

Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society Committee Meeting of 7th February 2017 at the Mission Hall.

1. *Present:* Mike Blee, Terry Pegrum, Bill Egerton, Jill Kelsey, Hilary Davidson, Jackie Greet, Sue Wintle, Peter Riley, Peter Dye, Jez Cunningham.
Apologies: Chris Hubbard, Liz Balfe.
2. *Minutes of previous meeting*
The Minutes for the meeting of 10th January were discussed. The report of Item 5b was incorrect, as was the venue of the meeting. Revised Minutes will be distributed, for agreement at the next meeting [**Action BE**].
3. *Additional items (new and repeat) not on the Agenda*
Three items were added to the Agenda; a further discussion of the role of the Committee and Chair, added as Item 4, a personal issue added as Item 5 (moving it from Item 13a of the Agenda), and feedback on the Local Plan Review added in the Planning section.
4. *Role of Chairman and Committee*
TP pointed out that at present there is no Code of Conduct for Committee members; he suggested it was illogical that the Steering Group, as a sub-unit of the Society, had a Code of Conduct, but the Society itself did not. He tabled the Local Authority Code of Conduct, for Councillors and Officers, as a possible basis for a Society document. It was agreed that this would be circulated, along with the Steering Group Terms of Reference (although PD pointed out that the latter document had some weaknesses that ought to be addressed). It was agreed that TP would draft a possible Code of Conduct, to be tabled and discussed at the next meeting [**Action TP**].

It was agreed that no action would be taken at present to constrain the freedom of independent action of the Chairman or other Committee members, until a Code of Conduct had been agreed by an AGM. MB expressed his view that he would not have taken the job of Chairman if it had involved constraints of personal freedom of the sort being discussed; he wondered whether any candidate would be found under those circumstances. MB offered his resignation if that was what the Committee wished; the Committee urged that he needed to do what he thought right, and in the end all were happy that MB should continue to the end of his term in April, at which point MB said that in any case he intended to resign from the Committee.

On a related matter, JC expressed disquiet at the planning role of the Society, which he saw as very divisive. He personally had not joined the Committee for that purpose, but to try to improve the village as a social unit. There was some support for this view. It was noted that this sort of discussion on the Society's role had taken place several times in the Society's history, and also that the existence of a Neighbourhood Plan might allow the Society to relinquish any role in planning administration, focusing on social development and on planning policy.

5. *Member's personal issue*
MB reported that he had approached the pub about the banning of a Society member. They had stated that the matter had nothing whatever to do with Goadsby's, and was an entirely personal issue between the pub licensees and the individual member. A meeting had been arranged between them for Monday 12th.
6. *Neighbourhood Planning*
 - a. Update
BE reported that the Stage 2 Survey had had a good response, with 269 responses to the main survey from a village of 242 households and an adult population of just over 400. 31 Housing Needs Survey forms had been completed, but returns had only been asked for from households with some near-term need.

A Survey Analysis subgroup had been created to perform the detailed analysis of the results,

collect together all the comments that had been included in the Survey forms, and compile a Newsletter to report back to the village. At the same time, each of the focus topic Subgroups were now assessing the results in their own area in order to move forward to the drafting of chapters of the Neighbourhood Plan document itself.

A revision of the Place Appraisal document will be started shortly, updating it and absorbing the comments made in the Survey responses.

Finally, consultation letters had been sent to all landowners owning land outside the Development Boundary. About 10 responses had been received so far, and these would all be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting.

b. Financial delegation

The question of the £300 expenditure by the Steering Group on a traffic survey, disallowed from our grant application, was discussed. The Society had already agreed to absorb this cost, but there was disquiet at the way the cost had been committed. It was concluded that a better process was needed to ensure such a situation could not recur, with tighter Financial Delegation terms written into the Steering Group's Terms of Reference. In particular, expenditure should not be committed by the Steering Group where there was any doubt about its being grant-fundable; this would include all expenditure between the end of one grant period and approval being received for the next grant, and also any expenditure where there was some risk of the cost being bounced. The Terms of Reference would be redrafted to require the Steering Group to seek the Society Committee's approval under such circumstances.

