

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

1. *Present:* Mike Blee, Terry Pegrum, Bill Egerton, Peter Riley, Peter Dye, Jez Cunningham, Jackie Greet, Liz Balfe, Chris Hubbard.
Apologies. Sue Wintle, Jill Kelsey, Hilary Davidson.
2. *Minutes of previous meeting*
The Minutes for the meeting of 6th December were agreed and signed.
3. *Additional items (new and repeat) not on the Agenda*
Two items were added to item 5; a further discussion of the Land north of Morlands application and an item on the Local Plan Review.
4. *Neighbourhood Planning*

- a. Update

The formal closing date for the Stage 2 Survey and Housing Needs Survey had been reached, although late returns were still being received and accepted. The latest count for the main survey was reported to be around 230, which was thought to be a fantastic success. Returns had been slow to arrive, and there had been a time when it was feared the survey would fall short of being representative, but with a last minute flurry those fears had proved completely unnecessary.

Analysis would now start, with teams transcribing from the forms, and all forms being checked by other Steering Group members. PD urged that the process of analysis needed to include some form of independent audit; the Steering Group would be asked for reassurance on how probity in the process would be demonstrated [**Action BE**].

In passing, TP asked for information about the history of the Development Boundary alongside Plaisters Lane. He had seen an old Local Plan map that he believed showed a different boundary to that currently in force, but had not been able to find any information about when or why the boundary had been changed. BE offered to check in the Society archive to see if he could find anything relevant.

- b. Possible National Park designation for Dorset AONB

BE had reported by email on his very interesting discussion with Sandra Brown of the local National Park team. It was agreed that this was a topic that ought to be brought to the attention of the membership for a decision on the Society's attitude at the AGM. Sandra Brown would be contacted again, to see if the National Park project could provide a speaker for the Society AGM on the 11th April [**Action BE**].

5. *Planning*

- a. WP/CA/18/00002 – Tree felling at Littlecot – After discussion, it was agreed that we would make a comment pointing out the Society and Local Authority policies for replacement where felling is necessary, but leave judgement of the case to the Trees Officer. There was some discussion of the existing Society policy relating to tree preservation, but it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan would in any case produce a democratically agreed new Policy, so in the meantime the Society Policy should stand.

There was also some discussion on whether the Society could do more to retain a good stock of trees in and around the village by encouraging or even funding the planting of new trees where landowners are willing. This proposal would be discussed further at a later meeting.

- b. Land north of Morlands – Some members expressed the opinion that the Chairman, as a condition of their office, ought not to submit personal representations that contradicted the Society's published view. There was a lengthy discussion on this, with the Committee divided in their views – some believing that the Chairman's personal freedom of action ought to be

constrained and others opposed to such a restriction. This topic was related to the wider issue of responsibilities, duties and conduct of the Committee as a whole. No conclusion was reached at the meeting, and it was agreed that the topic would be discussed again at the next meeting.

- c. Local Plan Review – MB and BE reported that the Local Authority had recently published a report on the recent Issues and Options Consultation. This report had misrepresented the Society's response on the question of Development Boundaries; the report had said quite wrongly that we had asked for the Development Boundary to be reviewed. This paragraph of the report had listed a number of bodies and Councils who were said to have asked for Development Boundaries to be reviewed, but on checking not one of the listed bodies had made any such proposal. We had therefore written to the Local Authority, with copies to the other bodies, asking for the report to be corrected.

6. *Sutton Poyntz Ltd*

The SPLtd accounts for the year ending June 2017 need to be prepared for submission in March [Action TP].

It was agreed that the question of converting SPLtd to a Community Interest Company would be submitted to the Society AGM for agreement, with a Committee recommendation to go ahead. There was a very slight risk from the fact that if we go for CIC status and later close the Company, the Top of the Pond land would have to be sold to the highest bidder, but it was agreed the risk to the village from this was tiny.

7. *Other village matters*

- a. The Pond – History Boards – No progress by the Neighbourhood Plan Heritage subgroup.
- b. Top of the Pond drainage – LB reported that she was trying to arrange a site meeting with Tony Harding.
- c. Ideas for telephone box – No progress.
- d. Bench near Brookmead – JC reported that the back of the bench needs replacement as well as the seat. A replacement seat is ready and waiting to be fitted, but timber for the back will need to be bought. [Action JC].

8. *Village Events / Activities*

- a. Coffee Mornings: The January coffee morning was attended by 35 people, with a profit of £44.51. The February Coffee Morning will have a Neighbourhood Watch stand; it was suggested the March one might be an opportunity for Neighbourhood Plan survey results to be on display.
- b. History Evening: Caroline Crisp is in discussions with John Willows about a possible talk on the history of the Waterworks.

9. *Communications*

- a. Newsletters & Newsbites: The next Newsletter was in progress, for distribution in February.

It was agreed a membership form will be produced, to collect more complete information including names and email addresses, so allowing more complete distribution of Newsletters and Newsbites.

- b. Welcome Leaflet: This needs updating and reprinting; the latest soft copy will be sought [Action BE].

10. *Other Village Activity reports*

No reports.

11. *Committee Reports*

No reports

12. *Treasurer's Report*

- a. TP had distributed a report before the meeting, showing coffee morning income of £92. It was reported that the Neighbourhood Plan expenditure of £300 for a traffic speed survey had been disallowed by the Grant administrators; this would therefore need to be a cost to the Society. This left a Society cash/current account balance of £2733.14.

Neighbourhood Plan costs totalling £1749.82 are currently debited to the Society, but will be reimbursed when the Grant money is received (which should be imminently). This sum of £1749.82 is made up of the costs itemised in the previous Minutes, less the £300 speed survey cost, plus a latest invoice of £220 from Brian Wilson Associates. The present reduced balance is therefore £983.32.

- b. PD had asked for a discussion of a situation that had arisen in which two members had been banned from the pub. Not all the details were known, and such details as were to hand would not be minuted, but PD urged, with unanimous agreement, that the situation was bad for the reputation of all the involved parties and potentially bad for the Society by association with one of the parties. It was agreed that the Society would attempt to broker an amicable solution, in the first instance by approaching the pub joint tenants to stress the damage such a situation could cause and to see if an acceptable way forward could be found [**Action MB**].

13. *Correspondence*

None.

14. *Date of next meeting*

Wednesday 14th February in the Mission Hall. The Secretary was requested to see if it would be possible to move the meeting to 7th February [**Action BE**].

Minutes agreed and approved:

Date: