

Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society Committee Meeting of 12th October 2016 at the Mission Hall.

1. *Present:* Mike Blee, John Sutherland, Bill Egerton, Hilary Davidson, Jill Kelsey, Sue Wintle, Jez Cunningham, Peter Dye, Jackie Greet, Chris Hubbard.
Apologies. Jacqui Atkinson, Peter Riley, Chris Balfe.
2. *Minutes of previous meeting*
The Minutes of the meeting on 14th September 2016 were agreed and signed.
3. *Additional items (new and repeat) not on the Agenda*
It was noted by HD that Lesley Wilson's mother had visited the village recently, and had expressed great delight at the Village Noticeboard with its plaque in memory of John and Lesley, and the surroundings of the Noticeboard.
4. *Neighbourhood Planning*
The second Neighbourhood Planning newsletter had been printed, and the Steering Group meeting next Tuesday will allocate responsibility for its distribution. The Newsletter represents the second round of formal consultation (the first round having been on the principle of writing a Neighbourhood Plan), and gives villagers a chance to say what they value about the village and what sort of topics they expect the Plan to cover. This consultation round includes an Open Session at the Mission Hall on Sunday 30th and Monday 31st October, where members of the Steering Group will be available to explain to villagers what a Neighbourhood Plan might contain.

The Steering Group have now arranged a training session for itself on the 24th October, using the Technical Support facility available to Neighbourhood Forums.

A budget has been prepared by the Steering Group, and used to submit an application for a grant. It was noted that the process used by the Steering Group had failed to match the requirements of the Terms of Reference, which require the budget to be agreed by the Society Committee (acting on behalf of the Society as Neighbourhood Forum). BE, as the Steering Group member who should have ensured correct liaison between the two bodies, gave his apologies. It was agreed that the budget would now be circulated (**Action BE**).

As a result, there was a discussion of the section of the Terms of Reference that deal with financial delegation. It was agreed that the Society Committee should still be asked by the Steering Group to ratify budgets for the Neighbourhood Plan project, on the basis that the grant application is submitted by the Society (as Neighbourhood Forum). It was agreed however that once the grant moneys have been received, the Steering Group should be given delegated powers to spend that money, in accordance with the agreed budget and the terms of the grant. It was noted that a change to the Terms of Reference would need to be drafted (**Action BE**) and agreed with the Steering Group.

When the grant is approved, we will need a bank account to receive the grant and to make payments on behalf of the Steering Group. The terms of the grant require that this bank account must be in the name of an incorporated body. The Directors of Sutton Poyntz Ltd were requested to create an SPLtd bank account for this purpose (**Action JS**).

It was noted that Katrina Blee (KB) had paid for the printing of the latest Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter, and needed to be reimbursed. It was agreed (proposed PD, seconded HD) that repayment should be from the Neighbourhood Plan grant if possible, but that if that is disallowed then the Society would reimburse KB from its own funds.

5. *Planning*

- a. WP/15/00081/FUL & WP/15/00088/FUL – Land off Plaisters Lane – The applicants have appealed against the Council’s refusal of these planning applications. It was noted that some people who had submitted representations on the original applications had not received notifications of the appeals.

It was agreed that we would submit a short representation confirming our previous objections, and pointing out that the village has now been formally approved as a Neighbourhood Area, has started work on a Neighbourhood Plan and is conducting its first round of consultation. It was agreed that there is no need to involve Richard Burgess in this.

- b. WP/CA/16/00125 – Felling 2 cypresses at Larachbeg, Puddledock Lane – This is just outside the village area, so it was agreed not to comment.
- c. WP/CA/16/00124 – Crown reduce cherry at 96 Sutton Road – It was agreed we could rely on the Trees Officer’s judgement.
- d. Springfield Cottage – The development plans had been turned down by the Council Officers without reference to the Council Planning Committee. BE had been approached by one of the cottage owners, concerned that the Society had made a representation without referring back to the applicants. After discussion, it was agreed that the Society’s policy ought to be that where applicants have approached us first, we should always let them know what our representation will say before the representation is submitted. BE will apologise to the owners.
- e. It was noted that plans for minor changes at 84 Sutton Road (ex Vic Hunt) were expected shortly.

