

## THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

### Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the committee held at Little Broomhall on Thursday 18 March 1986

Present: Mr G. P. McMullen (Chairman)  
Mrs R Ashton  
Mr R Bensted-Smith  
Mr R H Courtier  
Mrs R. R. McLaughlin  
Mr R C Overton (Secretary)  
Mr H J Parr (Treasurer)  
Mrs L P Parr  
Mrs O G Thornton

#### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs Cox and Mr Melhuish.

#### 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 1986

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

#### 3 THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr Parr reported that the current balance was £63.77.

#### 4 BRING AND BUY COFFEE MORNING AT GLEBE END FRIDAY 2 MAY

It was reported on behalf of the Sub-Committee that arrangements were well in hand. Those who were not members of the Sub-Committee were requested each to provide a raffle prize.

#### 5 PLANNING MATTERS

Mr Courtier reported that unfortunately it had not been possible to hold the meeting with Mr Jones fixed for the 6 March since he (Mr. Courtier) had been obliged to be in Jersey on that date, and Mr Jones had since been unwell. There were no other matters to be reported.

#### 6 SPRING MEETING 18 APRIL 1986 – NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

The Chairman reported that the Society's intention to launch Neighbourhood Watch in Warnham had been well received by the Parish Council.

Arrangements for the meeting were discussed although these could not be finalised till there had been further discussions with the police, scheduled for the following week (Chairman and Secretary).

Mrs Parr was apprehensive that criticism would be forthcoming at the meeting from members who might feel the Committee had not actually achieved anything very concrete in the year to date: after all, members were being asked to renew their subscriptions and might wonder what they were

getting for their money. The rest of the Committee considered that this was being rather pessimistic, but the Chairman said that he would take the opportunity of the meeting to report on things which had kept the Committee busy.

Mr Bensted-Smith observed that this meeting was a first rate opportunity to increase membership and suggested that in the letter to members they should be invited to bring a non-member with them, which was agreed.

#### 7 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Mrs Thornton said that she had accepted an invitation from the Parish Council to look after this for another year with the help of the Society. Judging would be in June and July. It was agreed that the meeting on 18 April would be a useful occasion to publicise the Best Kept Village Competition. £5 was authorised as prizes for posters.

#### 8 DIE BACK OF OAK TREES - SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MR OCKENDEN

The Secretary said that he had visited Mr Ockenden (2 Benland Cottages) as requested to find out what he wanted and whether there was any way in which the Society could help. It turned out that Mr Ockenden already had a survey in hand to plot the incidence of die-back and thus (possibly) establish the connection with the flight-path from Gatwick, but he did not make any specific proposals to the Secretary as to how the Society's members could assist in this. He did mention that the Horsham Friends of the Earth were to undertake their own survey in May, and subsequent enquiries made of the Friends of the Earth (Mr Seabrook) had indicated that they wanted volunteers to assist. The Secretary had reported this in the April Warbler and had also mentioned Mr Ockenden's interest and given his telephone number.

In the discussion which followed Mr Board said that it was possible that there was something in Mr Ockenden's flight path theory but there were other possible diagnoses including the severe drought of 1976, the effects of which were still being felt.

The Secretary's action as above was endorsed and it was agreed that it would probably not be appropriate for the Society to take any further action though if a specific request was made by Mr Ockenden this would have to be considered.

#### 9 FEDERATION OF SUSSEX AMENITY SOCIETIES

The Secretary reported that the annual subscription of £10 was now due. The Committee agreed that membership should be renewed and the Secretary was asked to write and send the money.

#### 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

fixed for 8 pm on Thursday 22 May.