

**Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society Committee Meeting of 8th March 2017
at the Mission Hall.**

1. *Present:* Mike Blee, John Sutherland, Bill Egerton, Jackie Greet, Peter Riley, Jill Kelsey, Hilary Davidson, Jez Cunningham, Jacqui Atkinson, Peter Dye, Chris Hubbard
Apologies: Chris Balfe, Sue Wintle

2. *Minutes of previous meeting*

It was agreed that the Secretary would draft and circulate an amendment to the 8th February 2017 Minutes, for agreement at the next meeting; the amendment would note that the Neighbourhood Plan consultant's contract had agreed rates but not agreed hours, but that JS was satisfied that the Steering Group would manage the contract within the grant budget.

3. *Additional items (new and repeat) not on the Agenda*

John Willows' retirement, to be discussed as Item 8f.

4. *Neighbourhood Planning*

a. Update

PD reported that the Steering Group's 21 Feb meeting had been attended by some potential new members (Andy Hohne, Sue Higham, Sue Elgey and Steve Jones), although it was noted with regret that Chris Balfe and Mark Cribb had resigned from the Steering Group because of other pressures. Brian Wilson, the appointed consultant, had also attended.

A subgroup had carried out the analysis of responses to the October consultative Newsletter, with help from Brian Wilson. A report had been written, with a summary distributed to the village by means of a further Newsletter, initially available at the March Coffee Morning. A draft Vision Statement had been written for the Plan, along with draft objectives and a way forward including provisional identification of the subgroups that would be created at the next stage to conduct the more detailed evidence collection. The Steering Group had started to look for volunteers to join the subgroups.

The next Steering Group will carry out a study of the Local Plan Review, as well as formalising the next steps. A project Timetable tentatively aims for an initial Neighbourhood Plan document to be submitted to the Local Authority by the end of February 2018, with formal ratification by the end of 2018.

JS asked about a follow-on grant. The initial Grant period was close to its end, and an End of Grant Report was being drafted and would be circulated for agreement, along with a Grant budget for the period April to September 2017 (**Action BE**). It was expected that the initial grant would be underspent, mainly because more of the Consultation analysis than originally planned had been done by Steering Group members.

b. Assets of Community Value

It was agreed that the primary responsibility for this rests with the Society rather than with the Steering Group. PD noted that evidence is not needed – a nomination simply needs a statement that the asset has community value and is used by the community. Candidate assets are the Mission Hall, Springhead pub, and Waterworks field.

Consultation with the village will be needed to get their agreement. It was agreed to defer more detailed discussion to the May meeting.

c. Parish Council Statement

It was noted that the Dorset local authorities and County Council are negotiating to create two Unitary Authorities, one for west and north Dorset including Weymouth and Portland, and one for east Dorset. Weymouth are debating the creation of a Weymouth Town Council (in this context Town Council and Parish Council are equivalent terms – Portland already has a Town

Council), and are expected to start a formal consultative review on this in June or July. As a review will be going on anyway, it gives Sutton Poyntz an opportunity to seek Parish Council status in its own right, separate from the rest of Weymouth, should it wish to do so.

There was considerable uncertainty about the pros and cons of such a move. It was agreed that it should be made a topic for debate at the AGM; Katrina Blee, as a Parish Clerk, will be asked if she would open the debate with some thoughts on what Parish Council status involves (**Action MB**).

5. *Planning*

a. Local Plan Review consultation

An Options and Issues Paper had been written by Council Officers for consultation purposes, along with a Sustainability Review looking at a number of potential development sites around Weymouth and Portland. Three sites close to Sutton Poyntz had been studied, but they had all been rejected for large scale development. The nearest site that had been assessed as developable was at Wyke Oliver. The Committee had no issues with the Options and Issues Paper, apart from commenting on the lack of punch to the proposed Vision Statement for West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland. A short response would be sent on behalf of the Society before the consultation closing date – 3rd April (**Action BE**).

At about the same time, a SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) Update had been carried out. This had also looked at 3 sites close to Sutton Poyntz, and the field just south of the pub had been identified as a possible site for about 6 houses. It was agreed that a representation should be drafted and distributed for agreement (**Action BE**), opposing the conclusions on this site on the basis that it was contrary to several Local Plan policies, the AONB Management Plan, and was on a site that (judging from previous Society planning documents) was quite likely to be identified by the Neighbourhood Plan as precious green infrastructure.

b. Feedback on “Land off Plaisters Lane” applications

A note had been submitted to the Steering Group by Liz Brierley, setting out some of the history of these planning applications. The Steering Group had passed it to the Society, as being properly a Society matter rather than Steering Group.

It was agreed that we would acknowledge receipt of this note, noting its contents and hoping that the Neighbourhood Plan can be developed in a neighbourly fashion (**Action BE**).

c. WP/17/00072/FUL Revised extension plans for Springfield Cottage: These revised plans were reviewed. A representation was agreed, supporting the new plans and noting that although we had not opposed the earlier plans, the new ones were an attractive solution to our earlier slight concerns.

d. WP/CA/17/00037 and WP/CA/17/00039: It was agreed we would respond relying on the Council Trees Officer’s judgement on these two applications, for tree reduction at Longmead and felling one holly and other work at Laurel Cottage.

