

**a. Kingscote** - refused by HDC

**b. Northlands** - refused by HDC

**c. Warnham Court Farm and Tilletts Lane.** Mrs Dales reported that neither of these applications had been considered by HDC Area 1 Planning committee. She was experiencing difficulty in preparing for attendance at the - Area 1 Committee meetings due to shortcomings in communication from HDC. Mrs Burnham explained the staffing difficulties being experienced within the Planning Department of HDC, but undertook to express our concerns to HDC.

**d. Local Plan.** HDC intends to roll forward its existing Local Plan from 2004 to 2006 to accord with the existing approved 1993 Structure Plan, clarification available from Paul Rowley, Forward Planning Officer of HDC. Mrs Burnham suggested that the publication of the updated Local Plan, due in late spring 2001, and the forthcoming elections, could result in a delayed consideration of the Warnham applications.

**e. Over 55 letters** had been written to the Director of Planning, from 45+ individuals or groups. Of these only one appeared to be unconditionally supportive of the Warnham Court Farm planning application. The Chairman had met the applicant, Mr J Lucas to discuss the Society's views. The meeting, though amicable, had not resulted in any agreement by Mr Lucas on the validity of the Society's views.

**f. 49 Friday Street, Applications WN/18/01 & WN/19/00**, had been made for the conversion of the cottage into two dwellings. The Committee expressed concern at this proposal, on the grounds that increased density, with no garage provision, would increase on-road parking, causing further problems in an already congested area of the village.

**g. Miss Ronaasen** reported on Planning application WN/11/01 to remove three trees from the garden of the new bungalow next to the Vicarage. The Warnham Parish Council had raised no objection. It was agreed that Mrs Dales & Mr Rogers would examine the application and write to HDC if necessary.

**h. Glebe Field.** Concern was expressed about possible future development of the field, but an absence of hard information precluded further discussion.

**7 Spring Meeting 2001** The Committee expressed its appreciation of the attendance level and audience commitment. Following the Spring Meeting theme of traffic control, at which suggestions were made for some radical action to be taken, Mr Courtier then put forward a proposal for reducing the volume of traffic passing through the village.

The principle involved was to make the route through the village clearly less attractive than the alternative A-class roads, so that many fewer drivers would choose to pass through the village. Implications of this idea would require some form of physically managed entry on roads into the village and the designation of some as one way only. In support of his proposal Mr Courtier suggested that road humps and speed limits alone would not reduce through traffic. He also pointed out that it would be wrong to assume that the County Council would be against such a scheme. It was noted that this proposal would not affect village traffic volume or reduce parking difficulties.

It was agreed that a working party should be set up to consider Mr Courtier's proposal and report back to the Committee. The first meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 17th April 2001 at 8pm at Sands.

## **8 Correspondence and Reports.**

**a** Mrs Dales reported that a letter had been received from Mr M Starks expressing his thanks for the use of the loop system in the village hall at the Spring Meeting. Sadly, Mr Starks has since died; Mrs Dales has written a letter of condolence to Mrs Starks, on behalf of the Society.

**b** A poster sent by the Slinfold Society had arrived too late for display

**c Incinerators and waste disposal** Three letters have been received expressing concerns over waste disposal, of particular concern is the possibility of the siting of an incinerator in North Horsham, at the brickworks. It was suggested that those concerned about the incinerator should contact Brian Johnson of the North Horsham Clean Air Group, whose activities are focussed on the prevention of the installation of an incinerator. Mrs Dales will contact Mr Johnson suggesting that he might contact the editor of the Warbler to include an article informing readers about the Group.

Committee members expressed concern about the volume of rubbish coming from other counties for disposal at Warnham.

Mrs Burnham asked members to present her with alternative incinerator sites or other methods of waste disposal.

**d Publications and information** have been received from societies to which we are affiliated. These have been circulated.

## **9 Any other business**

**a Mrs Burnham** reported a good response to her Councillor's Newsletter. Her constituents principal concerns were lack of policing, traffic speed and vandalism.

**b Mr Rogers** reported that TRY, the developers of Warnham Court School are to fund a rural gateway' and red road surfacing on Bailing Hill. Members were sceptical as to the likely effectiveness of these measures. It was suggested that the public authority should validate their effectiveness.

**c Mrs Dutton** expressed her disappointment at the level of litter on the main roads adjacent to Warnham and reported on the system in some US states where organisations such as Scouts or Lions, adopt stretches of highway and keep them clean. Mrs Thornton reported on the substantial amount of litter she had collected on her small stretch of road during an organised village clean-up.

**d Mrs Thornton** reported on the appearance of a TV receiving dish on the front of a house in Church Street, for which no planning application had apparently been made.

**e Mr Elliott** reported on the recent installation of two KNOB HILL road signs, on the section of road continuing from School Hill to the A24.

## **10 Next Meeting Monday 18th June at 8pm at Sands**