



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society AGM

Meeting held at the Mission Hall 7.45pm Wednesday 15th April 2009; John Crisp in the chair – about 50 members attending (accurate count not taken).

- 1) **Apologies** - Mr & Mrs Newbould, Mr & Mrs Pressly, Mr & Mrs Emblen, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Bellis, Mr & Mrs Tamblin, Mr Allen.
- 2) **Previous minutes** - The minutes of the AGM held on 16th April 2008 (previously tabled) were approved. Proposed Mr Jones and seconded Mr Evans.
- 3) **Matters arising** – There were no matters arising.
- 4) **Chairman's report** - The Chairman, Mr John Crisp, reported on the activities over the past year, summarised activities planned over the coming year and requested endorsement of the programme.

Relating to the community, he indicated the committee had initiated and encouraged several activities to help foster a neighbourly community. He highlighted the success of the coffee mornings and their concurrent exhibitions – noting that the intention was to hold a similar series starting in October.

Several activities had started arising from the Village Plan. The Society had provided start up funding for the Biodiversity group, which had enabled David Emery to obtain a substantial grant for equipment to assist in the wildlife studies led by him and John Newbould. It is particularly satisfying that these groups are also raising interest in the young members of the village. The building history group led by Bill Egerton has made an excellent start – we look forward to the first outputs. Our local artists have been busy drafting leaflets of walks in and around the village whilst another group is pursuing a map board (or interpretation panel) to be sited adjacent to the pond. The Homewatch scheme has been revived under the direction of Peter Jones who has arranged to have appropriate signs erected at the entrances to the village.

Other activities last year included two walks arranged by Richard Backwell, the annual vegetable show and scarecrow competition and the annual cream teas. All those who took part and ensured the success of these activities are to be thanked. In addition our thanks and continued support are expressed to the Street Fayre committee, led by Guy Bridge, for a fantastically successful show and the Mission Hall Trust for the activities they have arranged for the village and for maintaining the hall in excellent condition for use by village.

On Planning, the committee has been active in trying to ensure that developments do not conflict with the natural beauty of the area. The principles followed by your committee have been published in the Notice Board and this forms the basis of all comments submitted to Planning. Particular emphasis this year has been placed upon opposing the planning applications to expand caravan sites whilst a watchful eye has been kept on the Green Wedge – that plot of land along the River Jordan between Puddledock and Sutton Road. The village has suffered more than usual this year from the streets being used as extensions to building sites – causing several transport problems.

The chairman concluded by thanking the support from the committee (and other members who have delivered Newsletters etc) and outlining future events for the coming year – Cream Teas, village walks, scarecrow and vegetable show and a return of coffee mornings in October. He also keenly anticipated the interest generated by the groups involved in ventures started in this year.

The Chairman's report was warmly accepted by the meeting.

- 5) **Secretary's report** – The Secretary, Mr John Sutherland, advised that the committee had collected subscriptions from 177 members last year. The committee had met 10 times with an 80% attendance record. The Society had handled some 111 items of correspondence with 91 items received and 20 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.

A recent activity in the village, which had not been mentioned earlier, was the very successful lunch organised by Judy Backwell that raised more than £1000 for cancer research.

The committee has provided feed back to members via meetings (eg the AGM), the five Newsletters issued throughout the year, a new residents leaflet and our Web site.

The secretary reminded the meeting of a future activity of interest – a village litter pick on Friday 24th. Mr Aggett was thanked for his part in the litter prevention by provided a further dog litter bin sited along Sutton Road adjacent to Old Stables.

- 6) **Treasurer's report** - The Treasurer, Mr John Bellis, presented the Financial Statement (previously tabled) which showed an increase in the accumulated funds from last year. He explained the items in the report and noted that the village plan items had been shown separately under exceptional items.

The Treasurer concluded by recommending that the current subscription level of £4 (£2 for single householder) be maintained for the coming year but noted that future costs (eg in support of the Village plan) may require an increase next year.

The treasurers report was accepted – proposed Mr Embley, seconded Mr Litschi.

- 7) **Election of Officers and the Committee** – Mr Mike Haine retired from the committee due a regular conflict in committee meeting dates with his activities involved in supporting the cubs. The following officers and committee were duly nominated and elected.

[(P) – Proposer, (S) Secunder]

Chairman Mr John Crisp – (P) Mr G Embley, (S) Mr F Litschi

Secretary Mr John Sutherland – (P) Mr D Evans, (S) Mrs R Riley

Treasurer Mr John Bellis – (P) Mrs M Morris, (S) Mrs J Litschi

Committee Members Mr A Bugler, Mr G Embley, Mrs Joyce Litschi,
Mr P Riley, Mrs K Phillips, Mrs Louise Sheaves,
Mrs Maureen Maidment – (P) Mr P Jones, (S) Mrs S Knight

Thanks were expressed to the retiring committee member. Mr M Haine.

- 8) **Resolution** – Mr G Embley proposed a committee resolution “To reduce the maximum continuous term for the Chairman from 5 to 3 years” indicating that it returned the constitution to its state prior to 2006. He suggested that individuals might be more willing to act as Chairman if there was a limit on the continuous term served. In response to a query of “What if we cannot agree a new chairman” it was suggested that the committee would nominate a chairman for each committee meeting from those attending. The resolution was seconded by Mr J Bellis and passed by the meeting with no objections.

- 9) **AOB** Mr Jones outlined the progress made by the Homewatch group and the support from the local PCSO (Clive Joiner). He indicated that he would appreciate some deputy co-ordinators to assist in the temporary absence of any area co-ordinators.

Mrs Wynne-Williams asked if it was known who owned the Springhead – it was suggested that it was thought to be Punch Taverns.

Mrs M Morris advised that the Mission Hall BBQ would be on 1st August on the same day as the vegetable show.

Mr Crisp advised the meeting that the Interpretation Panel mentioned earlier was planned to be sited at the south west corner of the pond near the existing seat.

Mr Maton advised that we should be careful in displaying names of locals (following recent publicised misuse in scams) or at least treat the use of other peoples names as an introduction with care.

Mr Embley suggested we should write again to First Bus suggesting that they reroute all local buses via the village – (instead of 1 in 3 as currently).

Mrs Hogg expressed concern that First Bus had suggested that drivers should not reverse with passengers aboard. It was suggested that the committee should seek clarification.

- 10) The formal meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. and reconvened with 25 members participating in a quiz evening. The evening concluded at 9.40 p.m. with a very close result. The winners received a bottle of bubbly.