6. *AGM planning*

The AGM is set for 12th April. It was agreed that we would invite Simon Newport (First Bus local manager) to outline the proposals for the village’s reduced bus service; as a courtesy we would invite him for the start of the meeting (**Action BE**).

JA stated that demands on her time meant she would have to resign from the Committee. Great thanks were expressed to her for the work she had done, and especially for her memorable innovation of the Village Pimms Evening.

It was noted that there is one amendment to the Society's Planning Policy that needs to be approved. The Agenda also needs to include a debate on Parish Council status.

The evening will end with refreshments and a chance to see Ron Waite's old film of Sutton Poyntz.

7. *Sutton Poyntz Ltd*

It was noted that the Annual Accounts need to be submitted by the end of the month. It was not thought there was any fee due for submitting the Accounts.

8. *Other village matters*

- a. The Pond – cleanup – A Working Party will be organised for 18th March.
- b. The Pond – History Boards – No further progress. A hastener will be sent to the Council Officer.
- c. Bins & Dog bins – A response had been received from the relevant Council Officer, and circulated to the Committee. Council policy now seems to be to use ordinary bins rather than special dog bins. On balance it was felt best to leave things as they are now. A query will be sent again about lids for the two waste bins by the pond; it was asked whether ordinary old-fashioned black bin-lids might not do perfectly well. HD will talk to Ray Aggett to try to find a solution (**Action HD**).
- d. Defibrillator – JC reported that everything had been delivered, and we are waiting for the pub's electrician to carry out the installation work. In the mean time, the defibrillator will be set up in the pub, with a sign outside. Two training sessions are being arranged in April, including training opportunities for pub staff and for the local scouting organisations. An article had been written for the Register and for the Echo.

It was noted that the training would be aided by the purchase of spare defibrillator pads, which were thought to cost about £40. The question of children-size pads was also discussed but this was not though high priority. The Committee discussed making a donation to the British Heart Foundation, who had provided the village defibrillator. A sum of £250 was agreed to include a donation plus one set of pads.

- e. Bus service – MB and BE had met the First Bus local manager (Simon Newport) on 10th Feb. First Bus were planning a new service 5 from Weymouth to Crossways and then on to Dorchester. Mr Newport said they had insufficient vehicles to provide this service as well as the service 4A. He proposed tentatively that perhaps two or three a day of the service 5 buses would divert down Sutton Road, providing a morning and afternoon service from Silver Street in to Weymouth, with return buses around lunchtime and in the afternoon. No detailed proposal was yet available.

As noted above, an invitation will be issued to Simon Newport to speak to our AGM.

- f. John Willows' retirement – It was noted that John Willows, curator of the Waterworks Museum, will be retiring in April. John Willows has been a great friend to the village for many years. It was proposed that the village ought to mark his retirement in some way, and that perhaps the Society and Street Fayre Committees should donate towards a retirement gift. JC will speak to Guy Bridge (**Action JC**).

9. *Village Events / Activities*

- a. Coffee mornings: The winter season had ended very successfully, with over 40 attending and about £50 raised. Thanks were expressed to the ladies who provide the cakes and man the kitchen, and also to Peter and Rita Riley for organising the Coffee Mornings. Maureen Morris and Jean Cunningham are organising summer coffee mornings, in aid of various charities.
- b. Winter events: The History Evening had been attended by about 35, and made £35.50.

- c. Summer events: BE will contact Richard Backwell about organising summer walks, and will distribute a list of possible dates for events (**Action BE**).

10. *Communications*

The Newsletter distribution rounds had changed slightly, with MB taking the Sutton Close/Mission Hall Lane round from BE, and BE taking the top of Sutton Road round from John Crisp. It was noted that we need to find someone to take JS's round up Plaisters Lane.

A note on a village Art Exhibition was passed to CH for a Newsbite at the appropriate time. The Exhibition will be before the next Newsletter.

11. *Other Village Activity reports*

No reports.

12. *Committee Reports*

No reports.

13. *Treasurer's Report*

A report had been tabled by email, showing a balance of £5367.56, plus an amount of £1877.63 held by SPLtd for the Neighbourhood Plan. JS noted that John Bellis had advised that the Neighbourhood Plan fund should be shown as an Exceptional in the accounts presented to the AGM.

Great thanks were expressed to JS for his work for the Society, in recent years as Treasurer and for many years before that as Secretary.

14. *Correspondence*

The Secretary had received a letter from Companies House about the SPLtd annual accounts, a note from First Bus about possible service changes, emails from two members on the same topic, an email from WPBC on dog bins, correspondence passed to Colin Marsh relevant to the alternative energy part of Neighbourhood Planning, correspondence from the owners of Springfield Cottage about their new plans, and the note by Liz Brierley on the Land off Plaisters Lane planning applications. In addition, an email from Terry Pegrum has been received confirming his willingness to be nominated as Treasurer.

15. *Date of next meeting*

AGM – Wednesday 12th April in the Mission Hall.

Minutes agreed and approved:

Date: