



Sutton Poyntz Society

Society AGM – April 12th 2017

Agenda

1. Chairman's opening remarks
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 2016 AGM (attached)
4. Matters Arising
5. Annual Report (attached)
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Sutton Poyntz Ltd report
8. Neighbourhood Planning
 - a. Report of Steering Group progress
 - b. Debate on Parish Council status for Sutton Poyntz
 - c. Debate on "Assets of Community Value"
9. Society Planning Policy – Adoption of proposed modification (see over)
10. Election of Officers and Committee;
appointment of Independent Financial Examiner
11. Any Other Business

After completion of business, there will be refreshments, and an opportunity to see (again for some of you) the video of Sutton Poyntz taken by Ron Waite (publican at the Springhead) in the 1950's and 60's.

Planning Policy The Committee proposes to add the following text to the Society Planning Policy, in recognition of the Society's responsibility since last AGM to promote the economic wellbeing of the village as well as its social and environmental wellbeing:

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.

The following will be added to the list of Policies in the Executive Summary on Page 1 of the Planning Policy:

8. *Encouragement of economic activity that provides employment or facilities.*