

## Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society Committee Meeting of 6th December 2017 at the Springhead.

1. *Present:* Mike Blee, Terry Pegrum, Bill Egerton, Peter Riley, Hilary Davidson, Jackie Greet, Sue Wintle, Jill Kelsey, Liz Balfe, Chris Hubbard.  
*Apologies:* Peter Dye, Jez Cunningham.

2. *Minutes of previous meeting*

The Minutes for the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November were agreed and signed.

3. *Additional items (new and repeat) not on the Agenda*  
None.

4. *Neighbourhood Planning*

a. Update

BE reported that the Place Appraisal had been rolled out at the December coffee morning, and that the Stage 2 Survey and Housing Needs Survey had been distributed to all households, with a closing date of 5<sup>th</sup> January. Copies of the Place Appraisal were available on loan. Some completed surveys had already been received back. The distributors would be calling back at houses to try to get as wide a response as possible.

A question was asked about posters to advertise the survey. It was thought Katrina Blee may be working on one, but in any case it was left to the Steering Group.

b. Possible National Park designation for Dorset AONB

BE had been in contact with Sandra Brown of the local National Park team. Sandra had offered to phone to discuss our questions, but she and BE kept missing one another so no answers had yet been received [**Action continues**].

5. *Planning*

a. WP/17/00848/FUL – Revised road access for 56 Sutton Road – No information yet on Council website – will be sought.

b. WP/17/00804/FUL – Replacement conservatory at 85 Sutton Road – The present conservatory is a little unsightly, and the proposal was judged to be an improvement.

c. WP/17/00824/FUL – New house on plot north of Morlands – HD declared her interest in this matter and absented herself from part of the discussion. It was noted that the Council Officers had responded reasonably positively to the pre-application. As far as the Society planning policy was concerned, there were two main Policies against which the application needed to be judged: Policy 2 relating to the village's shape and views out from the village, and Policy 3 relating to the protection of views from the hills. It was noted that Policy 6, concerned among other things with protection of hedges, might be relevant as a change of use of the plot to domestic would remove the present protection of the hedge along the road, which is currently agricultural. However it was accepted that the owners had restored some hedge around the plot and the application specifically offered to protect the roadside hedge. The application was judged, without discussion, to be in accordance with other Society policies on design, scale and materials.

There was some discussion of the precedent this application could represent if approved, perhaps encouraging further development on the same plot that could cause greater damage to views in and out of the village. However it was agreed that we have to look at each application as it is; arguments about possible future development are rejected automatically by the Council as irrelevant.

The Committee had some discussion of the present Planning Policy, which was thought by at

least one member to be written rather emotively and judgementally. There was also discussion of how appropriate it is, once we decide that an application is contrary to Society policy, to present arguments to the Council based on Council planning policies rather than our own. The question was asked whether we can overturn our Policy and/or the processes we use, but the conclusion was that this would need to be presented to the membership at a General Meeting, as it was the membership that had approved them.

Returning to the application itself, after discussion a vote was taken, and by a majority it was agreed that the application did not offend against Society policies. After clarification it was agreed that the Society would submit a representation with the observation that the application satisfies Society planning policy [**Action BE**].

- d. Land off Plaisters Lane – MB reported that he had spoken to TP about works in TP's field, and had confirmed that the new building was agricultural without foundations and was therefore correctly permitted development, with no requirement for any planning application.

#### 6. *Sutton Poyntz Ltd*

BE reported that he had just circulated draft documents to convert SPLtd to a Community Interest Company. He had confirmed that the additional annual reporting requirement for a C.I.C. was very light, with a report to confirm that activities met the Community Interest requirements.

The draft documents needed to declare how the assets of the C.I.C. would be disposed of should the C.I.C. close down. BE had suggested the Mission Hall Trust as a possible recipient of assets, but had not discussed this with the Trust itself [**Action BE**]. TP raised the question of how the loan from the Society might be handled in such an instance; the Directors would need to investigate this in the first instance. It was thought that the C.I.C. would be able to sell the land, but only so as to maximise its income; the cash could then be used to reimburse the Society loan before passing any residue to the Trust [**Action MB, TP, BE to consider**].

#### 7. *Other village matters*

- a. The Pond – History Boards – No progress by the Neighbourhood Plan Heritage subgroup.
- b. Top of the Pond drainage – Bill Davidson would like a builder involved. It was suggested we contact Buckland Construction again but this time offer payment for the job. LB said she knows another builder who might be suitable.
- c. Ideas for telephone box – The mechanism for the village taking ownership of the phone box is dealt with under item 6 above. Once this is complete, we will return to the question of use.
- d. Bench near Brookmead – A date to be found to fit the replacement seat and to sand down the back. It was thought JC would be willing to coordinate this.

#### 8. *Village Events / Activities*

- a. Coffee Mornings: The December coffee morning was attended by 56 people, making a profit of £92. The excellent numbers were probably mainly due to the roll-out of the Neighbourhood Plan material, which generated good debate. February's coffee morning would have Neighbourhood Watch material being coordinated by Peter Jones. It had been suggested Wessex Water might use the January coffee morning to exhibit information on the water-main renewal project, but they had hired the Scutt Hall for the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> December.

#### 9. *Communications*

- a. Newsletters & Newsbites: Several Newsbites had been issued recently including notice of the Wessex Water water-main project. The next Newsletter would be issued early next year.

A particular distribution problem was discussed. One member had not received his Newsletter, because the distributor for that area did not have enough copies [Post-meeting note: the number sent out to distributors is sufficient, but assumes that Newsletters are not given to long-standing

non-members or to members who had opted for email distribution only]. MB had printed an extra copy and delivered to the member in question, with apologies.

- b. Request for Dorset Community Foundation publicity: CH noted that this would place pressure on space and would also establish a precedent that might cause additional problems. After discussion, it was agreed that subject to space availability we would publish material on services provided by local charities, where they are likely to be of benefit to villagers (as had been done in the case of St Andrew's Angels), but would not publish funding requests by local charities. A response to this effect will be sent to Liz Brierley and the charity [**Action BE**].

10. *Other Village Activity reports*

It was reported on behalf of the Biodiversity Group that Wessex Water are carrying out work to dangerous trees in Veterans Wood. It may be necessary for them to restrict access until the trees have been made safe.

11. *Committee Reports*

No reports

12. *Treasurer's Report*

TP had distributed a report before the meeting, showing coffee morning income of £39 and expenses of £105.60 for seat timber and £320.18 insurance. This left a cash/current account balance of £2941.14.

In addition, a number of Neighbourhood Plan costs had been paid by the Society, in the expectation of being reimbursed when the next Neighbourhood Plan grant is approved; this was in accordance with the precedent established at the previous meeting. The costs incurred for the time being on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan totalled £1829.82, leaving a reduced balance of £1111.32. The total was broken down as follows:

- 30/10/2017 - £300.00 to County Council for speed survey
- 30/10/2017 - £31.86 to Corfe Mullen Parish Council for printing
- 08/11/2017 - £11.60 to Mike Haine for datastick
- 08/11/2017 - £605.00 to Brian Wilson Associates for consultancy
- 16/11/2017 - £31.20 to Corfe Mullen Parish Council for printing
- 21/11/2017 - £11.20 to Corfe Mullen Parish Council for printing
- 29/11/2017 - £379.00 and £401.00 to Solopress for printing
- 01/12/2017 - £58.96 to Katrina Blee for stationery.

13. *Correspondence*

A letter had been received from Dorset County Council concerning the addition to the official map of the footpath between the top end of Verlands Road and the A353.

14. *Date of next meeting*

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January in the Mission Hall. Apologies received from HD.

*Minutes agreed and approved:*

*Date:*