



# 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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009; John Crisp in the chair – 49 members attending.**

- 1) **Apologies** - Mr & Mrs Haine, Mr Bugler.
- 2) **Previous minutes** - The minutes of the AGM held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 (previously tabled) were approved. Proposed Mr Jones and seconded Mrs Litschi.
- 3) **Matters arising** – There were no matters arising.
- 4) **Chairman's report** - The Chairman, Mr John Crisp, started his second annual Chairman's report summarising our community activities. Richard Backwell led walkers through weather fair and foul once again on his greatly enjoyed walks. Maureen Tepper led the team that ran the Cream Teas afternoon in exemplary fashion. The coffee mornings had proved just as popular again this winter and we were greatly indebted to the good folk who put in all the effort both in catering and setting out and displaying the craft work, arts, posters and pictures. The Society ran the annual vegetable show and scarecrow competition again in 2009 year with profits going to the Childrens' Society charity "Waves" in Weymouth. The Christmas tree donated by Peter Hyde resulted in a donation to the Julia's House hospice.

The Bio-diversity Group goes from strength to strength. John Newbould has produced a very professional informative report and has also provided the bird watching community with a great deal of pleasure with his records of sightings. Amongst the activities led by Dave Emery was an event to listen to bats with some very fancy equipment and the younger generation have been pond dipping thanks to Louise and Peter Sheaves.

The History Group was almost overrun with people attending the history evening with excellent talks and much fascinating information. Development of a village web site has grown from the need to manage information produced by groups. We are very pleased to have the support of the Ridgeway Project (thanks to Sarah Harbidge) to several of the village activities.

Our artists produced very attractive walk leaflets with sponsorship from Wessex Water.

Thanks to Peter Jones who continues to support and lead the Home Watch scheme.

Entry into the Dorset Village of the Year competition turned out a damp squib and we do not plan to participate again. On a more positive note the Society continues to support both the Weymouth Civic Society and the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

The committee continues to respond to every planning application relevant to Sutton Poyntz on behalf of the membership with comments based upon the Society's published planning policy. The contentious application this year was the second application for the building behind the Mission Hall. The committee was dissatisfied with the decision and the conduct of the meeting and is requesting clarification of the working of the committee. Regrettably Peter Farrell's reply did not answer all our questions and further clarification will be sought.

Three committee members are standing down this year - Graham Embley, Maureen Tepper and Joyce Litschi. At this point a small presentation was given to Joyce who has given very many years of service to the village - over 40 years. Joyce worked hard to get the Conservation Area established and also gave many years service to the community on Weymouth and Portland Council and on the planning committee. The committee will miss her experienced, balanced and constructive views. Thanks are also due to the other members of the committee who keep the Society functioning and Wyn and Mike who deliver newsletters.

For the Sutton Poyntz Fayre which Guy Bridge and his hard working team will be organising, the Society will be running a stall for which Graham Embley has provided both the idea and has had huge success in obtaining donated prizes. Support from all members for the Society stall (and other Fayre activities) will be welcome. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, the Society will be running the vegetable show and the scarecrows will magically appear for the preceding two weeks. The cream teas will be on the afternoon of 31<sup>st</sup> July. Richard has kindly agreed to organise two walks this year an evening walk will on 15<sup>th</sup> June starting at the Cart Shed and a day walk, which will be a bit longer will be on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

In the coming twelve months we will need to resolve the situation with the Weymouth and Portland Planning Committee and also arrange the interest items for next winter's coffee mornings. But the big new happening will undoubtedly be the village web site to be outlined later in the meeting. Finally, the Chairman reminded the meeting that this would be his last year in office in accordance with the constitution. The report was warmly accepted by the meeting.

5) **Secretary's report** – The Secretary, Mr John Sutherland, advised that the committee and collectors had collected subscriptions from 179 members last year. The committee had met 11 times with a 67% attendance record. The Society had handled some 84 items of correspondence with 70 items received and 14 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.

The committee has provided feed back to members via meetings (e.g. the AGM), the five Newsletters issued throughout the year, a new residents leaflet and a new Web site is planned. The secretary reminded the meeting of the Fayre on 4<sup>th</sup> July and will be looking for support from many members of the village to man the various activities.

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. In response to a query on the profit made from "ducks", he advised that this represented the final income from egg sales with no further expenditure on food.

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 Emblen, seconded Mr Allen.

7) **Election of Officers and the Committee** – Mrs Joyce Litschi, Mrs Maureen Tepper, Mr Graham Embley retired from the committee. The new committee elected were:-

		[(P) – Proposer, (S) Secunder]
Chairman	Mr John Crisp –	(P) Mrs L Sheaves, (S) Mrs J Litschi
Secretary	Mr John Sutherland –	(P) Mr S Emblen, (S) Mrs R Riley
Treasurer	Mr John Bellis –	(P) Mr P Jones, (S) Mr S Emblen
Committee Members	Mr A Bugler, Mrs A Dye, Mr W Egerton, Mr P Riley, Mrs K Phillips, Mrs Louise Sheaves, (P) Mr P Jones, (S) Mr S Emblen	

Thanks were expressed to the retiring committee members.

There was some debate on the poor attendance record of a committee member (due to the day chosen for committee meetings) but a vote confirmed agreement to elect the above committee members "en block".

**Resolution (Future)** – Mr G Embley noted that a future general meeting should consider the status of committee members with a poor attendance record.

8) **Future Village Web Site** Mr Bill Egerton outlined the need to manage information generated by the History group was tested with a trial web site. It was clear that the current village site was not convenient to be used by the village and an opportunity to develop our own village web site with assistance with support from the Ridgeway project seems an ideal match. Accordingly, a small group starting with himself, David Emery, Peter Sheaves and Mark Fernyhough have initiated work towards getting a web designer to provide a working model which it is hoped will start to see the light of day in about 3 months. Editorial control will consist of this group plus the Society secretary.

9) **AOB** Mr Jones reminded the meeting of the general good progress of Homewatch in the village and noted that a representative covering Puddledock was needed – Mrs R Riley volunteered. Mr Newbould advised that Dorset Wildflower week runs from 29<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June. Local Biodiversity Group events are on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> June. An information leaflet was provided.

Mr Brown reminded the meeting that the village should not object to all developments – the committee does not.

Mr Pressly expressed his concern on the extended development of the village advocating that the Society appears to have lost its objective of being a Preservation Society (which was the original purpose of the Society). He felt that the Society should be more pro-active in opposing the growth in the village that he considered had trebled in size since he came to the village some 40 years ago.

10) Following the formal meeting, which closed at 8.45 p.m. a display of material provided by the History group formed the focus for a general free discussion.