

**Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society Committee Meeting of 10th May 2017
at the Mission Hall.**

1. *Present:* Mike Blee, Terry Pegrum, Bill Egerton, Jackie Greet, Jill Kelsey, Jez Cunningham, Peter Riley, Chris Hubbard. Sue Wintle arrived later after attending an emergency Mission Hall Trust meeting.
Apologies: Liz Balfe, Peter Dye, Hilary Davidson
2. *Minutes of previous meeting*
The amended 8th February 2017 Minutes were signed. The Minutes for the meeting of 8th March were agreed with one change in Item 5b; revised Minutes will be circulated for signature at the June meeting. The draft AGM Minutes were reviewed, and it was agreed that they would be sent to the two Councillors present for their agreement, and then published on the village website, marked as Draft (**Action BE**).
3. *Additional items (new and repeat) not on the Agenda*
Budgeting was added as a new Item 5.
It was agreed to add two new items in Item 8: The Kissing Gate above Spring Bottom, and drainage for the Top of the Pond area.
The need for a Deputy Chair would be discussed after Correspondence.
4. *Neighbourhood Planning*
 - a. Update
BE reported on the Steering Group's 18th April meeting. A subgroup had been working on a "Place Appraisal" of the village, which would be a snapshot of how the village is now, and how it came to be like that. The other subgroups will then build on that in order to ascertain how villagers would like the village to develop in the future. This Place Appraisal subgroup had had quite a useful meeting with Nick Cardnell of the Borough Planning Office, who had provided links to some material that will be helpful.

A number of other subgroups will work at single topics that the first consultation identified as important to the village. It had been concluded that these subgroups could work in parallel with the Place Appraisal subgroup, spending their time initially working up more detailed questions for the next round of consultation. The list of topic subgroups at present was: Biodiversity and the Natural Environment; Employment, Business & Tourism; Heritage; Housing & Planning; Land Use & Conservation; Sports & Recreation; and Transport. At least one subgroup member had volunteered to join each of those subgroups, and further volunteers would be sought. In answer to a question, it was agreed that this list is not necessarily final, and it may be possible to reduce the number of subgroups.

The Steering Group had had correspondence with the Springhead Pub (concerned at rumours that the village might be about to propose development at the Springhead itself) and with one landowner. The Housing & Planning subgroup had been tasked to produce a strategy for consultation with all landowners, which would be done in a way that was entirely equal-handed.

A grant had been applied for and received, to cover the 6 months April to September. Support by our consultants to the Place Appraisal subgroup would be the first activity.

In answer to question, it was confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan referendum, when it happens, will consult with all those living in the Neighbourhood Area, not just with Society members.
 - b. Assets of Community Value
The main candidate assets are the Mission Hall and the Springhead pub. For various technical reasons the Waterworks field can probably be discounted as a candidate. Other features were

discussed, but without clear conclusion; these included footpaths, Margaret's Seat, and the pond.

The AGM had tasked the Committee to produce a list of candidate assets, with a short case for each one, so that the village can be consulted. PD would be asked whether he would be able to draft cases for the Mission Hall and Springhead.

c. Parish Council Statement

MB had been in contact with Ian Bruce and Stuart Caundle. From this, it appears that the Borough full Council will consider a report on the question of local government reorganisation for Dorset at its June meeting. We have a narrow window of opportunity to feed in proposals. It is expected that this will be followed by a period of public consultation, although it is likely that the General Election will delay progress.

It was agreed that we should hold a village meeting to hear experts on the matter, and to allow village discussion. Ian Bruce or Tony Ferrari will be asked to represent the Borough's views, and a representative of a local Parish Council (perhaps Broadmayne or Osmington) will be invited to give an overview of what parish status means. Hall availability will be checked in order to pick a suitable date. (**Action MB**).

5. *Budgeting*

MB noted various occasions when the Committee's budgeting of activities had not been very accurate, and as a result financial control had been weak. It was agreed by all that we need to be firmer in setting limits of liability for activities and in then controlling expenditure within those limits.

6. *Planning*

a. Tree maintenance

BE reported that he had been contacted by the Borough Trees Officer (Graham Cox), who noted that there had been some confusion about the application to fell an oak at Peveril, Plaisters Lane. The Planning Office had apparently written two almost simultaneous letters to the householder, one approving the felling and the second placing a Tree Preservation Order. Mr Cox, after checking, accepted that the Borough's website showed the application as approved and did not show the TPO. BE stated that the Committee had not responded on this application because the website showed it as already approved. If we had responded, we would have said our policy was for indigenous trees to be preserved if possible, with suitable replacement if felling was necessary.

BE had noted that the village was now doing a Neighbourhood Plan, out of which a village trees policy might emerge which could be given more weight. Graham Cox expressed an interest in being consulted by the Neighbourhood Plan subgroup; he noted that there was some view among Councillors that trees ought not to be protected, and the Neighbourhood Plan might be of some help in resisting this attitude.

On another matter, a second-hand report was received that some unapproved tree felling might have been done by the new resident at Limoncello (presumably unaware of the additional protection for trees in a Conservation Area). The Secretary will make the Borough Trees Officer aware of this (**Action BE**).

b. WP/17/00305/VOC Variation to Plot 7 at "Sutton Gate": This had been circulated before the meeting. It was agreed that while we continue to consider this site to have been over-developed, we would not oppose this fairly minor variation.

7. *Sutton Poyntz Ltd*

The Directors reported that they had held a short meeting earlier that evening, to appoint Terry Pegrum as a Director and to change the list of signatories for the SPLtd bank account.

At present, Society Committee members become members of the Limited Company for one year, after which their Limited Company membership needs renewal. It was agreed that this seemed unnecessary, and that the paperwork should be amended to make Limited Company membership continue for as long as the person is a Committee member. BE will provide revised membership forms at the next Committee meeting (**Action BE**).

8. *Other village matters*

- a. The Pond – cleanup – A successful cleanup on 18th March was noted.
- b. The Pond – History Boards – BE apologised that he had not been able to progress this. JK agreed to work with Caroline Crisp to draft material for a new History Board.
- c. Bins & Dog bins – It was agreed to drop the topic of dog bins. Ray Aggett had built a lid for one of the bins by the pond, but the design needed modification. (**Action continues**).
- d. Defibrillator – JC (and SW when she arrived later) reported that the Mission Hall Trust was meeting that evening to discuss the question of insurance cover for the defibrillator, should it be placed at the Mission Hall. While the insurers and the Diocese were happy in principle, there were some conditions that may be difficult to satisfy.

An alternative siting at the pub was now under investigation. It was agreed that the pub would be a better site if this could be achieved. (**Action continues**).

- e. Bus service – The new service (3 buses a day, Monday to Friday) will start shortly. It was agreed we could remove this topic from the Agenda, and await comments from villagers once the service is in place.
- f. Kissing Gate above Reservoir – It was noted that this is in poor condition. BE will contact Wessex Water (**Action BE**).
- g. Top of the Pond drainage – The area leading to the village noticeboard gets wet and muddy in poor weather. The main problem is the area of roadway immediately next to the village's land, and the Highways Authority will be contacted to see if they can do any work to improve this (**Action BE**).

9. *Village Events / Activities*

- a. Summer events: Dates have been set for the village walk (21 May, organised by Richard Backwell), Pimms Evening (8 July), Cream Teas (29 July, organised if possible by SW) and Vegetable Show (5 August, organised by BE). BE will discuss the Scarecrow event with Dave Martin, but in the expectation that it needs to be shelved for the time being. It had been noted that the Pimms Evening clashes with Weymouth's food festival, and an alternative date should be looked for (**Action BE**).
- b. John Willows retirement: It was reported that Guy Bridges, representing the Street Fayre, had been in contact with John and Sue Willows, who had suggested a pair of garden chairs. These were outside the budget that had been proposed, and Sue Willows had provided Guy Bridges with a blank cheque to cover the extra. There was some discomfort with the idea of making a gift that the recipient had partly paid for, but it was agreed that the Society would match whatever funding the Street Fayre agreed (**Action JC**).

10. *Communications*

A Newsletter had been distributed recently, mainly with a note on John Willows' career. Another Newsletter would be produced soon, and would include a list of summer dates.

11. *Other Village Activity reports*

No reports.

12. *Committee Reports*

It was noted that the Mission Hall Trust were organising a Picnic Lunch on the 6th August.

13. *Treasurer's Report*

TP noted that the accounts that had been produced in the past had not reported the loan to Sutton Poyntz Ltd in a way that satisfied good accountancy standards. He proposed to change the way this was reported.

It was agreed that the full monthly expenditure and income report provided to the Committee was unnecessarily detailed, and the Treasurer will produce a shorted verbal summary in future.

14. *Correspondence*

A letter of thanks for our donation had been received from the British Heart Foundation.

A letter had been received from the Borough Trees Officer confirming that the Peveril Tree Preservation Order had been rescinded (item 6a above).

Two CPRE newsletters had been received.

15. *Deputy Chair*

MB noted that he would not be present for the June meeting, and also that his 3-year tenure as Chairman ends next year. He suggested that the Committee might like to consider appointing a Deputy Chair. In the meantime, PD would be asked if he would chair the next meeting (**Action MB**).

16. *Date of next meeting*

Wednesday 14th June in the Mission Hall.

Minutes agreed and approved:

Date: