

**Minutes of the extraordinary Sutton Poyntz Society Committee Meeting
on 11th March 2015 at Northdown Farmhouse.**

Present: John Crisp; John Sutherland; Bill Egerton; Jez Cunningham; Hilary Davidson; Peter Riley; Sue Wintle; Chris Hubbard, plus Peter Dye, Mike Bee and Chris Balfe

Apologies: Jacqui Atkinson; Tamzin Hyde

Springhead Car Park:

The single purpose of the meeting was to discuss the letter that had been received by Sutton Poyntz Ltd (SPLtd) from Mr Skinner's Solicitor, and to agree what response ought to be made.

The letter had been circulated before the meeting. It requested copies of the transfers on which our title to the land was made, and suggested possible questions about the strength of our title.

JC outlined the long background to this matter. The relationship between the land, SPLtd and the Sutton Poyntz Society was described; the Society was only involved peripherally, and had no exposure beyond what it chose to take. Sutton Poyntz Ltd as owners of the land could in principle be sued or challenged, but the Directors (JS and BE) personally only had £1 liability.

JC explained that he had obtained advice from an experienced legal expert, who had said that the best course would be a "thorough and firm" response, which should ideally go from our Solicitor to Mr Skinner's Solicitor. This should have the effect of placing financial risk on Mr Skinner should he choose to take the matter further.

It was noted that SPLtd has very little cash and that therefore the only way of paying for the services of Solicitor will be by using Society funds. The SPLtd Directors have therefore applied to the Society for funds. An estimate of £250 + VAT has been obtained (based on a specially reduced rate, for which it will be necessary to use Downs who purchased the land for us).

After thorough discussion of the issues, two motions were proposed and adopted:

- 1) That a limit of liability of £500 would be imposed on money allocated for this purpose, this sum to include the money (about £150) collected at the village meeting on the 19th December 2014.
- 2) That, subject to this limit of liability, the Society agrees to fund the commissioning of Downs Solicitors to write and send a letter on our behalf.

Our objectives in commissioning the letter were discussed, and agreed to be:

- If possible, to bring the correspondence to a swift end;
- To create a sound foundation for ourselves, should the matter be taken forward to adjudication;
- To put ourselves in a position where SPLtd can occupy the land with confidence.

Minutes agreed and approved :

Date: