

Minutes of the meeting of the SPS Committee – Monday 4 June 2007
at ‘Wyndings’ - Simon Emblen in the Chair

1. Apologies – John Sutherland, Joyce Litschi, Peter Riley.
Present - Simon Emblen, John Bellis, Tony Heathershaw (Acting Secretary), Tony Bugler, Peter Jones, Mike Haine, Karen Phillips, John Crisp
2. The minutes of the meeting of 23rd April were approved and signed.
3. Matters arising: -
 - Continuing:
 - TB reported no progress with contacting Mark Fernyhaugh re. plaque that had fallen from the Old Court House. It was suggested that this be placed lower than before with the lettering painted in to make it easier to read. (Post meeting note by TH: Fernyhaughs no longer own this property. Need to contact new owners) **Action TB** - to contact M Fernyhaugh.
 - SE reported that he had discussed the “Village Green” issue with M Tepper.
 - PJ reported that SPS was not represented at the CPRE seminar on “Parish Problems” held on 8 May 07 due to members’ other commitments (Item 11.a minutes of 23 Apr 07 meeting refers.)
4. Committee Sub groups
The Mission Hall trust (SE) – no report. Next meeting 13th June.
The Environmental Partnership (SE) –Next meeting will be in Sep 07. (See AOB re. notice of meeting passed to SE).
Civic Society (TB) – no meeting report but TB in contact re. SPS liability insurance (see later).
5. Conservation and Environment Working Group Report
Village Plan (VP) - TH reported that the VP steering group now had a working draft of the village plan document and that this was discussed at their meeting on 29 May 07. The group will meet again on 19 Jun 07 and feel confident that they can meet their Sep 07 date for completion. Statistical data has been checked for consistency and details of the action plan are now being completed. Chair (M Tepper) had been in touch with W&PBC and DCC to ensure that the village plan aligned with Borough and County initiatives. Work was in progress to investigate publication costs. It is intended that the plan have limited distribution but that its availability be publicised widely.
Conservation – TH noted that there had been no further progress with getting the Mill Pond willows cut back. At present, these almost totally obscure the view of the far end of the pond from the bridge and weir. TH suggested that it might be worth contacting the Environment Agency – who are now responsible for the management of the watercourse – to obtain their views concerning siltation from falling leaves and other debris. TH explained that no work was possible until W&PBC and Southern Electric resolve the problem of power cables crossing the pond through the trees. TH reported that he had been contacted by M Morris requesting that action be taken to tidy up the area around the pond. **Action** - pending
6. Liability Insurance
TB reported that he had been in touch with Probus, the Osmington Society and Weymouth Civic. Their policy requirements did not match SPS needs exactly – the Society requiring cover for working parties and clean-up teams - so it was difficult to compare costs. Probus’ premium was £50 p.a. (mainly meetings) whereas PJ had obtained quotes of £300-400 p.a. from David Upshalls for a more comprehensive policy covering meetings and the types of activity envisaged by the Society. PJ had also approached Stirling Insurance but they do not deal with community projects. JB had obtained a quote of £210 p.a. from Norwich Union. It seems that many of the organisations approached have policies underwritten by Morton Mitchell, obtained through various brokers (including Upshalls). PJ would continue to discuss requirements with Upshalls to negotiate more favourable terms (closer to the £140 p.a. policy secured by the village plan steering group for their activities). **Action PJ** – to continue discussions with Upshalls and others as appropriate.
7. Planning Matters –
 - Committee noted article in Echo concerning the proposed development at ‘Brookberry’ and ‘The Weald’ – which contained somewhat derogatory remarks concerning the Society. Decided no action to be taken.
 - It was noted that this development had now been approved with a reduced number of dwellings (4) – as recommended by SPS, but that no account had been taken of the Society’s recommendation that plot 2 (adjacent to Sutton Rd) rather than plot 1, be thatched, making the pleasant thatch work more visible on entry to the village.

- Myrtle Cottage – Application withdrawn
- 64 Sutton Road – Approved – but amended with retaining wall and extended patio at rear contained within the development boundary. W&PBC confirmed that applicant owns the land in question and that the Environment Agency had not objected regarding flooding.

8. Social Events

Cream Teas - To take place on 18 Aug 07 (11 Aug clashes with Owermoigne Street Fair). KP to contact Sara Knight and Maureen Morris concerning last year's arrangements. KP to progress, with support from committee members/others as required. PJ apologies – not available 18 Aug. Noted that Orchard would need tidying up prior to the event. **Action KP** - to contact S Knight and M Morris

Walks – Thursday 31st May walk enjoyed by all. Next walk July – date t.b.c. **Action MH** - to liaise with Richard Backwell.

It was noted that the Mission Hall Trust have a BBQ organised for 14 July 07 and Medieval Evening arranged for 9 Sep 07 – t.b.c.)

9. Treasurer's Report

JB reported receipt of £30 subs from AGM. No other subs received (but see below). SPS had gross funds available of £3644.36, which includes balance of Village Plan funds of £370.56 and £400 set aside for the plan, making net funds available of £2873.80.

KP passed in £38 subs collected from members in her area. One member had declined to renew membership.

10. Correspondence - None to report – Sec SPS not present.

11. AOB

a. SE brought up the item to do with dog fouling and the proposal from an SPS member to locate more dog litter bins/boxes in village (see Agenda item 10). Agreed to pursue matter with W&PBC, regarding provision of proper dog litter bins, their siting and their collection, before proceeding with any 'home grown' solutions. **Action SE** - to contact W&PBC.

b. MH noted that someone had been living rough in the field behind Hunts Timber Building yard in White Horse Lane. Other committee members had seen the same individual elsewhere in the village. It was reported that he might now have left the area.

c. JC asked that committee members promulgate information concerning the scarecrow competition that will take place in the week before the vegetable show in August. Chris Hubbard had already been made aware and it was suggested that JC also approach the Register to advertise the event there.

d. KP expressed concern about the developments at 64 Sutton Rd (see above) but was assured that these would not affect her property.

e. TB was concerned about the wash-pool notice outside the waterworks and that this was no longer visible. TH noted that this area was heavily overgrown with weeds and other vegetation. Might be suitable task for village clean-up team.

f. TH had been approached by Graham Embley who wished to join the Society. TH noted that GE lives outside the area but SE stated that there was a precedent for this and that the SPS constitution and rules permitted it. It was agreed that GE be admitted. **Action TH** - to collect initial sub.

g. SE brought up the matter of heavy lorries and coaches now using Plaisters Lane apparently in contravention of the vehicle width restrictions notices in place. It would appear that vehicles are being directed along these routes by satellite navigation systems. Width restriction signs are poorly placed to prevent this (both in Plaisters Lane, Sutton Rd and beyond) – vehicles finding themselves already committed to narrow roads with no turning places, before the signs are encountered.

Action Sec SPS to contact Borough and County authorities drawing attention to matter and seeking resolution.

h. SE mentioned that he had received notification via the Environmental Partnership of the showing of Al Gore's controversial film 'An Inconvenient Truth' – a film about climate change – at the Weymouth Pavillion Ocean room at 7 p.m. on Thursday 14th June 2007. Entrance is free and the Society is asked to publicise the event as widely as possible. **Action All**

12. Date of next meeting – 9 July at The Old Stables, 86 Sutton Rd, **starting at 7.45 p.m.**

Thanks were given to Simon and Dot Emblen for their hospitality. The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

Minutes agreed and approved



Date

9-7-07