6. *Sutton Poyntz Ltd*

The Land Registry have not heard anything further from Mr Skinner. Our original documents will now be recovered from the Land Registry (**Action BE**).

7. *Other village matters*

- a. The Pond, & History Board – No progress.
- b. Bins & Dog bins – No progress.

8. *Village Events / Activities*

- a. Coffee mornings

There were good numbers at the October Coffee Morning. John Newbould will bring Biodiversity Group material for presentation at the November Coffee Morning, but it was agreed that it is not necessary to have material on show each month. It is hoped that village-made bread will be available on sale in November.
- b. Winter events
 - BE’s History talk is arranged for 26th October. Caroline Crisp has arranged a talk on St Andrews Church (both the history and building), in March.
 - There was no new report on a talk on the NHS Consultation, but it is hoped that a talk on the Jurassica project might be possible in February or March.

9. *Communications*

It was agreed that Agendas for Society Committee meetings ought to be displayed on the Society noticeboards.

The next Newsletter will be distributed in December. Newsbites have been sent out recently with information on Weldmar’s proposed Open Gardens and two local events (curry evening at Mission Hall, and Scout Jumble Sale).

BE is looking into technology to allow the village website to carry survey forms, which would be useful for the Neighbourhood Plan consultation exercises.

10. *Other Village Activity reports*

A call will be made at the History Evening for volunteers to produce a Village History leaflet, based significantly on material on the village website.

11. *Committee Reports*

No reports.

12. *Society Constitution*

It was agreed that the draft amendment for the Society's Planning Policy, produced by PD, was excellent. It would be presented to the next AGM for ratification, and the principles will be used in the meantime in assessing planning applications with any economic impact. (The amendment is attached below).

13. *Treasurer's Report*

A report had been tabled by email, showing a balance of £4855.83 after payment of the insurance subscription (£323.40) and CPRE membership (£36).

BE handed over subscriptions collected in his area, and it was noted that membership was now almost exactly the same as last year.

14. *Correspondence*

The Secretary had received a Civic Society Newsletter.

15. *Any other business*

Jackie Greet expressed her willingness formally to join the Committee, and her cooption was agreed (proposed MB, seconded JS).

16. *Date of next meeting*

9th November.

Minutes agreed and approved :

Date:

POLICY 8: Sustain existing economic activity in the village and encourage new businesses where they create local employment or offer facilities supporting the community.

Economic well-being encompasses a number of factors, beyond the usual measures of household disposable income and employment. These include: access to services (such as doctors, education and local shops); communications (such as super-fast broadband); the condition of the neighbourhood; and community facilities.

Sutton Poyntz has traditionally featured a mixed economy and a diverse demography. Originally an agricultural community, the Jordan river supported milling as early as the fourteenth century while the waterworks has supplied Weymouth for over 150 years. Livestock and arable farming are still important but, increasingly, more varied activities have been introduced such as summer camping and honey farming. The number of businesses in the village has fallen over recent years, including the loss of Hunt's Timber Yard, but others, including the Sutton Poyntz Carriage Co and the Springhead public house continue to operate. The latter provides both employment and a focus for village social life. There are no convenience stores or shops in the village, but there are a number of self-employed businesses that offer a variety of services ranging from bed and breakfast to child-minding and dog-walking.

A successful and vibrant community requires a range of services, as well as a range of employment opportunities. Sutton Poyntz will not thrive if it excludes the young or those of working age. It is important, therefore, in planning future development that the wider needs of the village and villagers are addressed, particularly where they impact on economic well-being. An example of unwelcome development would be any change in the use of the Springhead public house or the Mission Hall. On the other hand, the opening of a convenience store in the village could benefit a community that currently has either to drive and walk over a mile to purchase basic essentials. As ever, a balance will need to be struck between protecting all that is good about Sutton Poyntz and meeting the existing and future economic needs of its inhabitants.