

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Minutes of Committee Meeting No.94 held on Monday 1st July 2002 at Sands, Warnham

Present: Mrs M Dales (Chairman) Mrs S Dutton; Mr G. Elliott; Mr R Newman; Mr R. Purcell; Mr M. Rogers; Miss V Romaasen; Mrs O Thornton

1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr G. Brand.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2002 were approved after minor changes.

3 Matters Arising

a. Civic Trust Membership: The minute recording the Committee's decision to withdraw from membership of the Civic Trust has been approved at tonight's meeting. Accordingly, Mrs Dales will write to the Trust informing them of our decision. Because of this decision, the Society's constitution, Para 15, will need amendment. This should be considered at the Society's AGM in the Autumn 2002

b. Youth Facilities: Mrs Dales reported that the ad hoc group, chaired by Mr S Ritchie has identified facilities for use by young villagers. The group has been wound up, implementation becoming the responsibility of the Parish Council. First the use of the Village Hall for socialising and activities. Second, the provision of a shelter adjacent to the Village Hall, plans for which were shown to the Committee. Meeting the young people's need for a skate-boarding facility is being investigated, but may be impracticable. Vandalism, the original spur for this initiative, is currently at a low level. The police advise that it is a cyclical phenomenon, so pre-emptive action to prevent, or reduce, a resurgence is to be commended.

c. WN//07/02, Woodstock: Mrs Dales reported that the application by Mr Jenkins, the owner to have the agricultural occupancy condition removed, remains undetermined.

d. New Committee members: It was agreed that it would be inappropriate to approach Mr Crockford or Mr Coombes at this time. Mrs Dales undertook to sound out Mr Ivor Gibbs of South Lodge, Strood Lane

4 Treasurer's Report On behalf of Mr Brand Mrs Dales reported that the Society's cash balance is £303.18

5 Membership

Mr Rogers reported that paid up members stand at 114, with 21 subscriptions outstanding

6 Planning

a. Tilletts Lane WN/56/00

Mrs Dales reported that HDC had recently responded to her April letter. HDC has requested that the applicant's agent should withdraw the application. If this does not happen HDC will

write again to the agent advising him that unless the application is withdrawn the application will be reported to the Development Control Committee North and recommended for refusal. Mrs Dales will continue to monitor the situation and report to the Committee.

b Sands Equestrian Centre:

Mr Rogers reported that he had written to HDC opposing the application, which is still being considered by the Council

c Other Planning Matters

Mr Rogers reported that there were no applications requiring comment by the committee. It was noted that applications, mostly minor and non-contentious, run at about 3 per week, on average.

7 Traffic Management

a A24 Southwater to Ashington WSCC's objective in improving the stretch of road is to effect a significant reduction in the number of accidents. Accordingly the Council's consultants, WSP, have recommended grade separation at three notorious junctions with minor roads passing under the A24. In Mr Purcell's opinion the recommended solution is the one most likely to meet the Council's accident reduction objective. However, the NWSFSAS discerns a possible flaw in this approach. They believe that a more strategic overview of traffic flows in the area would reveal displacement of traffic from other roads, including the A23, onto an enhanced A24. They are in discussion with WSCC, with a scheduled meeting with Colonel Tex Pemberton, WSCC Cabinet member responsible for Highways. Mrs Dales agreed to maintain contact with NWSFSAS and report back.

b A24, Great Daux to Capel

Environmental studies are being undertaken so the funding bid to GOSE can be completed.

c. Warnham

Mr Purcell reported that the Warnham society/ W Parish Council Traffic Management Working Party had met twice, developed the original proposals which form a draft report distributed to the Committee. Mr Purcell took us through the main features of the report to which the Committee gave their general and appreciative assent. However they did express some particular reservations, including the excessive speed developed by some vehicles from outside the church as they head up School Hill. More generally, Church Street is a route to the school and as such must be made as safe as possible, given that rat-running and school going in part coincide. Mr Purcell undertook to amend the report to accommodate concerns. Mr Purcell described how Parish Council concerns over costs, funding phasing and policing could be met. Mr Purcell is contacting Mr Roger Hobbs WSCC, to arrange a meeting to carry the proposals forward.

The Committee was also advised of the recent publication of a House of commons Select Committee Report which identifies a Government failure to curb excessive speed in spite of a plethora of measures designed so to do (and publicised in a Transport Policy document in 2000). Consequently, the UK is performing relatively less well than other EC countries in reducing road casualties, particularly among children.

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Various subjects were considered. It was agreed that "Health", as a major issue, should be pursued. Mrs Dales undertook to approach contacts at Horsham's Park Surgery to identify a speaker(s) and subject relevant to a Society audience 10th, 17th, and 24th October were identified as possible dates which Mrs Dales will resolve with the Village Hall Bookings Secretary.

9. Correspondence and Reports

Two folders of invitations and correspondence were put into circulation. Committee members wishing to participate in events were invited to respond appropriately. Mrs Dales reported on a letter from HDC detailing funding for categories of environmental enhancing projects. It was agreed that the Society's Traffic Management Scheme could qualify so this funding source should be borne in mind by the Committee. Members were encouraged to identify other opportunities, not maintenance, for improvement which could attract funding.

10 Any other business

- a. Mrs Thornton** reported that she had attended a meeting on the Citizens Advice Bureaux, and that branches are being opened in Billingshurst and Pulborough to meet growing needs.
- b. Mrs Dutton** expressed concern at the overgrown hedge fronting the Lucas estate home at Warnham Court Farm in Church Street, occluding the pavement. Mrs Dales undertook to contact the WPC Clerk.
- c. Mr Newman** expressed concern at the HDC pilot scheme of emptying wheelie bins fortnightly, which he saw as unhygienic.

11. Date of next Meeting

Monday 2nd September at 8pm at Sands