



Sutton Poyntz Society

Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society AGM held at the Mission Hall 7.30 p.m. Wednesday April 9th 2014 Bill Egerton in the chair

Before the formal meeting Councillor Ian Bruce chaired a debate entitled “What good is the Sutton Poyntz Society?”, giving members the chance to discuss what the Society is and how it does its job. The debate was opened with short talks by John Crisp and Councillor Hazel Bruce outlining how planning applications are considered by the Society and then the Council; then Bill Egerton went through a list of questions that the meeting might like to question.

The debate considered in particular the continuing role of the 1999 Village Survey and the 2007 Village Plan, and the possibility of using these documents as the basis of a new Neighbourhood Plan to work with the West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Local Plan when it is adopted. Peter Jones stressed that this may be the only way of protecting the area from the threats inherent in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Two specific conclusions were that the Committee should consider carrying out an update of the 2007 Village Plan, and that it should consider the possibility of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Sutton Poyntz.

1. Opening Remarks: The Chairman reiterated his thanks to Ian and Hazel Bruce for their contribution, and welcomed the 35 or so villagers at the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Peter and Louise Sheaves, Peter and Rita Riley, Shirley Davies, Jacqui Atkinson, Anthea Heathershaw, Sue Embley, John Newbould and David Morris. In addition, Councillor Peter Chapman had sent his apologies.
3. Previous Minutes: The minutes of the AGM held on April 13th 2013 were accepted (proposed Pam Dawson-Hollis; seconded Peter Jones).
4. Matters Arising: Homewatch – Peter Jones reported that he had attended a meeting of the “Association of Dorset Watches” earlier that day and reported that the Ringmaster system used to distribute alerts was about to be re-launched as “Dorset Direct”. Peter Jones also said that he was still trying to get something done about the road sign at the junction between Plaisters Lane and Combe Valley Road, and would have something to propose soon.
5. Annual report: Printed copies of the Report had been distributed at the start of the meeting. The Report was reviewed briefly. Dave Emery gave further explanation on the work that had been done by Wessex Water in the woodlands above the Waterworks, supported by the village Biodiversity Group; he appealed for more support from the village for the project which had opened up access to part of the woodlands, and closed other parts as a wildlife area. The Annual Report was accepted by the meeting (proposed Maureen Morris; seconded Jean Kirk).
6. Treasurer’s Report: Printed copies of this had also been distributed. Bill Egerton thanked the retiring Treasurer, John Bellis, for his work over the years. John Bellis presented the report, showing that although subscriptions were down on the previous year, costs had also reduced and there was a healthy surplus over the year of nearly £600, leaving a balance of just over £5,000. The report was accepted by the meeting (proposed Sue Wintle; seconded John Crisp).
7. Election of Officers, Auditor and Committee:
Committee members: The Chairman thanked the Committee for their help during the year, and particularly thanked Shirley Davies who had been Secretary for the last 3 years but was now retiring from the Committee to focus on Church and family affairs. The Chairman noted that two members had recently volunteered to serve on the

Committee: Hilary Davidson and Jacqui Atkinson. The following members had expressed their willingness to serve on the Committee: John Sutherland, John Crisp, Peter Riley, Peter Sheaves, Sue Wintle, David Rees, Tamzin Hyde, Jacqui Atkinson, Hilary Davidson and Bill Egerton. After an appeal for additional members, this Committee was elected (proposed *en bloc* by Caroline Crisp, seconded by Pam Dawson-Hollis).

Treasurer: John Sutherland (proposed John Bellis, seconded Peter Jones)

Secretary: Bill Egerton (proposed Sue Wintle, seconded John Bellis)

Chairman: the retiring chairman explained that sadly illness had robbed the Committee of the person who would have been their natural candidate, so they had no nomination for Chairman. There was no nomination from the floor. The post of Chairman was left unfilled, with instructions to the Committee to manage the issue.

8. AOB:

a. Peter Jones asked what was going to be done about the village's Beacon, which was badly corroded. Bill Egerton explained that he had been trying, without success so far, to arrange a meeting with Simon Grant-Jones to assess what needed to be done. There was divided opinion within the meeting about whether the beacon ought to be restored, and in particular whether the Society would have some liability if it carried out restoration work and the beacon subsequently harmed someone. This matter was delegated to the Committee, who would bear the divided views in mind.

b. Subscriptions: John Sutherland, as incoming Treasurer, asked for confirmation that there was no intention to change the subscription rate (£4 or £2 for single households). John Bellis (retiring Treasurer) and Bill Egerton (retiring Chairman) confirmed that they did not see any need for a change. John Sutherland said he was happy to receive subscriptions at the end of the meeting.

c. Jean Kirk expressed her thanks, confirmed by the meeting, to the people who provided cakes, coffee, and displays at the Society's winter coffee mornings.

The meeting ended with refreshments.