

Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society AGM

held at the Mission Hall 7.30 pm Wednesday 10 April 2019 - Bill Egerton in the chair

1. Talk by Peter Broatch: Peter Broach gave an interesting and informative talk on the challenges of farming in the 21st century, with particular reference to his own experience not only of local farming but of diversification into allowing camping on his fields during the summer. He was thanked by Bill Egerton to warm applause.

Refreshments were then served before the AGM.

2. Chair's opening remarks: Bill Egerton welcomed the 43 villagers to the meeting and provided an outline of what was to take place. He commented that no-one had stood for the Chair in the last year, so no election had taken place. At each committee meeting a committee member had volunteered as acting Chair, usually Hillary Davidson or Jill Kelsey. He introduced Andy Hohne as current co-opted treasurer, and noted that he, Bill, was the last elected officer still on the committee.

3. Apologies: received from Chris Balfe, Erica Ferrari, Liz and John Newbould.

4. Previous Minutes: the minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 11 April 2018 had been distributed before the meeting, and were accepted on the proposal of Peter Dye, seconded by Barbara Harrison.

5. Annual Report: The Committee Report had been distributed prior to the AGM.

Bill Egerton thanked the committee for its activities throughout the year; our local councillors, especially Tony Ferrari, for obtaining the grant for improvement works around the pond; those who formed the pond working party; those who updated the telephone box for use by villagers and visitors; Chris Hubbard for the Newsletters, Newsbites and committee minutes; all 24 of the Neighbourhood Plan Team for their considerable achievement in preparing the plan, with special mention of Katrina Blee, Peter Dye and Colin Marsh;

Peter Dye stated that the Neighbourhood Forum was disbanded as of 1 April 2019 and with the local government reorganisation the Plan now has no sponsor. It is believed that the 'new' town council following the elections would be keen to see the plan progress. However Weymouth Town Council will then effectively be a 'parish' and it is not possible to have the 'parish' of Sutton Poyntz within another parish, This means that the Town Council will have to take legal advice as to who is eligible to vote on the plan. He also thanked all those who helped, contributed and provided feedback during the creation of the plan.

Rita Riley proposed that the annual report be adopted, seconded by Caroline Crisp and carried.

6. Matters arising from Minutes and Annual Report: there were none

7. Treasurer's Report: as attached to the meeting information pack. Andy Hohne thanked his predecessor, Terry Pegrum, for his work as Treasurer and also John Bellis for acting as Account Examiner.

7 (a) Society accounts

Andy Hohne then outlined the main points of the SP Society Accounts. Despite an increase in insurance premiums to ensure we are correctly insured, a surplus of £633 was achieved. Major income came from two grants. Firstly just over £6000 from the Council, which was spent on work around the pond, including drainage, wall repairs, material trim to the trees, and reed clearance. Secondly £700 from Wessex Water for a new bench at the beacon. Additional work included bench repair and refurbishment of the telephone box. The loan shown to SP Ltd (now the SP Community Interest Company SPCIC) was long term, prompting a comment from the floor that might it be fruitful to bring the Society and CIC together. A counter argument was mooted, that it could be useful for the Society to have prior claim on the asset. The sum of £379 shown as Creditors due within 1 year was caution against some of the grant money not being spent in the timeframes allowed.

7 (b) Sutton Poyntz CIC Accounts

Andy Hohne reported that it had been necessary to change the form of the company in order to purchase the telephone box, so the CIC now owns the Top of the Pond land and the Telephone box. In response to a question from the floor he said that any future spend on either would be via the SP Society. It was noted that past decisions of the Directors carry forward because the company is the same one, with the same reference number and the same Directors. He concluded by indicating that the annual subscriptions were now due and he would be happy to accept them immediately. It was proposed by Peter Dye and seconded by Peter Jones that the Treasurer's Report be adopted, which proposition was carried.

8. Society Constitution and Policies

8 (a) Proposal to adopt Data Protection Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy and Code of Conduct.

The DPP describes how the Society will use the subscriber data that it holds. It was proposed by Bill Davidson and seconded by David Burge that the DPP be adopted, which proposition was carried.

An EOP was required by the Council before awarding the grant. It was proposed by Bill Davidson and seconded by Maureen Morris that the EOP be adopted, which proposition was carried.

It was thought appropriate for the Society to adopt the Neighbourhood Forum CoC. It was proposed by Hilary Davidson and seconded by John Bellis that the CoC be adopted, which proposition was carried.

8 (b) Proposal to approve changes to Society Constitutions

8 (b) 1 Planning: Bill Egerton outlined the effect of the proposed changes. John Sutherland asked whether, as the Society would no longer be involved in matters of planning, and conservation, it would lose its main purpose. Bill Egerton replied that only planning applications would not be covered, which gathered support from the floor, Roger Greet suggesting that it must be difficult for the Committee to deal with planning. Maureen Morris wondered how proposed building work could be divorced from its effect on the environment. Views for and against were aired, culminating in a proposal by Mike Dodd that the deletions be accepted, seconded by Roger Greet. A vote was taken with 21 for the proposal, 3 against, the remainder abstentions.

8 (b) 2 Identification of key aspects of village: Bill Egerton outlined the effect of the proposed changes. It was proposed by Tony Ferrari and seconded by Jackie Greet that the changes be adopted, which proposition was carried.

8 (b) 3 Fund Raising: Bill Egerton outlined the effect of the proposed changes. It was proposed by Peter Riley and seconded by Roger Greet that the changes be adopted, which proposition was carried.

8 (b) 4 Sutton Poyntz Ltd: Bill Egerton outlined the effect of the proposed changes. It was proposed by Shirley Davies and seconded by Peter Jones that the changes be adopted, which proposition was carried.

8 (b) 5 Society Policies: Bill Egerton outlined the effect of the proposed changes. It was proposed by Peter Dye and seconded by Hilary Davidson that the changes be adopted, which proposition was carried.

8 (b) 6 Declaration of Interest: Bill Egerton outlined the effect of the proposed changes. John Sutherland suggested that the Chair should be able to invite anyone to speak, and suggested an amendment "... he or she shall not discuss such item (except by invitation of the Chairman) and he or she shall not vote thereon." The amendment, which superseded the originally proposed change, was proposed by John Sutherland and seconded by John Crisp, which proposition was carried.

9. Election of Officers and Committee and appointment of Independent Financial Examiner.

It was noted that Tony Pegrum had resigned as Treasurer during the year, and Bill Egerton was retiring as of the AGM. The remaining committee members Jez Cunningham, Hilary Davidson, Jackie Greet, Jill Kelsey and Peter Riley, plus those co-opted during the year - Chris Balfe, David Burge, Shirley Davies, Marianna Dodd, Andy Hohne and Linda Kirkpatrick - were willing to stand again. There was no volunteer for the remaining place on the Committee. It was proposed by Roger Greet and seconded by Peter Dye that the Committee as extant be elected en bloc, which proposition was carried.

A request for a volunteer for Chairman was answered by Hilary Davidson, who was proposed by Maureen Morris, seconded by Peter Dye and the proposition carried.

Andy Hohne volunteered to undertake the joint offices of Treasurer and Secretary. This was proposed by Bill Egerton, seconded by Shirley Davies and the proposition carried.

John Bellis volunteered to continue as the Independent Financial Examiner, was proposed by Jackie Greet, seconded by Dave Burge and the proposition carried.

In answer to a query from the floor it was stated that the SPCIC has a limited liability of £1.

10. Any Other Business

John Crisp thanked Bill Egerton for his excellent work as Chair of the meeting, and for ten years of sterling service on Committee, many of them as Secretary. John said that in that time Bill had seen through many changes and dealt with difficult problems, had set up the village website and had worked tirelessly behind the scenes, always with panache, humour and great competence. Much warm applause greeted his words. A member questioned whether the defibrillator was in the correct place, although it had been readied for use on a number of occasions already. Locating it in the telephone box had logistical problems, so more notices indicating its present position should be displayed, this to be an action discussed at the next Committee meeting.

The Committee accepted an action to investigate the possibility of obtaining Christmas decorations for the village.

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm

Minutes agreed and approved:

H. Davidson

Date: 8.4.19