



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society AGM

Meeting held at the Mission Hall 7.30 pm Wednesday 16th April 2008; Simon Emblen in the chair – 45 members attending.

- 1) **Apologies** - Mr & Mrs Newbould, Mr & Mrs Pressly, Mr & Mrs Wynne-Williams, Mrs Allen, Mrs Morris, Mr Litschi, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Bellis, Mr & Mrs Haine.
- 2) **Previous minutes** - The minutes of the AGM held on 20th April 2007 (previously tabled) were approved. Proposed Mrs Litschi and seconded Mr Jones.
- 3) **Matters arising** – Mr Riley enquired on the state of the tree pruning around the pond – to be reported on later in the meeting. There were no other matters arising.
- 4) **Chairman's report** - The Chairman, Mr Simon Emblen, reported that he had enjoyed his 15 years service to the Committee – 10 years as Treasurer and 5 as Chairman. He commented on the successful appeal rejection of the Bourne Leisure planning application and warned that he thought we should be vigilant on other expansion plans both there and at the Waterside caravan site. He felt that the major areas of concern for the village were over development and possible flood risks. He complimented Peter Jones, Tony Heathershaw and Maureen Tepper on their completion of the Village Plan and pointed out that it had been accepted by both the District and Borough Councils. He reminded the meeting that the Committee had responded to the consultation requests for both the LDF and Community plan during the year – but advised that the Committee was not submitting a Society view on the Pavilion or Town Centre consultation request leaving each member to respond as required. He finally thanked Mrs Emblen for her patience during his 15 years of attention to the Society business.
- 5) **Secretary's report** – The Secretary, Mr John Sutherland, advised that the committee had collected subscriptions from 185 members last year. The committee had met 10 times with an 81% attendance record. Mr Heathershaw resigned from the committee in Sept, following completion of the Village Plan. Mr Crisp and Mr Embley had been co-opted onto the committee in June and Aug. The Society had handled some 111 items of correspondence with 82 items received and 29 despatched – around one third of the correspondence was with the W&PBC. In addition there had been numerous telephone calls and e-mails. Most of the correspondence relating to planning was effected by e-mail.
Over the last year, Richard Backwell led two walks. The evening walk at West Knighton was attended by 20 on a lovely evening; the day walk on Portland attracted only 12 (and a 1 dog) due to inclement weather.
The committee has been keeping aware of activities at Ewelease Farm, Osmington where camping encroached onto the coast path in previous years – and a drinking and entertainment licence had been requested. It was noted that there appears to be no requirement for the licensing authority to consult with local interests.
In the local environment, David Emery (and helpers) has been keeping a maintenance watch on the pond and we have managed to get the Local council to trim some of the trees around the pond where they do not impinge upon the power lines. The Committee had met with our local councillors in November to stress our views on the consultation phase of the Borough LDF and Community Plan. Mr Aggett has provided a replacement dog bin together with a new one – a recommendation for a site is required to suit irresponsible dog owners.
Cream teas got cancelled last year due to a power cut – but the coffee morning in Feb was well attended.

A sub committee of four, led by Peter Jones has reviewed planning matters. All planning applications within the village are considered – with some outside, like the footpaths (Nos 18 and 19 through Weymouth Bay) to the beach.

Report back to members is via meetings (eg the AGM), the five Newsletters issued throughout the year and our Web site. A New Residents handout has been produced to introduce the village and the Society to new residents.

The secretary pointed out a few coming events in the village with two more walks being arranged – the first in June – the “We’ll eat again” dinner in April – Plant sale in May - the Village Vegetable show in August – and the Victorian Fayre in June for which assistance and donations were being requested. It was noted that the Society was again running the Tombola stall. Finally the secretary reminded all that the end date for any responses in the consultation phases for the Pavilion Development Brief and the Town Centre Action Plan was this month.

- 6) **Comments on reports** – The Chairman requested any comments. Mr Birch regretted the amount of development in the village and requested that the village character be retained – it was indicated that the committee had commented on all planning applications for some 25 years. There were comments that responsible dog owners also get annoyed with irresponsible dog owners – also horses leave a large uncleared mess. Mr Emblem advised that the council no longer empty dog bins – Mr Morris suggested we needed to contact the council for reinstatement.

- 7) **Treasurer’s report** - The Treasurer, Mr John Bellis, presented the Financial Statement which showed a decrease in the accumulated funds from last year but this is mainly due to the payments for the Village Plan held over from last year. The low profit from fund raising events was due to the loss on the material costs from the cancelled cream teas (and no raffle). The Treasurer concluded by recommending that the current subscription level of £4 be maintained for the ensuing year.

Mr Jones noted that excess spend on the Village plan was £2.38.

The treasurers report was accepted – proposed Mrs Emblen, seconded Mr Tebbitt.

- 8) **Election of Officers and the Committee** – The following officers and committee were elected.

Chairman Mr John Crisp – no other candidate

Secretary Mr John Sutherland – continuing, no other candidate

Treasurer Mr John Bellis – continuing, no other candidate

Committee Members Mr A Bugler, Mr M Haine, Mr G Embley, Mrs Joyce Litschi,
Mr P Riley, Mrs K Phillips - no other candidates.

Thanks were expressed for the retiring committee members. Mr Jones and Mr Emblen.

- 9) **AOB** – Mr Tebbitt proposed a vote of thanks for the outgoing Chairman – greeted with acclaim.

- 10) **Village Plan – Action Plan** - Mr Jones outlined the intention to progress the Action Plan using several working groups with overall co-ordination from the Committee. He pointed out that results from the Plan had been embodied in the Society response to the W&PBC LDF consultation and the Community Plan. Copies had been provided to DCC, W&PBC, Mission Hall Trust, Primary Care Trust and had been well received.

Additional volunteers were now requested to assist in forming groups to continue the actions. A form was provided for members to indicate both their interest and which relevant areas.

There was a short discussion before a break for refreshments.

- 11) **Going Digital** – Mr Dunford (from Touts) give a most informative talk on the plans for this area “going digital” in May 2009. He pointed out that the satellite business had already gone through the change from analogue to digital some years ago and was totally unaffected. It was now the turn of the terrestrial service that affects more people. This would involve changing the use of the analogue tuner currently used in all devices (TVs, videos, and DVDs) to use a digital tuner either by the addition of a new box (Freeview type box) or by using the digital tuner already in new devices. There was a lively question session from many interested “viewers” which was ultimately curtailed to end the meeting.

- 12) The meeting closed at 10 p.m.