

**Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society Committee Meeting of 9th March 2016
at the Mission Hall.**

1. *Present:* Mike Blee, John Sutherland, Bill Egerton, Jez Cunningham, Hilary Davidson, Sue Wintle, Chris Balfe, Chris Hubbard.
Apologies: Peter Dye, Tamzin Hyde, Jacqui Atkinson, Peter Riley.
2. *Minutes of previous meeting*
The Minutes of the meeting on 10th February 2016 were agreed and signed.
3. *Matters arising*
None.
4. *Items to be raised under AOB*
Society's 50th Anniversary.
5. *Planning*
 - a. 42 Sutton Road – This application will be heard at the Borough Planning Committee's meeting on 16th March. The Council Officers have recommended the scheme for acceptance. It was agreed that MB will give a verbal representation on behalf of the Society opposing the application; it was also agreed that we will take action as with Land off Plaisters Lane to ensure village opposition is apparent.
 - b. WP/16/000078/FUL – Revised scheme for White Horse Cottage – The change was very modest, adding a balcony at the back of the new cottage. It was agreed that the Society would confirm its opinion of the previous application.
 - c. Neighbourhood Plan – It was noted that the Council Officers now appear to accept our argument that the Society can act as Neighbourhood Forum, although the final decision will be made after consultation and formal checking of our application. They still have a few suggestions for changes to the Constitution, dealt with in 6(a) below.
There was again some discussion of the relationship between the Society and the Forum. The conclusion was that the Society is seeking to be designated as Neighbourhood Forum in its own name, so that it can write a Neighbourhood Plan. The actual writing will be carried out by a Working Party (the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party), which will be created by the Committee and will then be overseen by the Society's Committee and via the Committee by Society AGM's.
BE reported that he had received a number of emailed or verbal comments in response to the Neighbourhood Plan newsletter. These were of four main categories:
 - Opposition to the proposal – Tony Bugler did not see the need for a new Plan. BE had tried to explain how this was different;
 - Concern about the Area boundary at Puddledock Lane – Three members living on or near Puddledock Lane had asked for houses beyond Chipps Cottage, and on the 3 short roads off Puddledock, to be included in the Neighbourhood Area. They pointed out that they had Sutton Poyntz postcodes, and had been members of the Society and of the village community for many years;
 - Concern about the Area boundary along Sutton Road – Two people (one a member) had asked that the boundary should extend to the junction of Sutton Road and Preston Road. They pointed to house deeds saying “Sutton Poyntz cum Preston” as justification for their belief that they lived in Sutton Poyntz;
 - There were several expressions of willingness to help with the writing of the Neighbourhood Plan.

In addition there were a couple of emails agreeing to future correspondence electronically. The Committee discussed the question of where the boundary had been drawn, and agreed to leave the decision to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, based if necessary on any debate at the AGM.

It was agreed that the Committee will write Terms of Reference setting out objectives and working practices for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party. These Terms of Reference will include as a first step the writing, and submission to the Borough Council, of the formal application for a Neighbourhood Area and for Neighbourhood Forum designation.

6. *Arrangements for Society AGM*

a. Society Constitution

A draft had been distributed, including some topics for discussion. This was reviewed paragraph by paragraph, as a result of which the following decisions were made:

- In paragraph 2(e), we will add improved amenities as an objective;
- In paragraph 5, the quorum will be changed to 50% of the committee membership, and reference to a minimum Committee size will be removed;
- In paragraph 7(a), we will refer to a Committee Report (rather than a Chairman's Report and a separate Secretary's Report as in the old Constitution);
- There is no need to refer to the 5-year existence of a Forum, or to refer to the Society by name as a Forum;
- We agreed that paragraph 5(h) should satisfy the Council Officer's queries about how the Forum will operate;
- We will add a Definition, as paragraph 1(a), relating the word "village" to the Neighbourhood Area if any;
- There is no need to introduce categories of membership;
- There is no need for any more details on financial management;
- We will add paragraphs on Dissolution and Declarations of Interest, adapted from the Dore Village Society constitution;
- On Conflict Resolution, there is no need to include anything in the Constitution, but we will include a paragraph in the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, based on the Torquay Neighbourhood Forum.

- b. Committee membership – BE will ask TH whether she intends to remain on the Committee. There was no immediate candidate to take over as Treasurer.

7. *Other village matters*

a. Top-of-the-Pond

The planting has been done, and it was agreed looks excellent. A plaque acknowledging the County Council grant has been ordered. The question of how to prevent puddles in the pedestrianised area will be discussed at a later meeting.

- b. The pond – BE had contacted the Borough Council about the undermining of the bank near the road – they will investigate. It was noted that silt further up the pond has partially been washed away by the winter flow, so action clearing this part is probably not now necessary, for the time being at least.

- c. Bins & Dog bins – **BE** has been trying, with great frustration and without success, to speak to the people in Dorset Waste Partnership to get action on seagull-proofing the rubbish bins by the pond, and on having extra dog bins emptied. He has spoken to the people on the waste lorry itself, but they are not willing to add an extra stop without proper approval. The Society would be happy in principle to pay a reasonable amount for the dog bins to be emptied. Actions continue.

8. *Village Events / Activities*

- a. Coffee mornings – It was suggested that there may well be a demand for a longer season for the coffee mornings. This will be considered at a later meeting.

- b. Jurassica presentation – This will be shelved as an idea until the autumn, by which time it should be clearer whether the project is going ahead.

- c. Summer events – Likely events include the Vegetable Show, Cream Teas, Scarecrow Competition, a summer Walk, and as a newcomer the very successful Pimms evening. These will be considered at the next Committee meeting, but in the meantime **BE** will identify likely dates and make provisional hall bookings.
9. *Communications*
 - a. Newsbites and Newsletters – The next Newsletter is due shortly.
10. *Other Village Activity reports*

No reports.
11. *Committee Reports*

No reports.
12. *Treasurer's Report*
 - a. The report had been tabled by email, showing a balance of £4672.83 was shown. It was agreed that we would recommend to the AGM that the subscription should now be described in the terms “£2 per person, with a maximum of £4 per household”. This will recognise a change to individual membership.
13. *Correspondence*

None.
14. *AOB*

BE noted that the Society will have its 50th Anniversary in 2018, and nearer the time some form of celebration should be considered. In the meantime, BE is working towards a History of the Society to be published in 2018. He suggested that we could also consider re-publishing Fredy Litschi's “Round and About Sutton Poyntz and Preston”. It was agreed that BE should approach Isolde Martyn to obtain permission. JC asked whether there was a village history that could be published including the History Group's more recent research.
15. *Date of next meeting*

The AGM is on the 13th April. The next scheduled Committee meeting is on 11th May, but it was agreed we should hold an additional meeting on 19th April. **BE** to try to book space at the pub.

Minutes agreed and approved :

Date: