

**Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society Committee Meeting of 15th May 2014
at the Mission Hall.**

Item no.	Content	Action
1	<i>Present:</i> John Crisp; Bill Egerton; John Sutherland; Sue Wintle; Peter Riley; Tamzin Hyde; Hilary Davidson; Jez Cunningham (observer) <i>Apologies:</i> Peter Sheaves; Jacqui Atkinson; Chris Hubbard	
2	<i>Minutes of previous meeting:</i> The minutes of the meeting on 16 April 2014 were agreed and signed.	
3	<i>Matters arising not listed on the agenda:</i>	
a	Millennium Beacon: No progress	BE
b	Margaret's Seat: No progress. JS will look for contact details for Mick Hobson.	JS/JC
c	112 Sutton Road: Action complete	
d	Silver Street roadsigns: Being dealt with by JA and Silver Street residents	
e	Bus service: It was noted that the 31 service from Dorchester to Weymouth is under threat. Continued vigilance needed.	
4	<i>Items for AOB:</i> Access to Wessex Water copse	
5	<i>Planning:</i>	
a	<u>Waterside:</u> The Planning Committee had met earlier that day; the meeting was attended by Graham Embley, JC and BE, each of whom had spoken against the application. The Officer's Report had recommended acceptance, and after extended debate, the Committee had voted to approve the application. Our feeling was that the Committee had failed to appreciate or consider the impact of this decision on the protection of development boundaries. JC will discuss this with Councillor Ian Bruce.	JC
b	<u>Licensing application – Shortlake Farm, Osmington:</u> It was agreed that this was outside our area of responsibility	
c	<u>Tree maintenance applications:</u> We will submit our usual responses on recent tree maintenance applications (WP/CA/14/00051 and /00053). PR noted that there was a tree felling application for Rose Cottage, Silver Street (post-meeting note: WP/CA/14/00060, shown as Rose Cottage, Silver Street, Weymouth). We will submit our usual response (opposed to unnecessary felling; rely on Tree Officer's judgement of necessity; seek replacement with suitable species).	BE BE
d	<u>Review of Village Plan and Village Survey:</u> We reviewed all the actions in the Action Plan of the 2007 Village Plan. In view of the time needed, we will review the Village Survey at a future meeting. The results of our review to date are shown below.	
6	<i>Village events:</i>	
a	<u>Cream Teas</u> (19 July): SW had agreed to run this, and had received Caroline Crisp's notes. The entry price charged last year was £2.50 – SW will review to ensure this is sufficient to avoid a loss.	
b	<u>Scarecrows:</u> In progress – Dave Martin running. We will recover the Scarecrow Trophy from last year's winner.	
c	<u>Vegetable Show</u> (2 August): Peter Sheaves is sadly unable to run this event, due to recurring serious illness. BE offered to replace Peter as coordinator, and will contact Peter and Louise for information.	
7	<i>Other village matters:</i>	

a	<u>Springhead Car Park</u> : A Land Registration fee of £50 has been paid; it is not known how long land registration will take. The Solicitors have been requested to take action to create or purchase a Limited Company of the appropriate type.	
b	<u>Trees around pond</u> : Deferred until the autumn.	
8	<i>Communications:</i>	
a	<u>Welcome Leaflet</u> : Done and distributed to the Distributors with the latest Newsletter. JS noted that he had failed to persuade his software to insert our current logo.	
b	<u>Newsletter</u> : The latest Newsletter has been printed and distributed. JS will email the soft copy to BE for email distribution (including our new members Ian & Hazel Bruce). JS had talked to all the current Distributors, most of whom are happy to continue. Peter Sheaves is not able to continue, and TH agreed to take that part of Plaisters Lane. Tony Bugler is willing to continue for the time being – HD agreed to act as ‘substitute’ in case he needs to stop. There was some discussion of who to distribute to. It was agreed that Distributors should try to distinguish between the “won’t join” people, who should not get Newsletters, and waverers or late payers who should continue to get Newsletters.	JS/BE
c	<u>Website</u> : It was noted that there had been a major internet security scare which had caused some difficulties but now seemed to have passed. The software had been updated and was now compatible with Internet Explorer. BE will provide some training to a couple of people who are taking responsibility for bits of the site.	BE
9	<i>Other village activities:</i> No reports	
10	<i>Committee reports:</i> No reports	
11	<i>Treasurer’s Report:</i>	
a	<u>Financial Report</u> : This had been distributed by email before the meeting, showing a balance of £4999.71 as at 11 May. JS noted that he will be distributing a slightly fuller report each month, using the format used for the Annual Report.	
b	<u>Appointment of Auditor</u> : JS proposed John Bellis as Auditor. This was agreed with enthusiasm.	
c	<u>Bank account signatories</u> : For the NatWest current account, JS had written to change the correspondence address, but not received a reply yet. The list of signatories will be changed when the change of address has been confirmed; the present list consists of JC, JS and John Bellis. For the NS&I investment account, the change of address had been confirmed. The following motion, proposed by SW and seconded by PR, was agreed unanimously by the Committee: “That John Sutherland, William Egerton, John Bellis and Hilary Davidson be signatories of the Sutton Poyntz Society for the Society’s NS&I Investment Account, and that NS&I be requested to change the account details accordingly”.	
12	<i>Correspondence:</i> Material had been received from CPRE and the Dorset Wildlife Trust, which will be distributed. A letter from the Dorset Wildlife Trust announced a rise in subscription, from £32 to £36. BE will talk to the Biodiversity Group to see whether this is worthwhile	BE

13	<i>AOB</i>	
a	<p><u>Wessex Water copse</u>: TH noted that Wessex Water notices, in the part of the copse above the Waterworks that had been opened up, were rather unfriendly, particularly for village children who had traditionally enjoyed the copse as a play area. The Committee wholeheartedly supported a wish for a more relaxed attitude to children's activities, but noted that to obtain a relaxation from Wessex Water, the village would probably need to show a firm attitude both to vandalism and to access to the top part of the copse which had been fenced off as a Nature area. In the first instance, TH will discuss with Dave Emery, for advice about how we might move forward.</p>	TH
14	<i>Date of next meeting:</i> 18th June	

Minutes agreed and approved :

Date:

Review of Village Plan:

Item	Evidence	Proposed action	Action
Ownership & delivery of Village Plan	Continued activity (see below). This review		
Mission Hall	(not SPS responsibility)		
The Springhead	Much improved relationship with new publicans, including village events		
Waterworks Museum	Use of Museum for village events, including Street Fayre		
Facilities for young people and children		The possibility was discussed of making the Springhead's play area available for local non-customers. TH will discuss with Karen and Jo. If this looks possible, then we will investigate sources of funding for improvements	TH
Protection and conservation of village character	This is the main job of the SPS. A new Planning Policy has been written and distributed to Planning authorities.	The issue of a Character Appraisal and Management Plan for the Conservation Area was discussed. It was thought that these had been overtaken by Neighbourhood Plans.	
Fear of crime	Homewatch continues as an information channel and means of liaison, with Peter Jones as an enthusiastic champion.		
Neighbourhood Watch	Ditto		
Litter and dog fouling	This continues to be a problem. We have had recent discussions with the Borough Council.	It was agreed that an extra container would be helpful. JC will commission one from Ray Aggett.	JC
Village charm and character	A prime responsibility of the SPS, who carry out regular village clean-up weekends, and have been vigilant in protecting the Open Gap.	The topic of entering competitions such as "Best Kept Village" was discussed. It was agreed that at an appropriate time, this should be made a Newsletter topic to seek village opinions. The possibility was discussed of a village "gardening group" to look after some of the public areas. This would be discussed again when the situation of the "Springhead Carpark" has been resolved.	
Heritage & History	A success area, with well attended History Evenings and a self-funding History Group.	The History Group itself has not met for some time, although members have attended Dorset History events. Some form of restart needed	

Wildlife Habitats	A major success area, with a well-recognised Biodiversity Group		
Maintenance of footpaths and bridleways		JC will check whether Tony Heathershaw still keeps a watch on the state of paths, and who the Council contacts are.	JC
Information on Rights of Way & countryside access	The village map activity had come to a stop, although the funding had been successfully diverted to a village “Webmap” project that became the village’s website. A footpath leaflet had already been produced.		
Impact of parked cars and through traffic	Continuing problem, although bus access difficulties had been dealt with successfully	Parked cars at Cartshed – it was reported that cars parked outside the Cartshed sometimes made it difficult for people to get to the Post Office letterbox. BE to discuss with Tony Eves. Parked cars around the pond – there was some discussion of both the desirability and the practicality of preventing parking along Sutton Road by the pond. It was agreed that PR will contact Wessex Water to discuss use of their land as a village carpark. Control of speed through village – There is correspondence between JS and the Police on file from some time ago; BE to find and copy. JC will contact the Highways Authority and local Councillors to investigate what measures might be possible.	BE PR BE JC
Dental care	None	None proposed	
Public transport	Efforts to keep the village bus service have so far been successful	Continued vigilance needed	
Improving communications within the village	Continuing good quality Newsletters, now in colour (thanks to Goadsbys). New village website.	The noticeboard needs some maintenance and a refresh of contents. The question of the number of editions per year was also discussed – this has been reduced recently from 5 to 4, which may be insufficient for the village’s cycle of events. It was agreed to leave it at 4, but review again after a time.	JC/BE