7. *Planning*

a. WP/17/00963/FUL – Single storey extension at Cherrytree Cottage – It was agreed that this complied with Society planning policy, and was an enhancement. Support.

b. WP/CA/18/00024 – Fell beech at Timberline – Already approved by the Council.

c. Local Plan Review – BE had emailed the Council requesting a change to the report that misrepresented one of our responses to the Local Plan consultation. We had received support from two of the other bodies who had been similarly misrepresented. The Council had not offered any action in their response, and a further request would be send [**Action BE**].

d. Land north of Morlands – HD asked for an explanation of the Newsbite that had been sent out advising members of the change of closing date for representations on this planning application. MB explained that he had been asked by two members for this publicity, and had checked with BE. The two had concluded that as a simple unbiased statement of fact it was probably acceptable, but the Committee view was that it should have gone to the whole Committee for a decision.

8. *Sutton Poyntz Ltd*

SPLtd accounts for the year ending June 2017 were distributed. The Directors would meet in order to approve the accounts in time to submit them to Companies House.

9. *AGM arrangements*

Two representatives of the Dorset National Park body will attend, to brief members about the proposal.

It was agreed that refreshments would be offered. Business would include changes to the Constitution to include a Code of Conduct, and CIC status for SPLtd.

10. *Other village matters*

a. The Pond – History Boards – No progress by the Neighbourhood Plan Heritage subgroup.

b. Top of the Pond drainage – The planned meeting had not happened, and had not yet been rescheduled.

- c. Ideas for telephone box – No progress.
- d. Bench near Brookmead – No progress.
- e. Defibrillator – Work at the pub had made the Defibrillator hard to access. The pub will be asked about this [**Action BE**].
- f. Millennium Oaks – These had had some damage during recent agricultural work. The Lunns would be contacted to ask to make sure it does not happen again [**Action BE**].

11. *Village Events / Activities*

- a. Coffee Mornings: The February coffee morning made a profit of £42.01. After discussion it was agreed not to change the entry charge.
- b. History Evening: John Willows will give a talk on the history of the Waterworks at the Mission Hall on 21st March.
- c. Social events: HD suggested the idea of village film nights, as happens regularly at Cerne Abbas. She will investigate the cost [**Action HD**].

12. *Communications*

- a. Newsletters & Newsbites: No report.
- b. Welcome Leaflet: No progress.

13. *Other Village Activity reports*

No reports.

14. *Committee Reports*

It was noted that the Mission Hall had new switches for the electric heaters, replacing the old switches that were not of the right type.

15. *Treasurer's Report*

TP had distributed a report before the meeting, showing coffee morning income of £42. The balance at present was £1025.33, but the Neighbourhood Plan grant income had now been received by SPLtd, and the Society would shortly be reimbursed expenditures totalling £1749.82, leaving a balance of £2775.15.

16. *Correspondence*

BE stated that he had received a phone call and then a letter from Mike Pressly, expressing concern at the decision made by the Society Committee on the planning application for land north of Morlands. Mr Pressly expressed surprise that the Society's Planning Policy did not include the development boundary as a criterion for assessing applications, and suggested that the AGM would be an opportunity to review the Policy, particularly in the light of responses to the Neighbourhood Plan survey. BE was actioned to draft a response to Mr Pressly, for approval by email by the Committee [**Action BE**].

In addition, BE reported correspondence with Mrs Irene Brierley, concerning the same planning application. BE had been alerted to the representation submitted by Don Brierley, which had misquoted the Society's own representation. BE had visited the Brierleys, to ask if Don might consider altering that part of his representation. Mr Brierley had been out, but BE had discussed the matter with Mrs Brierley, who had then written to BE accusing the Committee of trying to interfere with comments by members of the public. The Committee view was strongly that BE had taken action beyond his remit, and that had he brought the matter to the Committee first, their decision would have been to take no action and to let the matter rest. BE was now actioned to draft a letter of apology to Mrs Brierley, to be approved by email by the Committee [**Action BE**].

Other correspondence had been received from Wessex Water about the water works on Preston Road and Sutton Road. Copies of the correspondence with Mr Skinner were handed to BE by TP

for filing.

17. *Date of next meeting*

Wednesday 14th March in the Mission Hall.

Minutes agreed and approved:

Date: